

# Isaiah 53:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

## Analysis

---

This verse reveals the substitutionary nature of Christ's suffering—He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. The Hebrew 'nasah' (bore) means to lift, carry, take away—depicting Jesus taking upon Himself what we deserved. 'Griefs' (choli) refers to sicknesses, pains, and 'sorrows' (makob) to emotional and physical anguish. Yet observers misinterpreted His suffering: 'we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted'—thinking God was punishing Him for His own sins. This tragic irony: they witnessed substitutionary atonement but interpreted it as divine judgment for personal sin. Matthew 8:17 applies this to Jesus's healing ministry, while 1 Peter 2:24 emphasizes His sin-bearing on the cross.

## Historical Context

---

Jewish observers of the crucifixion saw a man under God's curse (Deuteronomy 21:23), not recognizing He bore their curse (Galatians 3:13). Roman executioners thought they were punishing a criminal. Only later did disciples understand He bore their sins and sorrows. The early church grasped this substitutionary atonement as the gospel's heart: Christ suffered what we deserved so we might receive what He deserved. This theological truth transformed lives and founded the church.

## Related Passages

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

- ## Interlinear Text

## Additional Cross-References

**1 John 2:2** (Parallel theme): And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

**1 Peter 3:18** (References God): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

**Hebrews 9:28** (Parallel theme): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

**John 19:7** (References God): The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

**Psalms 69:26** (Parallel theme): For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)