

# THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST

By Keith Greer

Today, we want to examine some "**sufferings**" of Christ found in the Scriptures:

**He suffered for sins.** "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit." {1 Peter 3:18}

Under the Old Covenant, sinners continually brought sacrifices before the altar to make atonement for their sins. Once each year, the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place to make atonement for the people. None of these sacrifices could totally remove their sins. {Hebrews 10:1-4} Christ's sacrifice paid for all men's sins--past, present and future. {Hebrews 9:24-28}

**He suffered for righteousness.** "Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed." {1 Peter 2:23,24}

Sin requires atonement, and God's justice demanded payment of the penalty for sin. Who could pay it? Could men pay for their own ungodliness? Why couldn't God just overlook the indiscretions? The penalty for sin could be paid only with a pure, sinless sacrifice - a blood sacrifice. {Hebrews 9:22} The blood that Christ shed on the cross was the payment that God accepted as the penalty for our sins. {2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:23-26}

**He suffered when He was tempted.** "For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." {Hebrews 2:18}

He was tempted in all ways, as men are, but He did not yield to sin. {Matthew 4:1-10; Hebrews 4:15} As a man, Jesus was tempted to reject God's ways and exchange them for Satan's, but He refused. Three times, He used the words "it is written" to overcome the tempter. Why? God's word, when used properly, is man's weapon for defeating sin and remaining faithful to the Lord. Could this be why the prophet Isaiah described our Lord as a "suffering servant" in Isaiah 53? \*\*\*