

# God Loves You

## Encouragement from God's Declarations



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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How much does God love you...and how can you have certainty about it?

If God said, "I love you to the moon and back," would he mean all the moons in a bazillion zillion galaxies? No, that couldn't be right...not enough moons, not enough distance.

If God said, "How do I love thee, let me count the ways," would he then complete his poem with a certain number of ways in a prescribed number of lines? No, that can't be right...not enough ways, not enough lines.

No, when God says I love you, the Father sends his Son to the cross, the Holy Spirit grieves at the thought of the cross, and the Son stretches his arms out wide upon the cross and says, "This much. This is how much I love you. Not to the moon and back, but to the depths of infinity and the breadth of eternity; not in ways that might be counted, but in ways that measurement cannot surround or contain."

No, when God says I love you, the Spirit of God says of God the Father and God the Son: *"But the LORD was pleased to crush him... (for) as a result of the anguish of his soul, he will see and be satisfied; and by his knowledge the Righteous One, my Servant, will justify many"* (cf. Isaiah 53).

Wait. What? The Lord was pleased to crush him? Crush who? What are we talking about? What is God's word talking about in Isaiah 53?

Well, let's take a look. Let's read Isaiah 53...the whole thing....

Okay, here's the scoop. The LORD is God the Father. The Righteous One is the Messiah—Jesus. And, yes, God the Father was "pleased" to crush his Son because they both knew this was the means for justifying the other folks in Isaiah 53. So, who are the other folks? It's mankind. The ones in the passage referred to with the pronouns: us, we, our (read vss. 3-6).

Almost 800 years before the birth of Jesus, God, through the Prophet Isaiah, **declared** he would come, he would be perfect, and he would give his life as a ransom for the lost. In fact, there are many of these declarations...some 300 or so.

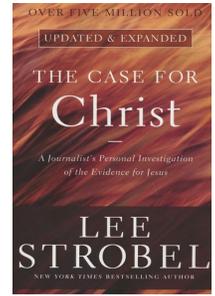
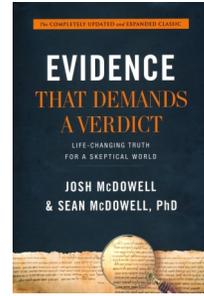
All of them predate Jesus by at least 400 years.  
Some await future fulfillment.  
All the rest have come true.  
None have been wrong.



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God Loves You: Encouragement from God's Declarations

While we do not have time today to prove this point, it's important for us to realize that prophecy is real and it's been historically validated. Two books that have stood both the tests of time and scrutiny on the subject are Evidence that Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell and The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel.



Today, I simply want to share a few of the declarations given by God through Isaiah...enough to bring you encouragement over a simple truth...God loves you so much that he went out of his way to declare—way, way ahead of time—just what he was going to do on your behalf.

Of course, I could have cherry-picked from all over the Old Testament, but maybe you would like to begin verifying these truths for yourself. Then it might be a bit more simple to begin with just one of the Old Testament books. You could read through Isaiah several times. You could research it a little. You would then begin to see its place in history, its theme, and its structure. And, as you do, you could investigate the prophecies of Isaiah regarding the coming of Immanuel—God with us.

**The Big Idea:** If you'd like eternal encouragement regarding how much God loves you, receive the truth about God's declarations concerning the coming of the Messiah.

**First,** God's desire to encourage us about his love moved him to declare and fulfill the incarnation of the Messiah.

Compare Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6,7 with \_\_\_\_\_ ▶ Matthew 1:23  
John 1:1-4,14  
Luke 1:32-33

**Second,** God's desire to encourage us about his love moved him to declare and fulfill the crucifixion of the Messiah as the Lamb of God.

Compare Isaiah 53:1-12 with \_\_\_\_\_ ▶ the Gospel accounts of the Lord's death

**Third,** God's desire to encourage us about his love moved him to declare and fulfill the the return of the Messiah as the Lion of Judah.

Compare Isaiah 11:1-16 with \_\_\_\_\_ ▶ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Ephesians 6:10-20

11:5 — belt of truth — 6:14  
59:17 — breastplate of righteousness — 6:14  
52:7 — ready feet — 6:15  
59:17 — helmet of salvation — 6:17  
49:2 — sword of the Spirit — 6:17

