

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
"Messiah's Sufferings" (2)
Isaiah 53:8

Mar 4, 1984

INTRODUCTION

1. Those who really know the Lord as Saviour acknowledge with worship His sufferings. They form a unique portion of His life and death not to be overlooked.
2. The triad of verses (7-9) record Messiah's sufferings in life (v. 7), death (v. 8), and burial (v. 9). When Messiah suffered in life, He experienced violent sufferings (He was oppressed), voluntary sufferings (He was afflicted i.e. He bowed down under pressure) and valiant sufferings (He opened not His mouth--as a lamb, as a sheep).
3. Now, in His death, what about His sufferings? consider these thoughts about Him:-

1. HIS HURRIED TRIAL

"He was taken from prison and from judgment"

There is tremendous variation in the translation of the words of this verse--perhaps more than any single verse in the Hebrew Bible.

The verb "taken" means to be snatched or hurried away (cf. 52:5; Ezek. 33:4). The word "prison" signifies a persecuting treatment and concerns a restraint by outward force. "Judgment" refers to judicial activities in which He was put upon His trial, accused and convicted as worthy of death. Therefore, it was hostile oppression and judicial persecution circumstances out of which He was carried away by death.

NOTE: Our Lord's appearance before Annas (Jn 18:12-14), Caiaphas (Mat. 26:57-58), and the Council (Luke 22:66-71). Also before Pilate (Lk 23:1-5), Herod (Lk 23:6-12), and Pilate (Lk 23:14-25). The failure of justice in all of this is patent.

2. HIS HATED RESPONSE

"Who shall declare His generation."

Again, there are many variant translations for these words. Two are dominant:

One view sees "declare" to mean "bring forth or speak" i.e. who among our Lord's contemporaries spoke out in defence of Him? None! No one spoke a justifying plea for Him.

Another view sees the verb meaning to "meditate" and thus--reflected on the true meaning of His death?

Who discerned that His death was not for Himself? None. How tragic. The Talmud records a tradition which seems to uphold this view.

The sad commentary on all of this is that unto this hour many of His professed disciples are unwilling to take their stand as His witnesses in the face of a hostile Jewish and Gentile world. Where oh where is the justifying pleas on His behalf--in word and life?

3. HIS HORRIBLE DEATH

"For He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He stricken."

The verb "cut off" implies a violent death (cf. Dan. 9:26). He was cut down like a tree v. 2; 2 Kings 6:4). This gives significance to His premature unnatural death. The cross was the suffering He endured as a criminal. "Stricken" denotes the stroke was laid on Him. It was all because of the transgression of "my people." Strangely, there are those who deny Messiah's death was vicarious or a substitute. Rather, they seek to apply the phrase here to the Jewish people and they render it accordingly. Grammatical usage does not support his view.

CONCLUSION

Thanks be to God the Messiah endured it all as outlined here at Golgotha. We owe Him our worship and adoration. Let us bow in His presence to give Him His due.

*"On the cross for me
On the cross for Me
See Him dying there for me
Jesus paid the price
Himself the sacrifice
On the cross for me."*