



WOUNDED FOR ME

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1-1, 2 Seven hundred years before the Lord Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote that Jesus would suffer and die on the cross. Isaiah 53:5 says: "He (Jesus) was *wounded* for our *transgressions*, He was *bruised* for our *iniquities*; the *chastisement* for our peace was *upon Him*, and with *His stripes* we are *healed*." (See also 1 Peter 2:24.)

Transgressions (the breaking of God's Law) and iniquities (our wickedness) are two big words for sin. Chastisement is a word used for punishment, especially by beating. The stripes Jesus received were from a scourge, or a whip made of leather straps with metal pieces attached to the ends. As the person was beaten with this strap, the metal cut into the skin. Jesus was *wounded* for you.

Your sin is like a big weight on your back which holds you down. (See Proverbs 5:22b: ". . . and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.") When Jesus was wounded, bruised and beaten, He took the punishment you deserve for your sin. All of His wounds should have been yours. When you believe in your heart that Jesus died for you and receive Him as Saviour, your sin is gone. It is as if the cords which have bound the sin weight to you have been broken. You are free from the penalty of sin.

2-1, 2 Every time you see a picture of a cross you can say, "The Lord Jesus died for *me!* He took *my place* and *my punishment*."

Redemption means "to buy back or set free by paying a price." Jesus paid God's required price for sin—death. All of us are slaves—slaves to sin. Because we are sinners, we are condemned to die (see Romans 6:23). A sin-slave can be purchased and freed from his sin. But the purchase price is the blood of the Saviour (see Hebrews 9:22b; 1 Peter 1:18-19). By believing that Jesus died for *you*, you are *redeemed*—bought out of the sin-slave market. Your sin-chains are broken!

3-1, 2 We know that the Lord Jesus arose from the dead because He appeared to many: Peter (Cephas), the 12 disciples, 500 brethren, James and the apostles (see 1 Corinthians 15:5-7). When Jesus arose from the grave He conquered death. We read in 1 Corinthians 15:55: "O death, where is

thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" The very moment that Jesus arose from death, the power and the hurt (or sting) of death was conquered. Because Jesus arose from the dead, we know that we, too, shall rise from the dead if we have received Him as Saviour. Though we do not like death, we do not need to fear it. (See Psalm 23:4.)

4-1, 2 Our Saviour is living! And if you have placed your trust in Him, you can say, "He is living for me."

Do you know what the Lord Jesus is doing day and night? He is at the right hand of God the Father praying for us. (See Psalm 121; Mark 16:19; Hebrews 7:25.) He knows how we are tempted and He knows when we are weak. (See Hebrews 4:15.) And Jesus prays that we will be kept from the evil one. (See John 17:15.)

5-1, 2 One day, we do not know when, the Lord Jesus will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God. (See 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16.)

All who have received the Lord Jesus as Saviour from sin, both the living and the dead, will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. "And so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17). We need not fear the Lord's coming. Instead we should "comfort one another" (1 Thessalonians 4:18) with these words: "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).

It will be a happy day when we see Jesus ... happy, if we have received Him as Saviour. Those who are His can say, "O how I praise Him! He's coming for me." We will not be alone in praising Jesus because there will be people from every nation, tribe and language who will meet Him. They will see Jesus because someone—a missionary, perhaps—told them about Jesus, and by faith, they believed and received Him as Saviour. Will there be people there because you told them that Jesus was wounded, died, and arose for them?