

The Redemptive Impact of Isaiah 53: (part three of a four part series)

The emphasis of Isaiah 53:7-9 is upon the exemplary manner in which our Savior submitted to His unjust and brutal death. The prophet compares it to a lamb being led to slaughter. No wonder John the Baptist referred to his Messiah as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The apostle Peter makes a practical application of our Lord's surrender in 1 Peter 2:21-25; indicating the eternal benefit of Christ's focus on the task at hand, and that we should do the same, in following His example as Christians. However, there is an entirely different and triumphant scenario portrayed for us in Isaiah 53:10-12 –

“But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as he will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and he will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”

The strong implication throughout the passage above is that of a resurrection following the crucifixion. In 53:10, Isaiah predicts that the Messiah “will see His offspring,” and in 53:11 – “He will see it and be satisfied.” So the prophetic oracle of Isaiah 53, in its entirety, presents us with Jesus Christ, as not only a rejected and crucified Messiah, but the risen Savior of the entire world. Ironically, this “triumph from tragedy” depiction is hinted at immediately prior to chapter 53, in 52:13-15; where Christ is represented as both “greatly exalted” and “marred more than any other man.” Isaiah 52:15 especially emphasizes how His rejection by Israel would have a positive impact upon the whole world. In addition, this harbinger of “offspring” and “justifying of many,” confirms to us that the redemptive purpose of God would in no way be thwarted by Israel's rejection, but fulfilled on behalf of every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Revelation 5:9-10).

In our final segment, our focus will be upon a practical application of what it should mean for each of us as Christians, when Isaiah 53:11a proclaims – “As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied.”