

Isaiah 50:4-9

The Shameful Suffering of the Cross

Text: Isaiah 50:3-9

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Isaiah declared that the Messiah would suffer shamefully, yet be victorious...

I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. The name Isaiah means, "Jehovah is salvation," "salvation is of Jehovah," or "Jehovah saves."
- B. Chapters 1 - 39 of Isaiah detail judgment from God on the nations of the world, including Israel and Judah.
- C. Chapters 40 - 66 record comfort from God in promises of Israel's return and the coming of the Messiah.
- D. There are four "Servant Songs" that poetically and prophetically describe the Messiah.
 1. 42:1-9 - *First Servant Song* (Rational truth, salvation to all)
 2. 49:1-13 - *Second Servant Song* (Powerful truth, salvation to all)
 3. 50:4-11 - *Third Servant Song* (Faithful to God even in suffering)
 4. 52:13 - 53:12 - *Fourth Servant Song* (A suffering, suitable sacrifice)
- E. The third of these songs describes the Messiah as the suffering spokesman for God.
- F. Just before this song begins, God declares His power to judge nations - pictured as clothing the heavens with blackness (vs. 3).
 1. The power of God would protect the righteous (vs. 1-2).
 2. The power of God would punish the rebellious (vs. 1-2).
 3. The power of God would be manifested at the cross (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45).

II. THE SUBMISSIVE SERVANT AS A SUFFERING SPOKESMAN (ISAIAH 50:4-9)

- A. The Servant's message would be the Word of God.
 1. Jesus is pictured as being God's disciple, learning perfectly what He was to deliver to the world.
 2. As a disciple, He was dependent upon His Master for the content of His message.
 3. As a disciple, He was dependent upon His Master for the comfort of His message.
 4. As a disciple, He was submissive to learning His Master's teachings - morning by morning.
 5. Because His tongue had been instructed, He could instruct others (Matt. 11:28-30).

Prophecy of Jesus

- B. In fact, Jesus was the perfect Prophet of God (Acts 3:22-23).
 - 1. However, God's people had a history of rejecting and persecuting His prophets (cf. Matthew 23:31; Acts 7:52; etc.).
 - 2. They had the same reaction toward Jesus (Matthew 22:15; 26:68).
 - 3. Thus, Jesus was prepared for His mission of bringing salvation to all nations because the message He preached was from God.
- C. Upon hearing God's Word, the Servant was not rebellious, but submitted completely to it (cf. John 8:29; 14:31; 15:10).
- D. He was submissive even when it led to His terrible suffering.
 - 1. Scourging (Matthew 27:26; Luke 18:33)
 - 2. Insult (2 Samuel 10:4; Nehemiah 13:25)
 - a. In that culture, a man's beard was venerated as a symbol of his dignity.
 - b. To remove another's beard was an extreme insult.
 - 3. Shame and spitting (Matthew 26:67; 27:30; Mark 14:65; 15:19; Luke 22:63-64)
 - a. There was tremendous shame associated with crucifixion (cf. Hebrews 12:2; Mark 9:12; Luke 23:11; 1 Peter 2:23; Philippians 2:7-8).
 - b. Yet, Jesus endured such humiliation that He might save man from sin.
- E. Because His complete trust was in God, He would not be confounded or ashamed by the unjust actions of men (cf. Ezekiel 3:8-9; Luke 9:51).
- F. He knew that He was answerable to God and that God would justify and vindicate His faithful obedience (cf. John 8:46).
- G. All those who opposed Him would fade away into nothingness.

III. THE LESSON OF THE SONG

(ISAIAH 50:10-11)

- A. Those who fear and obey God must trust in and rely upon Him even in the darkest days of life.
- B. Those who reject Him attempt to guide themselves through life by kindling their own fires.
- C. They will find themselves in a place of sorrow – literally, terror, pain, or torment.
- D. Like Jesus, the Christian must place his complete trust in God without fear (Romans 1:16).