

## **Isaiah 53: 10 – 12 The Resurrection, as Isaiah prophesied**

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, let us reflect on the prophecy given to us by the prophet Isaiah, some 700 years before the event took place. This is an amazing testimony of the faithfulness of God's love for his people. This we find in Isaiah 53, the Fourth Servant Song. This whole section Isaiah 52:10-53:12 tells us of the great cost of securing the promises and hopes for the people of God. This passage puts a great emphasis on the cost that needs to be done for our salvation. Therefore, we could ask, "Why does this passage emphasize so much the cost or pain of our salvation?"

There are several reasons for this. Firstly, God is trying to tie our hearts to the Saviour our Bridegroom. He wants us to be thankful, appreciative and devoted. When we know of his great love, then we are able to respond to Him with affection. Secondly, our salvation completely rests on the work of this Servant, our Lord Jesus. Thirdly, it is absolutely critical that we clearly understand this work of Christ for without understanding and accepting it, we have no salvation. And the clarity by which we understand these verses has everything to do with how strong we will be as Christians. Isaiah 53:10-12 provides a clear picture of both Jesus Christ's work and its results. It is here we begin to see the grand scope of God's glorious redemptive work done through Christ.

Let's consider these three very powerful verses that show us the glorious results of the Servant's suffering.

### **Verse 10**

We need to appreciate that God did not send Jesus as an afterthought, but as his main divine plan. It was before Adam or man was created that this whole redemptive plan was chosen. We need to recognize that sending Jesus to die was God's choice. God loved his plan even though it would be most difficult to carry out. God took pleasure in the pain to himself but, and this is critically important, not for the pain but for the purpose that arises from the pain. It is in this that we see God's love. His purposes were based on his willingness to inflict himself, his servant, so that others can share in his glory. This is the key to our discipleship. The clearer we get this picture, the greater we can live for Jesus. There are at least three direct results from Jesus Christ's death on the cross mentioned here.

First is that he will see his offspring. This refers to the many people he would save. The offspring are the 'children of God.' The offspring's existence is dependent upon whether the Servant would become a guilt offering. When the guilt offering is provided, then he will see his offspring. Second, that He will prolong his days. Everyone knew what happened to guilt offerings. They were killed. But here it says that his life will be prolonged. Jesus' days were prolonged because he came alive and lives forever. We need to understand this, that Jesus Christ did die, but it was because he took on the sins of others. Because he was righteous, death had no claim on his own life. His life does go on and he lives forever. How blessed it is to know that he who gives away his life shall be saved and those who live for one's life shall die. Our blessed Lord Jesus was raised and lives forever. Thirdly, the Lord delights because in the end his death results in life and ongoing blessing. He will be

greatly rewarded. This refers to Christ's exaltation as well as Christ's life and blessing is invested in his offspring, in us who believe in him.

#### Verse 11

Here we see that though there would be times of anguish but stemming from it great blessing would come. Christ arose from the dead and therefore sees the good that came from his pain. Jesus' victory was found in his pain, suffering and ultimately his death. He declared that the many wicked who believed in Christ would now be declared righteous. His death resulted in our justification. The righteous for the unrighteous that many might come to be declared righteous. He made it that the many would have a sure place of forgiveness. Christ has indeed secured our salvation. What an incredible Saviour our Lord Jesus is.

No person or event down through history can be compared to what Jesus accomplished. God will look back upon that grief and suffering and be satisfied. Redemption has been accomplished. He will see with satisfaction and be fully satisfied at the completion of the divine work. God will see many coming to salvation and be satisfied. By having knowledge of him, Jesus the Righteous One, will justify many, as he will bear their iniquities. He accomplishes this justification by faith. We must be careful not to miss the painful atonement that keeps recurring throughout this passage. That is what makes it hard to fully comprehend. The Servant will see it and be fully satisfied. Prophet Isaiah says, the outcome of the atoning sacrifice will cause God to be glorified. Only the divine satisfaction of propitiation can do that. Because God and his Servant are satisfied the message can now be proclaimed. Hallelujah to his name!

#### Verse 12

Yes, what the Servant, our Lord Jesus has done is amazing. We are moved that God would die for any of us let alone many of us. But somehow the thought introduced here goes far beyond this. We might think it is perhaps out of pity that God saves sinners, but he did not just deliver us from trouble but shared his very best with us. He treats us as if we did all the work with him, when in fact we did nothing but be the cause of his pain. We finally see how the Servant will be lifted up. Then the verse goes on and explains what is not often seen. He shares these riches with others. He who had all, gave up all, had nothing, gets crushed, then obtains all and then shares it with us who do not deserve anything.

It is through his actual death, which is repeatedly stressed, that the blessing comes to us believers in Christ. And so, Jesus the Conqueror has finished the bulk of the work and now continues interceding for us. Jesus is portrayed as a willing servant who died for others because God our Father, wished him do so. Quietly and humbly he went to the cross for our sins. His death happened only once in history, but the effect of it continues on in the intercession for the saints but also in the way that we are being blessed by sharing in Christ's riches for eternity.

Do you realize that God not only had mercy and pity upon us but graced us? He treats us as if we had never sinned. Instead of judging us, He takes that judgment and then rewards us. Think of how awful his death and suffering were. This was your guilt and mine. If our sin was not so bad, then he would not have needed to die such a horrible death. But his death was required and mentioned over and over again so

that we might never forget. God does not want us to forget his love for us. He does not want us to sin. So, God extends his goodness to us and lifts us up to join him. God does not just accept us. He desires our fellowship. There is nothing more touching and heart changing than this. What God has done for us through our Lord Jesus Christ is truly a cause worth celebrating! What a Saviour!

May God's grace and peace be with us all.

Bobby