

Isaiah 53: He Prays for Transgressors

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (with Isaiah 59:16 and Romans 8:31-34) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

Isaiah 53:6: “the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Remember that word “laid.” Isaiah uses the same Hebrew verb one more time, in the very last line of the song: “he bore the sin of many, and **makes intercession for the transgressors**” (Isaiah 53:12). In verse 6 our sin falls on him. In verse 12 he steps in for us. And look who he prays for. Not the righteous. Transgressors. Earlier in that same verse he was “numbered with the transgressors,” and Jesus quoted that line about himself the night he was arrested (Luke 22:37). He stood with them in death, and he stands up for them before God. In Acts 7 Stephen looks up and sees Jesus “standing at the right hand of God.” And Paul asks, “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died... who indeed is interceding for us” (Romans 8:34). **The one who carried your sin is the one standing up for you.**

GO DEEPER, STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **Isaiah 53:4-6** and then **Isaiah 53:12** back to back. Then read **Isaiah 59:16**, where God “wondered that there was no one to intercede,” and **Romans 8:31-34**. Who can bring a charge against you if the one who bore your sin is praying for you?

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Where Acts quotes it: **Acts 8:32-35** (the eunuch reads Isaiah 53:7-8; Philip tells him about Jesus) · **Acts 3:13-19** (God “glorified his servant Jesus”; Peter calls his killers to repent) · **Acts 7:55-60** (Stephen sees Jesus standing, then prays for his killers)

Elsewhere in the New Testament: **Luke 22:37** (“numbered with the transgressors... must be fulfilled in me”) · **Luke 22:31-32** (“I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail”) · **Romans 8:34** (“who indeed is interceding for us”) · **Hebrews 7:25** (“he always lives to make intercession”)

Rest of Scripture: **Isaiah 53:6** (the same verb: “the LORD has laid on him”) · **Isaiah 59:16** (“no one to intercede”) · **Exodus 32:30-32** (Moses offers himself for Israel)

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

Jesus Interceding for Transgressors

C.H. Spurgeon · Spurgeon Center (sermon, 1877)

<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/jesus-interceding-for-transgressors>

Sermon on Isaiah 53:12: Christ praying for sinners from the cross and still pleading for them now.

To the Uttermost: How Jesus Keeps Us Day by Day

Scott Hubbard · Desiring God (article, 2022)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/to-the-uttermost>

Short article on Hebrews 7:25 and what Jesus’ prayers for his people secure.