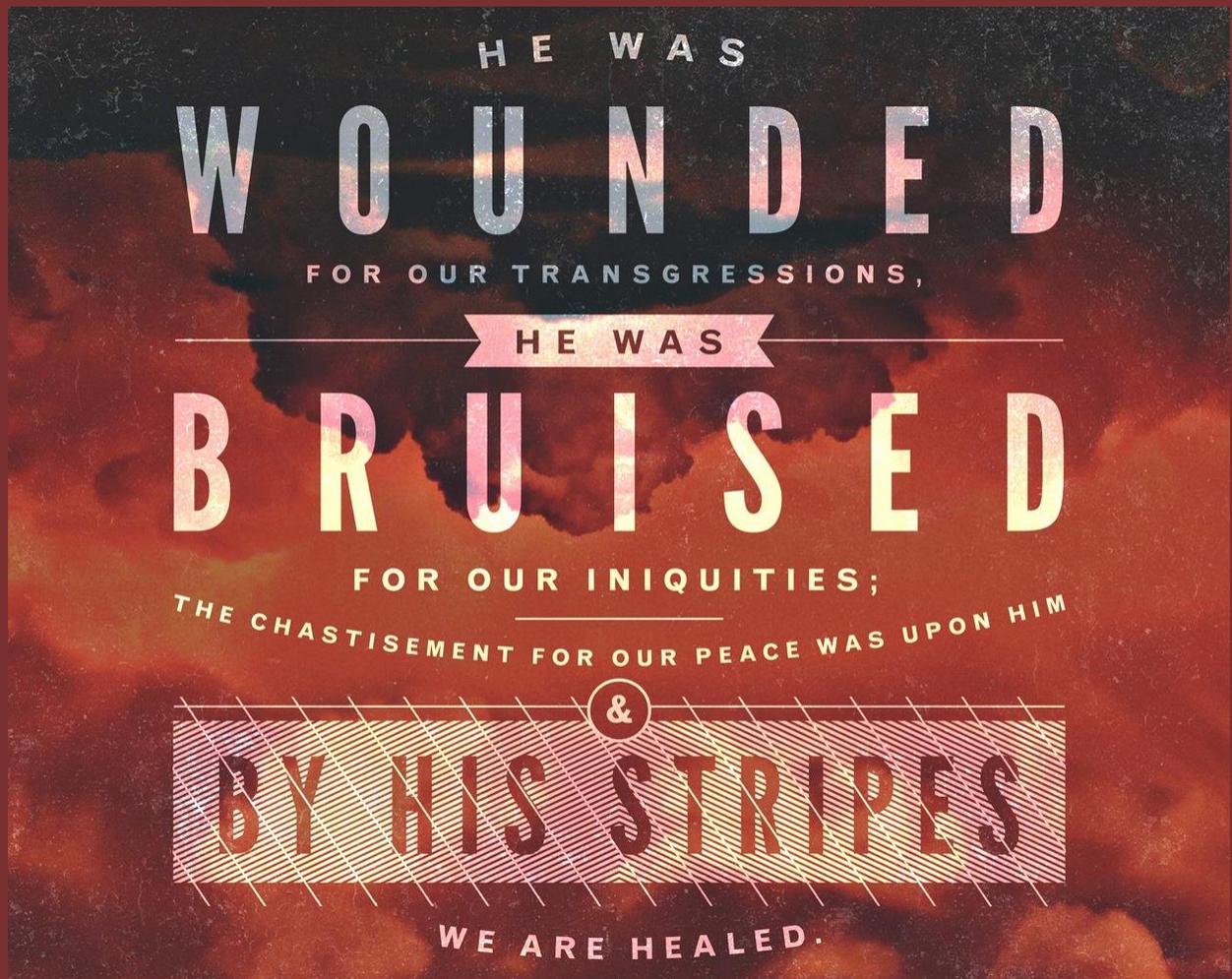


WHO WILL BELIEVE OUR MESSAGE?



(Isaiah 53)

Who is there among you who will give ear to this? That was a question the Prophet Isaiah made that echoed throughout the ages. What message was he talking about? The message concerning Messiah YAHSHUA Who was to come to carry men's burden of sins through His sufferings unto death. His message carried

a weight of responsibility upon all of us who heard it. The only way that the message would be profitable was through hearing and listening to believe. The prophetic message was all about love- the love of God. When YAHSHUA volunteered to be the replacement for bulls and other animals used for sacrifice, He did for love of the human race, which was lost and at the mercy of eternal punishment. The blood of bulls could never offer salvation or redemption for men whose condition was being condemned to hell. Isaiah so prophesized: He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; no appreciation was shown for His worth, for Who He was. He, by His love for all humankind, carried our griefs; He carried our sorrows and pains. Although His action was of pure love, men thought Him to be stricken by God and continuously, made fun of Him, and beat Him the more. He received the wounds in His body because of man's transgression. Transgression means to overstep the law, to go beyond its limits. The act of transgressing shows pride and un-submissiveness and chaos. Take for example the traffic laws. When one runs the red light accidents and even death occur. For that type of sin, YAHSHUA was wounded. He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities. He was bruised deeply in His Spirit for our guilt and iniquities. Guilt, when not dealt with, can bring remorse and ultimately suicide to the person who has not been able to forgive him/herself, neither accept God's forgiveness, as it was in the case of Judas. Iniquity is the sin of unrighteousness, and wickedness which passes from generation to generation. Isaiah saw YAHSHUA being bruised in His Spirit in dealing with our guilt and iniquity. This sin nature is the one that will take one to hell. It is sin at its worst. It is the premeditated and continuous sin. It lodges itself in the genes of men, robbing him of power to overcome it. Only by the blood of YAHSHUA, one can be liberated from its power. To bruise is to crush one's emotion and spirit. It goes beyond skin deep to the most inner being. YAHSHUA so suffered for that type of sin.

Isaiah saw YAHSHUA being punished mercilessly with the punishment that was due to us. The punishment that would ultimately bring peace to men. The punishment that reconciled men to God. His corporal bruises were to heal men and make them complete in God's eyes through the sacrifice of His Son. YAHSHUA was rejected and unloved. He was not only rejected, but He was rejected with contempt, scorn, and hate. Men could not even look at Him for considering Him worthy of being stricken and afflicted by God. YAHSHUA came to earth to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy 700 years later. While on earth, Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled

in Him and the question, “Who will believe our message?” was answered by the Jewish nation in the words of YAHSHUA: Even though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they still did not trust Him and failed to believe in Him—so that what Isaiah the prophet said was fulfilled: Lord, who has believed our report and our message? And to whom has the arm (the power) of the Lord been shown? (John 12:37-38). He came and His people received Him not (John 1:11).

Today, the Jewish nation represented by their scholars carries the misunderstanding that Isaiah 53 is all about the Jewish nation in exile and rising again later. Who among them is listening to the message to understand its full meaning? The prophet Isaiah's question continues still without an answer by the majority of His people. Some believe that Isaiah 53 is just a citation from their Tenach, some think it difficult to digest, and others think that believing the message or not would make any difference in their lives.

On the road to Emmaus, YAHSHUA rebuked the two disciples for their lack of believing the messages concerning Him written by the prophets: O foolish ones and slow of heart to believe everything that the prophets have spoken! (Luke 24:25) What more did they need in order to believe the message? YAHSHUA was the ultimate fulfillment of all prophecies found in their Torah and Tenach. The evidence was clear for them to see in Him, still, they would not. Thomas, one of the twelve, when heard of the news that the Lord was alive, said bluntly Unless I see in His hands the marks made by the nails and put my finger into the nail prints and put my hand into His side, I will never believe (John 20:25). YAHSHUA once again rebuked their lack of belief in Him, and this time directly to Thomas: Do not be faithless and incredulous, but believe! Because you have seen Me, Thomas, do you now believe? Blessed are those who have never seen Me and yet have believed in Me (John 20:29).

Isaiah's question still remains to call the attention of all who will listen to it. Although many have not accepted it, it has touched the hearts of many people from all nations and turned many to God. YAHSHUA'S cry of abandonment from His Father echoed through the ages from the time David prophesied about it to the time He physically suffered it when at the cross. “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” That will be your cry in hell where it is void of God's presence if you will not believe the message concerning His death to save you from the power of sin and its eternal consequences. His death is the only means by which we can be saved.

He carried all our sins of transgression, guilt, and iniquities in His sufferings and death. No other god has ever done such thing, for they too were sinners and in need of salvation. YAHSHUA was and is the true Son of God, our High priest who intercedes for us through His Holy Spirit He sent to be with us. He left us a beautiful message of His love in John 3:16, a well-known passage of the Bible expressing the ultimate message of love to humankind:

For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

This message is credible and believable, my friend. Psalm 22 starts with the words, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? These same words are echoed many hundreds of years later by YAHSHUA when crucified.

(Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). The prophetic descriptions the psalmist gave of the death and YAHSHUA'S crucifixion is marked on His hands and feet. They pierced My hands and My feet; they part My clothing among them and cast lots for My raiment (Psalm 22: 1,16,18). These were fulfilled in YAHSHUA.

(John 19:23, 24, 37). While there is today, you will always have a chance to believe and turn yourself to God. Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as [happened in the rebellion [of Israel] and their provocation and embitterment in the day of testing in the wilderness...Accordingly, I swore in My wrath and indignation, They shall not enter into My rest (Heb. 3:7-8,11).

In this Passover season, Isaiah's message is sounding loudly and clearly. Open your ears to hear and be saved, my friend!