

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Eddie Dickinson

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Josh Berryhill
Bradley Box
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: David Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Linda Lawrence

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study	10:00 am
Morning Worship	10:45 am
Evening Worship	5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 pm
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Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddie Dickinson

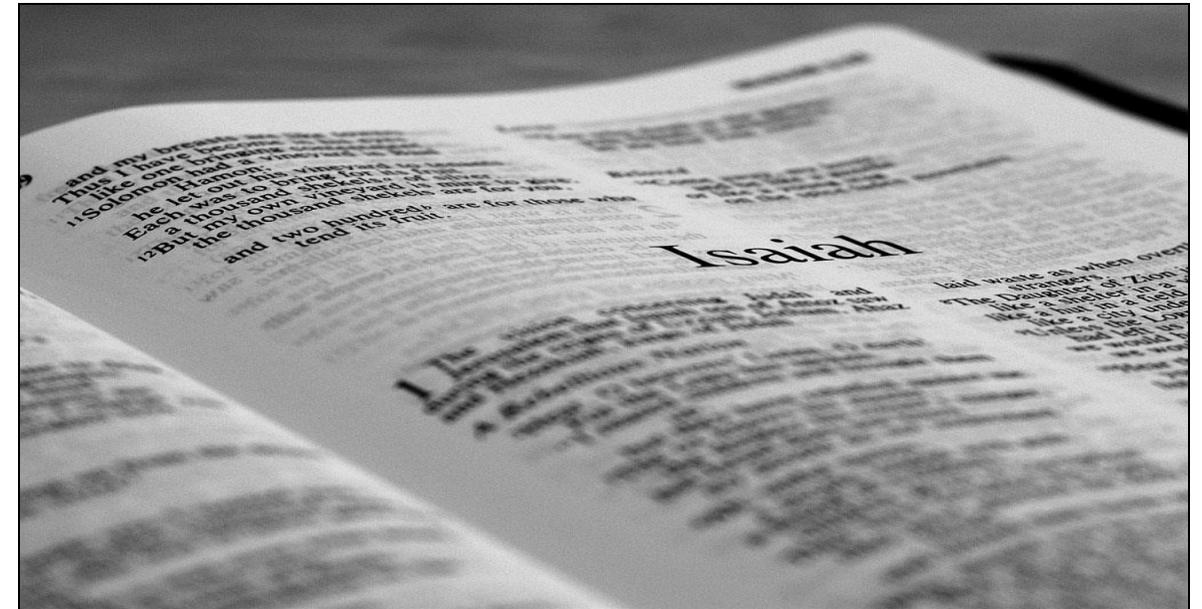
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:
Phone: (205) 465-9142

Brilliant Church of Christ
930 Main Street
P.O. Box 222
Brilliant, AL 35548

Good News Of Isaiah



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Heart of Redemption – Isaiah 53

By Sam Willcut

Without a doubt, Isaiah 53 is the greatest chapter in the Old Testament. It is the heart of all that there is in redemption.

This chapter contains the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ

This chapter contains the rejection of Jesus Christ

This chapter contains the mistreatment and trial of Jesus Christ

This chapter contains the voluntary death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ

This chapter contains the priesthood of Jesus Christ

This chapter contains the mediatorial work of Jesus Christ

This chapter contains the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

This chapter contains the basis of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ

Therefore, knowing that this entire chapter points to Jesus Christ, let us think of its importance to us!

In its context, this chapter begins by pointing to Jesus as a servant (52:13), and it ends by pointing to Jesus as a servant (53:11), showing His humility, even throughout His death. Moreover, this section also begins (52:13) by showing that this servant is the personification of wisdom (cf. Col. 3:2) and would be exalted (Phil. 2:9-11).

Isaiah begins with the words, “Who hath believed our report?” (53:1). This is not raising the question, “Who believed it?” Rather, this raises the question, “Who would have thought about God using this method of redeeming humanity, or in other words, who has believed what we have heard?” Considering this, we note that Paul speaks of this very same thing concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ and the cross (1 Cor. 1:18-2:9). Isaiah continues, “To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?” This takes our minds forward to the time when a particular eunuch from Ethiopia is reading from this very section of Isaiah and requests guidance from Philip in understanding about whom the prophet is speaking (cf. Acts 8:28-35). In other words, it takes revelation to conceive of the redemptive plan of God, especially since His birth and life defy human logic (53:2).

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister} is in the nursing home in Guin, pray for her she has some ongoing health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

April Tidwell Dawson: she has recently been diagnosed with stomach cancer; please be praying that this cancer will be defeated with successful treatments

Angie Ganey Gardner: fighting against breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Don Lawrence: is still recovering from a stroke, please continue to keep him in your prayers

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Pam Braden: she is dealing with some ongoing health problems, please pray that those working with her can help her

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Guy Weeks: is undergoing cancer treatments, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Sandy Markham: is recovering from knee surgery, please pray that she makes a complete recovery

Maddie Bishop (young girl South Haleyville) diagnosed with stage 4 Ewing sarcoma, please pray for her and her family and that treatments can defeat this cancer

Billy Lee {Carolyn’s Brother} he is in renal failure, is back at the nursing home in Guin, please be praying for him and the staff caring for him

Timmy Weeks: he is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that he will receive treatments that can restore his health

Kristen Eddy: she is recovering from knee surgery, please pray that she will have a successful recovery

Hagen Dickinson: he is recovering from jaw surgery, please pray that it heals properly and that he has no complications

Danny Berryhill: diagnosed with thickness of the heart, please be praying that doctors can successfully help him with this problem

Bill Berryhill: recently underwent surgery to remove cancer from his jaw, please be praying that his battle with cancer can be controlled and won

Mason Estes: he is need of a liver transplant; please be keeping him and his family in your prayers

Then, we begin to see His rejection (53:3). Be sure to follow the pronouns: “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” Isaiah is including himself among the ones who rejected him, and this group of individuals includes you and me! How did Jesus react to such rejection by humanity? “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet, we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted” (53:4). Knowing that we would reject Him, He still sacrificed Himself for us; knowing that we would despise Him, He still took care of our needs, just as Matthew shows by fulfillment (cf. Matt. 8:17).

How did it happen? Isaiah answers this: “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes, we are healed” (53:5). In other words, He was “smitten of God,” but not because of His own personal sins; the blow that fell on Him is that which should have fallen on us! Yet, we all are responsible—mark the use of the word “all” is in the next verse (53:6); the verse begins and ends with this little word. Not only do righteous people suffer (i.e., Job), but the Sinless One suffered, too. Therefore, it was a “vicarious” (in our place, which Isaiah mentions in eleven expressions in Isaiah 53:4-6, 8, 10, 12) suffering. Moreover, this chapter describes the essence of sin—it is the expression of our own will—“...we have turned everyone to his own way...” (cf. Matt. 6:10; 16:24). Such selfishness only leads to separation!

Here is how He was treated, showing His voluntary suffering (53:7), and we see what happened to Him (53:8). He was crucified with thieves (53:9), and a rich man (Joseph of Arimathaea) buried His body (cf. John 19:38-42).

Yet, God looked at Jesus far differently than from how humanity looked upon Him (53:10). This ultimate chapter closes with the mediatorial work of Jesus Christ (53:11; cf. Heb. 9:24-28), as well as the priesthood and intercession of Jesus Christ (53:12). Volumes could be written from these twelve verses! May these humble words invoke greater study into the heart of redemption, and lead us to appreciate the vicarious suffering and sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf!

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

The Hand of the Lord

By Dan Jenkins

One of the thoughts we find most comforting is summed up in that song which has the phrase, "He's got the whole world in His hands." Each verse then talks about how He has "you and me brother" and "you and me sister" and "the little bitty babies" in His hands. The very concept that we are cradled in the hands of God brings peace to our soul.

The phrase, "the hand of the Lord," is found thirty-nine times in the Bible. It is most frequently used to describe those times when God moved in judgment against the wicked. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews said, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31). On the other hand, it is wonderful to envision our calling out to God and see His almighty arms reach down from heaven and His tender hands to hold us. It is true that "He's got you and me in the hollow of His hand."

The people in Isaiah's day failed to realize that sin can destroy this situation. They had prayed to God and could see no evidence that He was helping them. The prophet explained the reason for this. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:1-2). If sin had not been in their lives, His face would have been turned toward them and His hands extended toward them.

Jesus described the wonderful blessing of being in the hand of God. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:29). We may choose to turn against God, but there is no man on earth and no demon from hell who can snatch us from His hand. "He's got you and me in the hollow of His hand."

God holds us in His hand. Have you ever considered how great His hand is? How does His hand compare with the hands of others? How great is His hand? To see this, consider that the diameter of the entire universe is thought to be over 93 billion light years. (A light year is the distance light travels in one year). The universe is 5,500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 miles wide! Now look at Isaiah's description of this in relationship to the size of the hand of God. God has "...measured heaven with a span" (Isa. 40:12). The span of a man's hand is the distance between his thumb and his little finger when fully extended. God's hand fully extended is larger than our universe. How wonderful it is to know that it is this hand that holds us. "He's got you and me brother, you and me sister, in the hollow of His hand."

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

Acts 2 - Everything Was Right

In Acts 2, the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ, everything was in place for the Church to begin as has been prophesied for hundreds of years . . . EVERYTHING WAS RIGHT!



- **THE RIGHT MEN** } • Mark 9:1
• Acts 1:8
- **THE RIGHT PLACE** - JERUSALEM } • Isaiah 2:2-3
• Micah 4:1-2
- **THE RIGHT TIME** - "IN THE LAST DAYS" } • Acts 2:16-17
• Joel 2:28-29
- **THE RIGHT POWER** - "THE HOLY SPIRIT" } • Acts 1:8
- **THE RIGHT MESSAGE** - "REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS" } • Luke 24:47-49
- **THE RIGHT NAME** - THE NAME OF CHRIST } • Luke 24:47
• Acts 2:38
- **THE RIGHT AUDIENCE** - "DEVOUT MEN OUT OF EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN" } • Acts 2:5
• Isaiah 2:2

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ..." Acts 2:38

NOTE: Some years later at Caesarea (Acts 11:15), Peter would refer to the Day of Pentecost as "the beginning."