

“Crushed For Our Sin”



Read Isaiah 53:5 and open with prayer.

Living in a large city, I have unfortunately been in several car accidents. The majority occurred where God positioned me in that certain place and time to help someone else in need. Some accidents were minor, but many more were life-threatening. I would offer calm reassurance, hold hands, stop bleeding, pray, and call 911. In one particular accident, an elderly man was broadsided by a drunk driver going over 60 mph and was pinned inside the car between the driver’s door and the passenger door due to the horrendous force of the impact. He survived only 10 days before losing his fight for life. These accident scene experiences have significantly increased my spiritual understanding of certain things. I can fully relate to what being “crushed” means and what that looks like. It is horrific to say the least. Jesus was *crushed* for our sin. And the most amazing thing is that He did it willingly. He deliberately put Himself in harm’s way to save our lives - literally.

The Hebrew word for *crushed* (*daka*) refers to being crushed, broken, and/or broken in pieces. It also refers to being destroyed, smitten, oppressed, beaten, and bruised. Those are powerful and terrible words. Jesus was crushed by God’s fury and wrath. He was being judged by the wrath of God, not the sentence handed down by Pilate.

- 1) God was pouring out His full fury on Jesus as He bore all the guilt of all the people who ever lived and ever would live. How do you see this in 1 Thessalonians 1:10?

The nails did not keep Jesus on that cross any more than the chains kept Him tied to that flogging post. His love for us kept Him there. Jesus’ death on the cross was not a tragic end to His earthly ministry; rather, it was the culmination of all He set out to do. He was not a victim of either Rome or Jewish leaders. Jesus Himself was in absolute control and knew when the right time had come for His sacrifice.

The crucifixion was not an afterthought, but a crucial element in God’s plan from the beginning. Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen, but He went to the cross anyway. It was a bitter cup, but He was willing to drink it. When Jesus came to earth, His central purpose was to redeem man. Man had fallen out of fellowship with God after the Fall. Even before the foundation of the world, Christ had determined that He would come to earth to bring fallen men back to God. (Revelation 13:8)

- 2) As one of the redeemed, take a moment to write out words of sincere gratitude to God.

God positioned Jesus in a certain place and time to be the Savior of the world. Before Jesus’ sacrifice great act of sacrificial love, we were in a spiritually life-threatening situation. We weren’t going to make it out alive. We were bleeding to death in our sin. We were going to lose the fight for life. Jesus saw the grave danger and deliberately put Himself in the path of God’s wrath to save our souls. His sacrifice on the cross was the only 911 option that would offer us eternal life. He loved us enough to be broken and shed His blood to bridge the gap between us and the Father. Because of God’s amazing grace and Jesus’ ultimate act of love, we have the promise of making it out of this world alive — eternally.

Close with prayer by thanking God for the love that caused Him to sacrifice His Son for us.

