

# The Apostles' Creed: Second Article

---

*[I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

---

## Christ's Work of Redemption, or Atonement

The movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, opens with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane just before He was betrayed and arrested. But before the movie even begins, there is a frame with this verse on it: *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5) KJV.* Yet, one of the criticisms of the movie was, "It failed to show why Jesus was crucified." The thinking was that they didn't show what happened that led up to His arrest, so we don't know why the Jews were so mad at Him. It's amazing they could say this, since the movie clearly showed, through the trial by the Sanhedrin, that the Jews arrested, tried, and had Jesus killed because He claimed to be the Son of God and they didn't believe it. But it goes even deeper than that.

The first question in our outline from the **Explanation** is: *Why did Christ humble Himself?* The answer is: *Christ voluntarily humbled Himself in order to "redeem me, a lost and condemned person."* The first biblical reference is **Isaiah 53:4-5**, which reads in the **ESV**: *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.* Jesus humbled Himself, that is, He became a man, to carry our griefs and sorrows, and be stricken, pierced, and crushed for our sins, and to give us peace and healing through His wounds. It didn't matter why the Jews hated Him. The reason He was crucified was to redeem us from our sin. That's the reason He came into the world. That's the reason we just celebrated Christmas again. The purpose behind all this is our redemption. Christ's work of redemption is the focus of Scripture.