

**Vicarious Sacrifice: Isa.53:4b: Jesus Carries a Heavy Burden of Our Sins on the Cross; Observers Mischaracterized the Lord's Crucifixion as Him Being Attacked by God: Stricken by Beatings & Floggings; Smitten: Being Pommelled by God for 3 Hours; Afflicted by Having to Work for Our Salvation on the Cross; the Lord's Interrogative During Judgment, Matt 27:46**

1. The word "carried" is the verb סָבַל (*saval*): "to carry a heavy burden" and refers to our Lord taking on the heavy weight of our sins.
2. The word "esteemed" comes up for a second time, which we translated in verse 3, "we did not add up the facts about Who He was."
3. The Jews who witnessed the Lord's trials, physical abuses, and crucifixion are doing some "esteeming" in verse 4. In other words, they erroneously analyzed what was going on and they approved of it from human viewpoint.
4. They comprehended three things that are stated next in order: (1) stricken, (2) smitten, and (3) afflicted.
5. The word "stricken" is the Qal passive of the verb נָגַע (*naga'*): "to strike in an aggressive and harmful way" by divine justice.
6. The Jews while observing His passion saw the beatings and flogging. They gathered around to learn the verdicts by the six trials. They saw him brought to the balcony of Pilate's headquarters and screamed, "Crucify Him!" They were eyewitnesses to His crucifixion. They saw Him die physically.
7. The word "smitten" is the Hophal stem of the verb נָחַח (*nachah*): "He was caused to be struck by God." This refers to the imputation of the sins of the world to our Lord on the cross.
8. This process took three hours so a better English translation would be "pommel" which is "to beat or strike repeatedly."<sup>1</sup>
9. Finally, the word "afflicted," the Pual intensive passive of the word עָנָה (*'anah*): "to labor; to work."

<sup>1</sup> *Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v. "pommel."

10. Jesus Christ worked for our salvation. Even though He was struck repeatedly by the Jews and pummeled by the imputation of our sins, He was required to concentrate while He was being judged for them.
11. No matter what the task, physical work requires the mental work of concentration and awareness of the mission.
12. The Pual stem is intensive which emphasizes the maximum pressure involved in concentrating during the judgment.
13. The Pual is also passive indicating that the Lord received the imputation of our sins from God.
14. The intensity of this ordeal is reflected by our Lord's interrogative from the cross:
 

**Matthew 27:46** - At about three o'clock Jesus screamed with a loud voice and kept on saying, "Ἠλί, Ἠλί, λιμὰ σαβαχθάνι?" ("Ēlī, Ēlī, limá sabachtháni?") which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
15. Verses 2–4 report on the First Advent of Messiah and the cross. Verse 4 sets up the next two verses in Isaiah's Report of the Gospel.
16. Here are the expanded translations of verses 2–4:
 

**Isaiah 53:2** - The Messiah shall be caused to grow up before the Father as the tender shoot of an infant, and like a genetic root of David in the dry ground of reversionistic Palestine; He has no handsome appearance of royal splendor that we should pay any attention to Him, nor was His image such that we should continue to be desirous of Him.

**Isaiah 53:3** - He received contemptible insults and was rejected of men; a Man of mental pain and suffering and acquainted with afflictions of man's personal sins and their antagonisms. We were caused to hide our faces from His brutalized condition; He received our condemnation and we did not add up the facts about Who He was.

**v. 4** - Therefore, He Himself has lifted up and carried away the affliction of our sins; he carried the heavy burden of our guilt. Consequently, the Jews considered Him struck down by judgment, He was caused to be pummeled by God, and made to labor on the cross. (EXT)

