

EASTER IN ISAIAH (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

...Charles Dicken's novel, The Tale of Two Cities, tells of a man who voluntarily died for his friend. His final words: "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done."

...Today concludes the "Passion week" of our Lord Jesus. On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King. He taught the people, cleansed the temple, was arrested, tried, brutally beaten, and nailed to the Cross...all in one week. Jesus did the Father's will completely, at great cost, so that we might be saved.

...Did you know that Jesus' sufferings, death, and resurrection were foretold 700 years in advance? God spoke through Isaiah and gave us this prophecy, which is quoted more times in the New Testament than any other OT.

THREE GLORIOUS STANZAS FORETELLING TO US BOTH THE WORK AND THE REWARD OF JESUS.

...In suffering for us, Jesus provided salvation for all who would believe in Him.

I. God Speaks Telling Of His Approval Of Jesus, Who Did His Will Completely.

- A. God says, "see, my servant." This is Jesus. Note the evidence: (external evidence: Acts 8:26-40) (internal evidence: the predictions...)
- B. This servant, Jesus, will "act wisely"(succeed) in His work. (13)
...This summary statement reveals His success by His reward:
"raised"...resurrection, "lifted up"...ascension, "exalted"...heaven
- C. A description is given of our Savior. (14)
..."many were appalled" (better: "rendered speechless") (Isa 50:6)
...His appearance no longer looked human. He was so totally beaten.
- D. The goal of His work would be to "sprinkle many nations." (15)
 1. This "sprinkling" always refers to cleansing...through blood. (Lev.16:14-15)
He, Himself, would provide the cleansing agent...His blood.
 2. The kings and leaders of many nations will be so overwhelmed when they hear what Jesus did for them... they will shut their mouths in adoration!

II. A Believing Israel Then Speaks Foretelling The Report Believed By Gentile Kings (53:1-9)...What is this report? It is the message of the Gospel. Most people place no value upon this.

- A. Israel confesses, "we missed Him." We placed no value upon His life. (vv 1-3)
 1. Kings and others will believe upon Him, but most will not believe. (v. 1)
 2. This servant did not appear to be a king. (v.2)
..."a tender shoot," "a root out of dry ground." He seemed so unpromising...
...His appearance was so common, so ordinary. "No beauty or majesty to attract..."
 3. He was missed, because he lacked a following, "despised and rejected by men."
...He was a man of "sorrows"..."we missed Him," "we did not esteem Him."
- B. Israel confesses that they missed Him, for they placed no value on His death. (vv4-6)
 1. Jesus took the consequences of our sins..."infirmities and sorrows" (Matt 8:17)
 2. This "Servant" was the substitute. (v. 5) "He was pierced... transgressions." "peace."
 3. The benefit of this was to provide salvation for the world. (v. 6)
- C. Israel now speaks describing Jesus' death. (vv 7-9)
 1. Jesus was passive.(7) He was totally submissive, like a lamb to the slaughter.
 2. His physical abuse and trials are described. (v8) Jesus endured 6 "illegal trials."
 3. Jesus died childless, in the prime of life. He was "cut-off" (a violent death)
 4. His burial is mentioned. (9) God would not allow His Son to be buried in dishonor...

III. God Again Speaks Telling Of The Reward He Would Give To Jesus. (vv10-12)

- A. Jesus would be highly exalted, because He offered His life as a trespass offering. (10)
 1. Though innocent, Jesus was bruised by the Father. (Acts 2:23f) "and wicked men..."
 2. Yet, after Jesus' death, He would see "His offspring." These are believers, and He would see them after His resurrection. "prolong His days."
- B. He would be resurrected, "after...He would see the light of life."(11) Resurrection!!!!
...His work would "justify many." Because, "He bore our iniquities."
- C. Therefore, God the Father would highly exalt Jesus. (v.12) (Philippians 2:9-11)

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: