

THE PANDEMIC OF SIN

I. [Isaiah 53:3-5](#)

A. [Isaiah 53:3-5](#) (ESV) written about Jesus 700 years in advance: 3 *He was despised and rejected by mankind, a Man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. 4 Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace (**Shalom**) was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.*

B. This is Palm Sunday. A week from today is Resurrection Sunday. Feels a little like Bad Friday! Like the old preacher said, "It may feel like Friday but Sunday's comin!"

C. Palm Sunday commemorates the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and people waved palm branches and lined the road with their cloaks. They presumed He was about to free them from Roman tyranny but His mission was far greater. They shouted many Messianic praises including, *Hosanna in the highest!* Jesus rode into cheers that would soon turn to jeers. *Hosannas* would shortly give way to *crucify Him!* But Jesus' eyes were wide open. He came to bring remedy for a worldwide pandemic. That pandemic is called sin.

D. Evidence suggests the coronavirus began in wet markets in China which are disgusting. The pandemic of sin began in the beautiful and pristine Garden of Eden. When the the First Couple succumbed to the Serpent's temptation to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, sin entered and the pandemic began. Both pandemics had what we might call small beginnings but rapidly resulted in widespread death. Worldwide, 151,600 people die daily. The pandemic of sin leads to death and it happens every day. With COVID-19, many are hunkered down in labs desperately seeking a cure. With the pandemic of sin, there is only One Cure--His name is Jesus! That's why He rode resolutely into Jerusalem; He had the Cure for the pandemic of sin.

E. The pandemic of sin spread from the Garden to all the peoples of the world. Eventually God destroyed the whole earth by flood, sparing only Noah and his family. They found refuge on the Ark. But one problem remained--they were still carriers of the disease. They were still infected. The generations that followed Noah manifested all the deadly symptoms. But Jesus is the Better Ark, the Better Refuge...

F. God chose a man named Abram to be the father of His special people. He changed his named to Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac who begot Jacob whose name He changed to *Israel*. Jacob begot twelves sons, the fathers of the twelve nations of Israel. God blessed these sons, even though they sold one of their brothers, Joseph, into slavery in Egypt. Through a winding path of pain and suffering, God sovereignly saw fit that Joseph became Pharaoh's most trusted second in command. Joseph and his brothers were miraculously reconciled. Jacob's family relocated to Egypt and lived well. But the Egyptians eventually became suspicious and afraid of God's people and made them their slaves. Not only were Israel's masters afflicted with the pandemic, so were the children of God. From where would that Cure come? One of Abraham's descendants...

G. Israel's enslavement continued for four hundred years until God raised up a deliverer. His name was Moses. After many plagues, culminating with the deaths of Egypt's firstborns, Israel made their famous exodus out of slavery, into the wilderness, bound for Canaan--the Promised Land. While still in the desert, God gave His Commandments & Law, through Moses. He gave them prophetic rituals and festivals and sacrifices that all pointed to The Cure. But they rebelled, broke God's Laws, and the pandemic continued. A Better Deliverer would be necessary. Who might that be?

H. God condemned a disbelieving generation to die in that desert but eventually led His people into the Promised Land. He first gave them Judges. But they rebelled. He then gave them kings, and they still rebelled. Rebellion was the test-positive that they were carriers of the disease. One of these kings was named David upon whom God's favor rested. God called David, "*A man after My own heart.*" And God promised that One from David's lineage would eventually be King. And He would not only be King of Israel, but King of kings and Lord of Lords. And Who might that be? God's own Son--Jesus! This same One who rode into Jerusalem under a canopy of waving branches and shouts of *Hosanna!*

I. Jesus was bringing the Cure, the Remedy, which was Himself. News of the Cure would spread from His empty tomb in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. It would require His death on the cross. The disease of sin was imputed to Him though He was not a carrier. He would suffer the horrible effects of this infection which was a slow torturous death: loss of blood, suffocation, mockery and shame, and worst of all, God His Father, turning His face away. Jesus suffered the punishment for this wretched disease. He died and was buried. But the story only begins there. Three days later, He rose from the dead having conquered the fatal pandemic of sin. Jesus is the Cure! Jesus is the Remedy! The Bread & Cup remind us.

J. Isaiah 53:3-5 (ESV) once again: *3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a Man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. 4 Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace (Shalom) was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.*

K. 1 Peter 2:24 (HCSB) affirms Isaiah's words this way: *24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; you have been healed by His wounds. The Bread & Cup remind us.*

*** Pray and Officiate Communion...**

*** Malachi 4:2 (NLT) is our Benediction Verse: *2 But for you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. (Sign: Honk if You Love Jesus!)***

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Isaiah 53:3-5 \(ESV\)](#)

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Video Clips & Important Articles

The Knowledge of Good and Evil - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SkrMjU26VM>

Isaiah 53:5-6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4M6iOwSwoQ>

Isaiah 53 - ChurchLife Worship Band

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nR0pbSZej3w>

"Great Physician" - Craig Aven

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcw-uXl5IIA>

"The Great Physician" - New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters with Greg Hooven

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaiU0c5U_S4

Bonus Stuff

1 John 1:1-10 (ESV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life— **2** the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — **3** that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4** And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. **5** This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as He is in

the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Quote by John Wycliffe (1324 - 1384)

"We all are originally sinners as Adam and in Adam, his leprosy cleaving faster to us than Naaman's did to Gehazi, so that even the infant, before it has seen the light of the world, has this blemish inherent in its unborn members."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wycliffe

Quote by Matthew Henry

"Come, and see the victories of the cross. Christ's wounds are thy healings, His agonies thy repose, His conflicts thy conquests, His groans thy songs, His pains thine ease, His shame thy glory, His death thy life, His sufferings thy salvation."

Quote by James H. Aughey

Christ is the Good Physician. There is no disease He cannot heal; no sin He cannot remove; no trouble He cannot help. He is the Balm of Gilead, the Great Physician who has never yet failed to heal all the spiritual maladies of every soul that has come unto Him in faith and prayer.

In Evil Long I Took Delight

By John Newton (1725-1807) Former slave ship captain & author of "*Amazing Grace*."

In evil long I took delight,
Unawed by shame or fear,
Till a new object struck my sight,
And stopp'd my wild career:
I saw One hanging on a Tree
In agonies and blood,
Who fix'd His languid eyes on me.
As near His Cross I stood.

Sure never till my latest breath,
Can I forget that look:
It seem'd to charge me with His death,
Though not a word He spoke:
My conscience felt and own'd the guilt,
And plunged me in despair:
I saw my sins His Blood had spilt,
And help'd to nail Him there.

Alas! I knew not what I did!
But now my tears are vain:
Where shall my trembling soul be hid?
For I the Lord have slain!
A second look He gave, which said,
"I freely all forgive;
This blood is for thy ransom paid;
I die that thou may'st live."

Thus, while His death my sin displays
In all its blackest hue,
Such is the mystery of grace,
It seals my pardon too.
With pleasing grief, and mournful joy,
My spirit now if fill'd,
That I should such a life destroy,
Yet live by Him I kill'd!

Why Did God Put the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden?

by S. Michael Houdmann - Got Questions.org

<https://www.gotquestions.org/tree-knowledge-good-evil.html>

Question: *"Why did God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden?"*

Answer: God put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden to give Adam and Eve a choice to obey Him or disobey Him. Adam and Eve were free to do anything they wanted, except eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. [Genesis 2:16-17](#), "And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'" If God had not given Adam and Eve the choice, they would have essentially been robots, simply doing what they were programmed to do. God created Adam and Eve to be "free" beings, able to make decisions, able to choose between good and evil. In order for Adam and Eve to truly be free, they had to have a choice.

There was nothing essentially evil about the tree or the fruit of the tree. It is unlikely that the fruit, in and of itself, gave Adam and Eve any further knowledge. That is, the physical fruit may have contained some vitamin C and some beneficial fiber, but it was not spiritually nutritious. However, the act of disobedience was spiritually deleterious. That sin opened Adam's and Eve's eyes to evil. For the first time, they knew what it was to be evil, to feel shame, and to want to hide from God. Their sin of disobeying God brought corruption into their lives and into the world. Eating the fruit, as an act of

disobedience against God, was what gave Adam and Eve the knowledge of evil—and the knowledge of their nakedness ([Genesis 3:6–7](#)).

God did not want Adam and Eve to sin. God knew ahead of time what the results of sin would be. God knew that Adam and Eve would sin and would thereby bring evil, suffering, and death into the world. Why, then, did God allow Satan to tempt Adam and Eve? God allowed Satan to tempt Adam and Eve to force them to make the choice. Adam and Eve chose, of their own free will, to disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit. The results—evil, sin, suffering, sickness, and death—have plagued the world ever since. Adam and Eve’s decision results in every person being born with a sin nature, a tendency to sin. Adam and Eve’s decision is what ultimately required Jesus Christ to die on the cross and shed His blood on our behalf. Through faith in Christ, we can be free from sin’s consequences, and ultimately free from sin itself. May we echo the words of the Apostle Paul in [Romans 7:24-25](#), “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Recommended Resource: [Basic Theology by Charles Ryrie](#)

- While he is not the author of every article on GotQuestions.org, for citation purposes, you may reference our CEO, S. Michael Houdmann.