

The thread through the tapestry. Imagine walking into a room and seeing a massive tapestry hanging on the wall

From a distance, **it's stunning, full of color, depth, and beauty**. But when you walk up close, all you see are threads. Knots. Loose ends, up close, it looks confusing. Almost messy.

Every thread **has a purpose**, every **color is intentional**, every line is **part of a bigger picture**

What if one **single thread ran through the entire tapestry**

That's what God has done for us. From the very **first pages of Genesis**, when everything seemed broken in the garden, **God introduced a thread, a promise**

**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. Genesis 3:15 NKJV**

Through Abraham... through Mount Moriah... through Isaiah... through the Psalms... that thread keeps showing up

**For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'** Isaiah 46:9–10 NKJV

**Prophecy** in the Bible is not storytelling; it is God revealing history before it happens

The Bible does not present prophecy as imagination, symbolism for entertainment, or something like a movie script

It presents prophecy as the Word of the sovereign God who declares the end from the beginning

**Prophecy**, when God speaks prophetically, He is not guessing; He is declaring what He has already determined

The Bible contains 17 prophetic books in the Old Testament, traditionally divided into:

Major Prophets (5) These are called "major" not because they're more important, but because their books are longer

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations (written by Jeremiah), Ezekiel, and Daniel

Minor Prophets (12). These are shorter books, often called "The Twelve"

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

Clarification: There are more prophets in the Bible than just these 17, For example:

Elijah, Elisha, Samuel, Nathan, and John the Baptist. These were prophets, but they did not write books included in the prophetic section

That is exactly what we find in the prophecies of Isaiah and the Psalms

The books of **Micah** and **Isaiah** were written roughly **700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ**

The book of **Psalms** was written over a long period of time, roughly **1000 BC to about 400 BC**

Many of the most well-known psalms were written by King David, who lived around 1000 BC

This is especially significant when you read passages like **Psalm 22**, which describe details the crucifixion of Jesus centuries later

These books were written centuries before Jesus was born, yet they describe the birthplace of Jesus, birth, life, death, and mission of Christ with amazing clarity

**The cross was never a backup plan.** It was promised from the beginning in **Genesis 3:15**

The **location** of Jesus' birth - **later fulfilled** in **Matthew 2 and Luke 2**

**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2 NKJV**

Jesus would be **born** miraculously

**Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 NKJV**

The name Immanuel means "God with us" and the prophecy was fulfilled

**So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:22–23 NKJV**

This prophecy tells us something remarkable: the Savior would not simply be a **prophet or teacher** he is **"God with us."**

**He is God entering human history**, not distant, not detached, but present, with us

Jesus steps into our broken world, and the **spoken promise is fulfilled when Jesus is born of the virgin Mary**

Jesus would first come as a child, and the servant would be a King

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NKJV

Isaiah shows us a surprising combination: The coming Messiah is both a child born into humanity, and the Mighty God who rules eternity

He is humble, yet sovereign. He is gentle, yet powerful

But here is the mystery Isaiah introduces: **this King will rule, but first He must suffer**

Long before **Bethlehem, Calvary**, God revealed that the **coming Messiah would suffer** in order to save mankind

**Jesus would be rejected and suffer**

**Isaiah 53** gives one of the clearest pictures of the cross in the entire Old Testament

He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Isaiah 53:3 NKJV

Jesus would not be celebrated by the world; He would be rejected, misunderstood, despised, and then greatly opposed

But Isaiah goes even deeper. **But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.** Isaiah 53:5 NKJV

Notice the language, not for His sins, for ours

This is substitutionary atonement. Jesus would take the punishment that belonged to us

We are told, every sin, every failure, and every rebellious act was **Laid on Him**

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6 NKJV

This suffering is especially significant when you read passages like **Psalm 22**, which describe details of the crucifixion of Jesus centuries later

For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet. Psalm 22:16 NKJV

They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:18 NKJV

David wrote these words **about a millennium before Jesus**; he was prophetically describing events that would later take place at the cross

Even the words in **Psalms 22: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?** Psalm 22:1 NKJV

David says **it historically, Jesus fulfills it prophetically**

**And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?** Matthew 27:46 NKJV

Why does Jesus say this? This is not a cry of confusion; it is a cry of fulfillment and substitution

God understands suffering

Jesus is called a Man of Sorrows. **He knows pain, He knows rejection, He knows grief**

When we suffer, we are not alone

Jesus entered fully into human pain to experience the full depth of human suffering

Because Jesus suffered **physically, emotionally, and spiritually**, He understands humanity's suffering from the inside

**For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.** Hebrews 4:15 NKJV

The suffering shows both **how serious sin is** and **how great God's love is**

**Jesus didn't just come to die; He came to bear the weight of full**

Pain, Shame, Fear, Broken relationships, Physical suffering, and spiritual separation

**SONG (Man Of Sorrows) Lizzie Dahl**

Sin produces more than death; from **Genesis 3** onward, sin brings

Pain, Shame, Fear, Broken relationships, Physical suffering, and spiritual separation

Death is just the final result, but **suffering is the pathway**

So, if Jesus is going to redeem us fully, He doesn't just remove the penalty of death

**Jesus entered into the entire consequence of sin, Isaiah 53:4 NKJV Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.**

He didn't just carry our guilt, He also carried our grief, what sin brought into the world

Scripture gives several reasons why the Messiah endured complete suffering

### **Jesus suffered to publicly defeat sin, death, and Satan**

The suffering was not defeat, it was victory

He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. Genesis 3:15 NKJV

The serpent bruised Christ's heel through the suffering of the cross, but Christ crushed the serpent's head by **defeating sin and death**

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15 NKJV

The cross looked like humiliation, but it was the moment of triumph and victory

### **Jesus suffered to reveal the depth of God's love**

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 NKJV

The crown of thorns, the lashes, the nails, each one reveals the cost of redemption and the magnitude of God's love

### **Jesus suffered to fulfill Prophecy**

The Messiah's suffering was foretold centuries earlier. The details of rejection, beating, and crucifixion were written long before Jesus came

I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. Isaiah 50:6 NKJV

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 NKJV

They pierced My hands and My feet. Psalm 22:16 NKJV

Jesus' suffering fulfilled what God had already revealed about the Messiah

### **To be our substitute**

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 2:24 NKJV

Every lash, every wound, every insult reflects the punishment sin deserved. He suffered in our place

Because He suffered **physically, emotionally, and spiritually**, He understands humanity's suffering from the inside

From the very first pages of **Genesis**, when everything fell apart, God didn't step back, He stepped in with a promise **Genesis 3:15**

God kept weaving that scarlet thread. **Not randomly, Not loosely, Precisely, Faithfully, Sovereignly**

And every thread leads to one place, the cross of Jesus Christ

What was spoken in **Genesis**, what was written in **Isaiah**, what was sung in the **Psalms**, was fulfilled in Christ alone

This is what He has done for us, our sin paid for, our guilt removed, our shame covered, our future secured

And let this be your response: Look at what He's done!