

Jesus Christ – The Suffering Servant (2)

Introduction

- A. One of the basic truths of the Bible is the identification of the Lord Jesus with mankind through His Incarnation and the believer's identification with the Lord Jesus in His Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost. (Gal. 4:4,5; Rom. 6; Acts 2)
- B. Central in this work of redemption is the substitutionary involvement of the Lord Jesus in our alienation, condemnation,, and death. (II Cor. 5:21, I Peter 2:24; 3:18)
- C. The prophet Isaiah, over 700 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus, was inspired of God not only to give to Him the title of – The Servant of Jehovah (Is. 42:1,19; 43:10; 49:6; 52:13)–, but also to describe His suffering and triumph (Is. 52,53).

I. The Servant's Rejection, Isaiah 53:1-3.

- A. The prophet's prediction – the Lord Jesus would be rejected.

Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? (verse 1)

Comment: Isaiah's prediction is now history. When the Savior came He was not accepted as the Messiah, John 1:11; 12:37,38; **Rom.** 10:16. This is the very opposite to what we would **or** should expect. **If** God came to redeem man – would He **not** be accepted?

- B. The prophet's explanation – the Savior did not meet human expectation.

- 1. He was rejected because of His ordinary appearance. (verse 2)

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground. He hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Comment: Although fully God the Lord Jesus was not visually different from any other person in Palestine.

- 2. He was rejected because of His offensive life. (verse 3)

He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from him, he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Comment: The Lord Jesus continually ministered to the downtrodden, the sick, and those unacceptable in Jewish culture. It was human pride that rejected Him.

II. The Servant's Suffering and Death, Isaiah 53:4-9.

A. His suffering was substitutionary.

But he was wounded for our transgressions . . . (verse 5)

Comment: The verse states the heart of the Gospel: Jesus Christ, the God-man chose to be our substitute before the Father. In His suffering He endured the alienation, condemnation, death, and hell that we deserve. He bore our suffering.

B. His suffering was judicial.

But he was wounded for our transgressions ... iniquities ... peace.
All we like sheep have gone astray ... (verses 5A, 6A)

Comment: The suffering of the Lord Jesus was so terrible because of the nature of the penalty. The words used by the prophet shows that our sins are not against man – but God. His infinite greatness involves us in infinite guilt. We have transgressed His character, His revealed law, and His will for our lives. Apart from divine grace we stand condemned before God.

C. His suffering was vicarious and redemptive.

With his stripes we are healed. (verse 5D)

Comment: The suffering and death of the Lord Jesus were of such a nature that the value, the benefits could be transferred to us. Our judgment fell upon Him – the pardon was given to us. By taking our place before God He redeemed us.

D. His suffering was motivated by divine loving-kindness.

The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (verse 6C)

Comment: Because God is holy He cannot excuse our sin anymore than a just judge can overlook the crime of a criminal. But in His infinite kindness He took the judgment upon Himself.

III. The Servant's Triumph, Isaiah 53:10-12.

He shall see his seed ...

He shall prolong his days . . .

The pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand ...

He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied . . .

By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many . . . ,

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong . . .

Comment: The Lord Jesus accomplished what He had come to do – He redeemed the people of God. His death was not a tragedy from His perspective – but a triumph. Satan was defeated, sin was overcome, death was vanquished, Hell was thwarted, the elect were redeemed, and God was glorified.