

January 24, 2010

THE SUFFERINGS OF THE SAVIOR
ISAIAH 53:4-6

The two great messianic mountain peaks in the Old Testament are Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. David wrote about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ over 1,000 years before it happened, and Isaiah wrote about it over 700 years before it happened.

Consider Isaiah's pictures of the Savior: (1) a beaten servant 52:13-14; (2) a root out of dry ground 53:2; (3) an innocent lamb 53:7; (4) an offering for sin 53:10; (5) a woman in travail giving birth to spiritual "seed" 53:10-11; (6) a victorious redeemer 53:12.

Some people still do not believe in Him (v.1). Instead they despise and reject Him (v.2) and consider the message of the cross foolishness (I Corinthians 1:18-25). Heaven praises the Lamb of God day by day, and His people on earth glory in His cross. Are you among them by glorying in the cross of Jesus Christ?

I. JESUS SUFFERED WILLINGLY (v.4).

- A. He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He took our place and bore the judgment for our sins. He did it voluntarily for you and me. He did it gladly to save us from hell. We ought to serve Him voluntarily and gladly on a daily basis.
- B. We did esteem Him stricken. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for God's will to be done. In essence He was saying, "Father put their sins on me and I will pay for them. I love them and I'll suffer in their place. I'll die for them so they can live in heaven."

Some of the people passed by and thought that Jesus must have been a terrible sinner to deserve this fate. They said in Matthew 27:

"Come down if you are the Son of God" (v. 40).

"Come down if you are the King of Israel" (v. 42).

"Come down if God will have you" (v. 43).

"Come down from your faith, faithfulness, and from God's standards."

II. JESUS SUFFERED VICARIOUSLY (v.5-6). He suffered as the substitute for you and me. There was no substitute for Jesus.

- A. He suffered for our transgressions, or the rebellious and deliberate breaking of the law of God. How many of God's laws have you broken? How often have you broken them?

- B. He suffered for our iniquities or the crookedness of our nature. Man is a sinner by birth for all like sheep have gone astray (v. 6). Man is a sinner by choice for we have turned everyone to his own way (v. 6).

Verse 6 begins with the “all” of condemnation, but ends with the “all” of salvation. He died for us all, but all have not accepted Him. Have you?