



when CHRIST  
returns

— REVELATION 1-5 —



# Prime Minister in Vancouver



Global News Morning



Vancouver

PRIME MINISTER VISITS

Justin Trudeau in Vancouver

Global  
BC

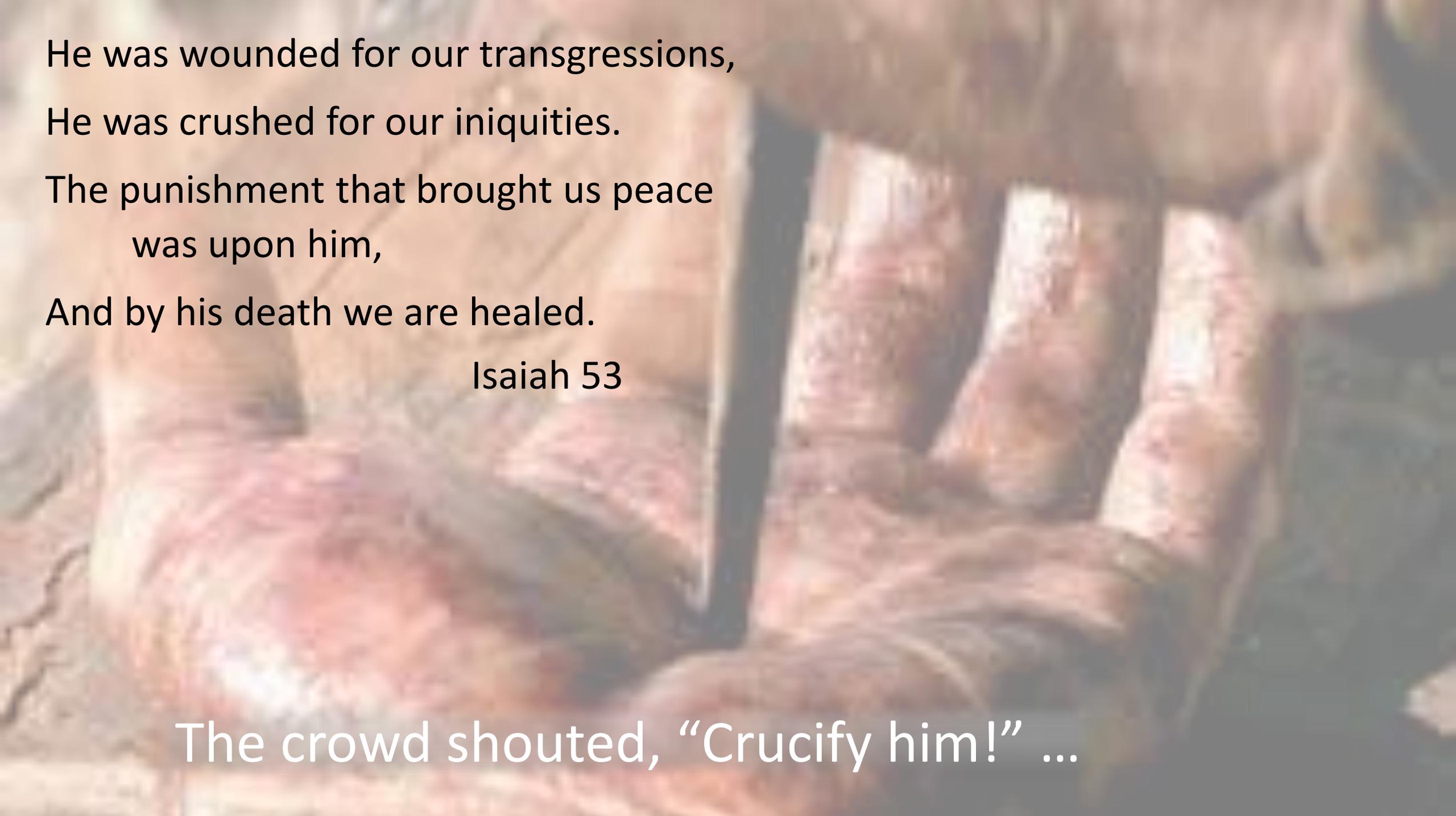
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He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was crushed for our iniquities.  
The punishment that brought us peace  
was upon him,  
And by his death we are healed.

Isaiah 53

The crowd shouted, "Crucify him!" ...

An empty tomb with a white cloth on the floor and a large opening in the wall leading to a bright landscape.

The angel said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?  
<sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen!

Luke 24

Reminder: The Revelation of Jesus describes Christ as He is now!

- not Christ emptied of His heavenly attributes and humbled in His humanity.
- Rather: Jesus fully clothed in His heavenly glory ... as He was, as He is, and as He will always be!



I saw a throne in heaven and  
one sitting on it ... and I saw a  
Lamb approach the throne ...

Revelation 4-5

**The Second Vision:** (4:1 – 11:18) – invites earth to see what is happening in Heaven.

*4 Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.”<sup>2</sup> And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it ...*

## **The Throne of Heaven:** (4:1-11)

1. The Throne is the most dominant image throughout Revelation!
2. The Throne is occupied – God is sitting on His Throne.
3. The Throne is surrounded in supernatural brilliance & power. (v.v. 3-11)
  - glowing colours; flashes of lightening and thunder; sea of crystal.
  - the Spirit of God flaming in front.
  - 4 supernatural creatures – lion, ox, man, eagle.
  - 24 elders, crowned & dressed in white.
4. The Throne is saturated in worship. (v.v. 8-11)

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—  
the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come.” ...*

*“You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory & honor & power.  
For you created all things, and they exist because you created what  
you pleased.”*

## **The Lamb of Heaven:** (5:1-7)

1. God holds a scroll – containing His final plans for the world. (v. 1)
2. Heaven searches for someone worthy to take the scroll, break its seven seals, and set history into motion ... and no one is found. (v.v. 2-4)
  - ... nothing created is found worthy to open the scroll.
  - ... and John is heartbroken.
3. The Lion of Judah appears ... He is worthy! (v. 5)
4. John turns to see the Lion ... and finds instead a Lamb! (v.v. 6-7)
  - The Lamb takes the scroll from the hand of God.

Paradigm-shattering truth: The Lamb is the Lion, and the Lion is the Lamb!

**This Morning: The Song of the Lamb:** (5:7-14)

*<sup>7</sup> The Lamb stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song with these words:*

*“You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it.  
For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for  
God from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
<sup>10</sup>And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for  
our God. And they will reign on the earth.”*

*<sup>11</sup> Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders.<sup>12</sup> And they sang in a mighty chorus:*

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered— to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.”*

*<sup>13</sup> And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang:*

*“Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.”*

*<sup>14</sup> And the four living beings said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb.*

## **The Song of the Lamb:** (5:7-14)

### 1. The Song is a new song. (v. 9)

*... the living creatures and 24 elders sang a new song ...*

- the song is new because something has changed ... the Lamb has stepped forward to take the scroll.
  - we are witnessing *kairos* time!

This is the song Creation has been groaning for (Romans 8) ... and it has finally arrived!

## **The Song of the Lamb:** (5:7-14)

1. The Song is a new song. (v. 9)

*... the living creatures and 24 elders sang a new song ...*

2. The Song is a victory song. (v.v.9-10)

*... "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it:*

- because you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God, from every tribe and language and people and nation.*
- You have caused them to be a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth."*
- it is the song of the King, reigning in triumph and glorious in victory.
  - "You are worthy to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing." (v. 12)*

*<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.*

*<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?*

*The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle!*

*<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.*

*<sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory?*

*The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory!*

Psalm 24

## The Song of the Lamb: (5:7-14)

1. The Song is a new song.
2. The Song is a victory song.
3. The Song is a thundering song.
  - Three explosions of praise:
    - a. 4 Living Creatures and the 24 Elders. (v.v. 8-10)  
... *“You are worthy!”*
    - b. Angels ... millions of them! (v.v. 11-12)  
... *“You are worthy!”*
    - c. Everything created – in heaven; on earth; under earth;  
in the sea. (v.v. 13-14)  
... *“Blessing & honour & glory & power belong to the one sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb...”*

**Note:** Heaven is thundering, because the final promise is about to happen.

- The curse is over.
- The four horsemen of the Apocalypse are saddling up.
- Justice is arriving.
- Evil is cowering.
- The King is moving ... marshalling His armies, deploying for battle.
- Every knee is preparing to bow ... every tongue readying to confess ...

Evil can strut on the stage of history only as long as the Ancient of Days on the throne allows ... He is rising to declare, "Time is up!"

Johnson

**What's REALLY going on:** (Johnson)

1. At the centre of everything is the Lamb, who suffered and was slain.
  - He was slain, *because of us*; and *for us*; and *instead of us*.
  - He is neither foolish (7 eyes), nor is He weak (7 horns).

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53

## **What's really going on:** (Johnson)

1. At the centre of everything is the Lamb, who suffered and was slain.
  - He was slain, *because of us*; and *for us*; and *instead of us*.
  - He is neither foolish (7 eyes), nor is He weak (7 horns).
2. The Lamb worthy, and the final outcome is not in doubt.
  - because of this reality, we work *from* victory, nor *for* victory.

We battle evil, not in order to win, but because Jesus, the Lion of Judah and Lamb of God, already has! ... we realize where history is going – it's moving to the Lamb, who sits on the throne.

Johnson

## **Are you paying attention?**

### Three Possibilities:

1. Ignore Reality ... yawn, and turn away from God.
2. Fight Reality ... growl, and turn against God.
3. Embrace Reality ... bow, and turn to God.

**21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.<sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new! It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. <sup>8</sup> But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”