

The Suffering Servant Pt. 5.

Sunday, June 29, 2008.

Isaiah 53:10-12..

I. Review.

- A. Ch. 52:13-15 depicts the Servant as dealing prudently, meaning that He uses the best available means to obtain the highest ends.
1. These best means involve His voluntary humiliation and death.
 2. The highest end involves the salvation of God's people.
 3. These means are astonishing to man, and lie totally opposite to human expectation and pride.
- B. Ch. 53:1-3 deals with human depravity and willful unbelief.
"Who has believed our report and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"
1. It takes a "revealing of the Lord's arm," a work of divine grace, and a humbling us to make us willing and able to believe.
 2. Apart from such a work we will neither desire nor esteem Him. Rather we will hide our faces from Him so as not to see Him for who He is.
- C. Ch. 53:4-6 the reality of the work the Servant came to do; His prudent dealings; His value in His Person and work.
1. His work of substitution; "He was wounded for our transgressions..."
 2. The result of His sufferings; "The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."
- D. Ch. 53:7-9 speaks of the spirit in which the servant underwent His ordeal.
1. The spirit of patience.
"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth."
 2. The spirit of quiet surrender.
"Father into Your hands I commit My spirit."
- E. Ch. 53:10-12 speaks to us of the Servant's reward.

II. The Pleasure of the Lord. Vs. 10.

- A. In terms of the means.
- "It pleased the Lord to bruise (crush) Him...He has put Him to Grief."
1. It was the Father who put Him to grief and who bruised Him.
 - Hereby we exclude Christ's enemies.
 - Hereby John 10:18 is fulfilled: "No one takes My life from Me, I lay it down of Myself."
 - Here also we are reminded of Acts 4:27,28: "Against Your Holy Child Jesus... both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the children of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and your purpose determined before to be done."
 2. It pleased the Father to use as means "weakness and foolishness" to destroy the works of the world, the flesh, and the Devil. 1 Corinthians 1:18-29.
- B. In terms of the end to be attained.
- "The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand."
1. We might wonder how it ever could have pleased the Father to crush the Son.

2. Here we see the “Pleasure of the Lord” not so much in terms of the crushing of the Servant as in terms of what was accomplished by the Servant’s being crushed and resurrected, so securing the Lord’s pleasure, that being the salvation of His people.

III. The reward of the righteous. Vs. 10-12.

- A. From cross to crown; from sowing with tears to reaping with joy.
“When you make His soul an offering for sin...”
- B. Rewards enumerated.
 1. “He shall see His seed; He shall prolong his days.”
These are two of the greatest old covenant blessings.
 - To see one’s seed; one’s children’s children.
 - To live long upon the land which the Lord your God has given you.
 2. “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.”
 - As at the end of the creation week the Lord God saw all He had made and was satisfied as He beheld it all to be very good,
 - So the Servant looks on the resurrection morning over all the labor of His soul’s redemption work and is satisfied seeing that it is all very good.
 3. By his knowledge He will justify many. (the Father’s good pleasure.)
 - Subjectively considered, meaning by the Servants knowledge, that is by his wise and prudent dealings. In Him did, and do, dwell all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 - Objectively considered, meaning by believers knowing the Servant experientially, the Servant will justify many. He will justify many who come to know Him by faith.
 4. The Father will divide Him a portion with the great (multitude), Lit. “the many;” and the spoil with the strong.
 - His portion and the spoil are constituted by the entire created order.
“All things are put under Him.” 1 Corinthians 15:27.
 - By “the many and the strong” we learn of the union of Christ with his people. They share in His victory. “More than conquerors,” they are conquered who are made to share in their Conqueror’s victory.

IV. The foundations revisited. Vs 12.

- A. “He poured out His soul unto death;” or “He exposed His soul to death.”
“He voluntarily laid bare His soul unto death.”
- B. “He permitted Himself to be numbered with the transgressors.”
- C. “He bore the sins of many.”

In contemplating the hardships the Lord endured to see his people brought to Himself, and our union with Christ you can see why the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. We also must ask ourselves what hardships and inconvenience we are willing to voluntarily take on ourselves to see others brought to Christ.

- D. “He made intercession for the transgressors.”
 1. He did so on the cross.
 2. He still does so in heaven in His High Priestly ministry.