

Isaiah Saw His Glory #7

Is. 52:12-53:10—“The glories to follow”

Intro: The prophets presented two pictures of Jesus. They are described by Peter in this way:

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. (1 Peter 1:10-11)

No OT prophecy more vividly describes “the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow” than Isaiah 53. It is the last and climactic servant song of the second half of Isaiah and the most frequently quoted OT passage in the NT.

Isaiah poignantly presents the sufferings of the Savior; but His presentation is not some fatalistic picture of misfortune. In fact, Isaiah shows us that the Savior’s suffering was for Him a pathway to glory—to victory and exaltation. Let’s consider now the glories to follow.

The vindication of the Servant--53:9-12

His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. 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. (Isaiah 53:9-11)

What appeared at first to be a crushing defeat for the suffering Christ became the path to His glorious exaltation. His vindication was manifested in a sequence of events:

Honor shown Him in his burial

His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7-9)

The Jews had likely anticipated that Jesus would suffer the same fate as others who had been crucified. His body would simply be thrown away along with the other criminals in the Valley of Hinnom without even a proper burial. Ironically one of their own number, Joseph of Arimathea, appeared and offered a tomb suitable for a man of wealth and power to be used by Jesus.

And when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the

body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given over to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. (Matthew 27:57-60)

Thus the proper burial of Jesus is the beginning of God's vindication of Him as His innocent Son (i.e. He had done no violence nor was there any deceit in His mouth).

His Resurrection from the dead

Isaiah sees Jesus' reward for yielding to the Father's purposes: *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. (Is. 53:10)*

Based on our knowledge of OT sacrifices, a guilt offering would clearly indicate death. Isaiah is not saying that the Father enjoyed the crucifixion; instead he affirms that Jesus' death was the result of God's sovereign purposes. Jesus died because the Father willed that He die!

this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. (Acts 2:23)

Yet this sacrificial victim would live to see His children, prolong His days and become the means by which the Lord's pleasure would be accomplished. How could this happen?

Only through resurrection from the dead!

By resurrection Jesus:

Saw His offspring

"Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me."
(Heb. 2:13)

Prolonged His days

Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

Accomplished the good pleasure of the Lord

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. (Col. 1:19-20)

His role as Redeemer and Lord

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. (Isaiah 53:11)

It is amazing to see that everything Jesus experienced in His sufferings was now being reversed:

It is the ultimate vindication that the Lord's death became the means by which all men may live.

It is the ultimate vindication that His anguish would be the means by which He now enjoys the satisfaction of His role as Redeemer.

It is the ultimate vindication that though He was murdered as a sinner, His death has become the means of the sinner's pardon.

It is the ultimate vindication that He who was legally condemned to death now "justifies" (frees from legal condemnation) those who come to God through Him.

It is the ultimate vindication that He who had no intercessor in his trial has become the intercessor for all!

The triumphant reign of the Servant

Isaiah shows us that the suffering servant would because of His humiliation enter a new role of exaltation:

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. (Isaiah 53:12)

Because Jesus was willing to be subject to such humiliation, He is now regarded among the great.

Because He yielded to the defeat of death, he has become a conquering warrior over His enemy Satan!

The story of Isaiah 53 really begins in Is. 52:13! Isaiah begins the picture of the servant with His victorious reign! We see the servant in complete victory and authority.

Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up, and greatly exalted. Just as many were astonished at you, My people, (so His appearance was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men), thus He will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand. (Isaiah 52:13-15)

The one who experienced such astonishing degradation and suffering now enjoys the highest exaltation.

His sacrificial death shed the blood that now "sprinkles the nations". People of every nation come to Him for cleansing.

Even kings now bow down to the crucified one!

Those known for their wisdom now "shut their mouths" at the opportunity to learn from Him what they did not know.

All of this takes place through His reign from heaven and the spread of His gospel on earth!

Paul found the fulfillment of this prophecy in the conversion of the Gentiles through His ministry:

And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation;21 but as it is written, "They who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand." (Romans 15:20-21)

The Jesus who suffered so greatly is now exalted greatly!
Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

Conclusion: This is the suffering and glory God planned for the Christ! And Jesus acknowledged that He was the one who fulfilled these OT Scriptures:

And He said to them, "But now, let him who has a purse take it along, likewise also a bag, and let him who has no sword sell his robe and buy one. For I tell you, that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'And He was numbered with transgressors'; for that which refers to Me has its fulfillment. (Luke 22:36-37)

And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" (Luke 24:25-26)

The apostles carried that message of the suffering of Christ and the glories to follow to the world.

For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways." (Acts 3:26)

Three important things to remember:

The apologetic value of Isaiah 53!

The glory of the Lord now! That Servant who died for us, now reigns over us in heaven! The magnitude of His suffering is only matched by the greatness of His glory as the exalted Son of God!

Our path to glory is also through suffering.