

when he sought to defend His cause that way. Jesus was the Prince of Peace and this charge was groundless.

The other charge that He was a blasphemer was also false. Yes, He did claim to be the Messiah, the very Son of God; but this was not deception but the truth. Had He denied such claims, He would surely be a liar. The truths of His claims were confirmed by abundant evidence. There would have been guile had He denied that He was the Son of God.

This was the treatment Jesus received from His generation, a most wicked generation. But some of them did it out of ignorance following the religious leaders of the day. Some of the priests even became converted when the Spirit enlightened them on the day of Pentecost. But what shall we say, who live after the vindication of the Son of God by Resurrection, if we still go on denying His claims over our lives. We, unlike many then, enjoy great religious privileges; we can read for ourselves what the Scriptures teach concerning Jesus. We read there that He came to make atonement for sin. There we learn that God is holy and will call all men to account for their sins, unless they have fled for refuge to His Son. There is no way in which a sinner can come before God and be accepted but through Jesus, His Son. Have you fled to Him for refuge; take care that you do not abuse your advantages. You live within the hearing of God's Word; do not neglect it, for it will testify against you on the Day of Judgment.

There are many, even in our day, who pour scorn on Christ and all who follow Him. They still declare Jesus was an imposter, for if they believed His claims, they would bow to Him as their Lord and Savior and King. We either accept Him as God's Son who came to make atonement for our sins, or we deny His claims and think we need no such Savior. Then realize there is but one name given under heaven whereby we must be saved, that name is Jesus Christ. If you reject Him, then you will have to answer for your own sins. Many who were formerly His enemies have experienced God's mercy through Jesus Christ, and so may you.

Take these truths to heart, and believe in the only Savior God has provided for your sin. Look how He suffered such oppression and injustice for our transgression. See how all that is written about death, judgment and hell and heaven will also be fulfilled as was the burial of Christ with the rich. May you experience His grace, as you receive Christ as your Lord and Savior.

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**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*  
*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



#### THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF OUR LORD

**Isaiah 53:8-9** *He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

One of the proofs of the reliability of the Scriptures is the fulfillment of prophecy. The prophecies that are fulfilled are not vague but very specific. We are told where Christ was to be born; where He would reside, and the man who would betray Him. We are told as to the manner of His death by crucifixion; even to casting lots for His garment. And in the text we are considering, we are told about the circumstances of His death and burial. All these prophecies are fulfilled and can only fit one person in history, Jesus Christ our Lord. This means the Word of God is truth in all its predictions as well as in all its promises and threatenings. So let us pay heed to what is here spoken and its significance for us.

Verse 8 describes His violent death, on behalf of His sheep that had gone astray. We are here told of the sufferings of our Savior in terms of being denied any form of justice. The word 'prison' means restraint or oppression. The word 'judgment' means judicial decision. The idea is that our Lord was violently taken away: the whole process was one of oppression and injustice.

When we read the New Testament, we see the forms of justice observed, while the greatest injustice is committed. There is an accusation brought forth and examination of the witnesses and the pronouncing of a sentence; but there seems to be no opportunity given for self-defense or for other witnesses who will speak on His behalf. It seems quite clear that He was declared guilty before the trial even began before the Sanhedrin. When He was brought to Pilate and they asked for His death, though finding Him innocent, Pilate condemned Him to death to save his own position. Our Lord was denied proper justice. Pilate failed to act according to his duty, and gave way to the mob. This interpretation is borne out when we read Acts 8:33 where we are told that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading from Isaiah and for this verse it has these words, "*In his humiliation his judgment was taken away*"; this is not in the Masoretic text, nor in the Septuagint but was in some Manuscript he was reading.

This is a proper interpretation of the text or the apostles would have corrected it.

See what Christ endured for sinners! He who was innocent was deprived of justice so that we may be accepted by the Father. He did not open His mouth, though suffering innocently, because He was conscious of bearing our penalty. If we as guilty sinners do not accept His substitution, then one day we will have to answer for our own sins, and there will be no injustice done. We will be given all opportunity of defense but we will have none, for we are truly guilty of all that we will be charged.

**Who shall declare his generation?** The word *generation* simply means His contemporaries. What is being expressed is the extreme wickedness of that generation. This truth is made clear from the following passages:

**Matthew 12:45** *Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.*

**Matthew 23:33** *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*

**Matthew 23:35** *That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.*

Josephus, the Jewish historian of the first century, tells us that the people of that day were so wicked, that if the Romans had delayed to come against them, the city would have been swallowed up by an earthquake, or overwhelmed by a deluge, or else been consumed by fire from heaven as Sodom. Many speak about the goodness of man, but see here a display of the true nature of fallen man. Such is the nature you and I possess as we come from the womb. This wickedness was committed against one who went about doing good, the one who spoke the words of truth and grace - this is what highlights their wickedness. Before you are ready to condemn that generation, take a good look at yourself. If you do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ while you have heard the gospel, you are saying also that He was an imposter and therefore worthy of the sentence.

Our Lord did so many miracles to alleviate suffering. No one could point to any sin in Him, yet they hounded Him to death. They twisted His words, they sought false witnesses, even then their testimony did not agree; yet they pursued Him to death. Even today, my friends, there are many who malign His cause. There are many who have never read the Scriptures, who have never entered a true church to hear its interpretation, but are ready to condemn it as foolishness. The hatred is very evident wherever the true gospel is proclaimed; men are not only indifferent, but hostile to it. So much so that men may speak of any

subject, however depraved, but let them speak of Christ and there is ridicule and scorn poured on the person who dares to bring it.

Why did our Lord allow such wickedness, when He had power to stop them? He could have called twelve legions of angels, or by a mere word put His enemies to flight; but He had come as the Lamb of God to bear our sins away. He was silent for He was our sin bearer. Look at what He suffers from the hands of wicked men that He may bring us to God. It is because He has so suffered that we will receive justice when we come to God through His finished work for us. That justice will not lead to our condemnation but our justification, because He has suffered on our behalf. *“for the transgression of my people was he stricken.”*

#### HIS BURIAL

Here we are faced with a problem in that the Gospels tell us that His death was with the wicked and His grave with the rich. Here we read just the opposite, that His grave was with the wicked and His death with the rich. A clue is given that resolves this difficulty, for the word ‘wicked’ is plural and the word ‘rich’ is in the singular. There is something missing, namely the intention of His persecutors, who desired that His grave would be with the wicked as well as His death, so as to make Him appear as the worst criminal. This is one reason why they wanted Jesus put to death by crucifixion, for this was a penalty administered to the worse of criminals. The bodies would often be left hanging on the cross for days, but Jewish custom required the bodies be taken down, for else it would bring a curse on the land. The Jews intended that Jesus be buried in a mass grave; in this way there was no commemoration of Him as a martyr. So wicked were the enemies of Christ, that His death was not enough, they would insult His body, by depriving it of decent burial. Had such occurred, there would have been at least one prophecy that would have failed, namely *‘that he was to be with the rich in his death,’* or in His dead state.

It is no accident, my friend, that Jesus died sooner than was usual, and this gave opportunity for Joseph to make application to Pilate for His body; and so the prophecy was fulfilled, that He was with the rich in His dead state. His grave was intended to be with the wicked, but that plan was frustrated by divine providence. Even though He died among the wicked, His grave was not to be with them, but with the rich.

**Because he had no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.** These words indicate that God honored His Son and declared His innocence by frustrating their plan, even though He had suffered among the wicked as our sin bearer. Jesus was to have a burial suited to His rank. Pilate would not have done this if he had supposed Jesus a common criminal. These words also indicate the two charges that were brought against Jesus. Our Lord was accused as a mover of sedition and as a blasphemer. Our Lord clearly taught not sedition, but rather that we obey those who rule over us. He told people to give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what belongs to God. He told Peter to put away his sword,