

The Sufferings of Christ

Luke 24v25-27,v44-46:

The consistent testimony of OT Scripture concerning Christ, in picture (books of Moses), in prophecy (the prophets) & in poetry (the Psalms), is of His sufferings first, and then His glory to follow.

1st Peter 1v11 - the Spirit of Christ in the prophets, "**testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow**". His 1st advent - sufferings; His 2nd advent - glory

All through His life - His sufferings for righteousness sake, sufferings received directly from sinful men.

Specifically upon the cross - His vicarious atoning sufferings for sins, sufferings from a holy God.

"He suffered for righteousness, as a living Man, from men; as a dying Saviour, He suffered from the hand of God for sin" (JN Darby, 'The Sufferings of Christ', 1858).

Sufferings for sin were unique to the Lord Jesus; 1st Peter 3v18 "**For Christ also hath once (for all) suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God**".

Suffering on account of righteousness is common to both Christ and Christians; 1st Peter 2v21 "**For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps**". (See also Phil 1v29, 2 Tim 3v12.)

Isaiah 53v2-4: The Exemplary Sufferings of Christ for Righteousness Sake

The Lord Jesus suffered the hatred of this sinful world, for living a righteous life (see John 3v19-20).

1. He suffered personally:

Isaiah 53v3 "**He is despised (inwardly) and rejected (outwardly) of men**".

The suffering of personal reproach:

Christ was despised - the object of man's scorn, contempt, disapproval & reproach. Why?

Psalms 69v7 "**Because for Thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered My face**"; v9 "**And the reproaches of them that reproached Thee are fallen upon Me**"; v19-20 "**Thou hast known My reproach, and My shame, and My dishonour; Mine adversaries are all before Thee. Reproach hath broken My heart, and I am full of heaviness. And I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none**".

He is still the despised One by this world; the reproach of Christ now falls on Christians.

The suffering of personal rejection:

Rejected by His own family - Mark 3v21 "**And when His friends (i.e. His kinsmen) heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside Himself**".

Psalms 69v8 "**I am become a stranger unto My brethren, and an alien unto My mother's children**".

Rejected by His own Nation - John 1v11 "**He came unto His own, and His own received Him not**".

Isaiah 53v2 "**He hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him**" (see also Luke 13v34).

2. He suffered unjustly:

The Jews accused Him of being demon-possessed (Mark 3v22, John 8v48, John 10v20).

Psalms 35v19, "**They hated Me without a cause**".

Psalms 69v4 "**They that hate Me without a cause are more than the hairs of Mine head**".

Hebrews 12v3 "**For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself**".

Psalms 109v5 "**And they have rewarded Me evil for good, and hatred for My love**".

Psalms 69v12 "**They that sit in the gate speak against Me, and I was the song of the drunkards**".

3. He suffered greatly:

Isaiah 53v3 - "**A Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief**" - characteristic of His whole life.

He lived in this world as an outcast of society, treated like a leper, "**and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not**".

His pathway to the cross - Gethsemane, Gabatha, Golgotha - the sufferings increase exponentially.

Isaiah 53v7 "**He was oppressed and He was afflicted**", as men did their worst to Him.

4. He suffered patiently:

Isaiah 53v7 "as a sheep before His shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth".

1st Peter 2v23 "Who when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not".

5. He suffered prayerfully:

1st Peter 2v23 "but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously".

6. He suffered willingly:

Isaiah 50v6 "I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked of the hair; I hid not My face from shame and spitting" - the faithful Servant of Jehovah, always obedient to the will of His God.

He told His disciples, "how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things" (Matt 16v21).

7. He suffered purposefully:

Hebrews 5v8 "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered" - He learned experientially the cost of obedience.

Hebrews 5v9 "And being made perfect (by the things which He suffered), He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him".

Thus, His sufferings, consequent upon His obedience to the will of His God, have perfectly fitted Him for His present ministry of sympathy & succour, to be our merciful & faithful Great High Priest in heaven.

Hebrews 2v10 "to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings"; v18 "For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted".

Isaiah 53v5-12: The Vicarious Atoning Sufferings of Christ at Golgotha

8. He suffered vicariously:

Isaiah 53v12 "He bare the sin of many", Christ suffered in the place of guilty sinners.

1st Peter 2v24 "He bare our sins in His own body on the tree".

9. He suffered judicially:

All that He experienced at the hand of God, when from the 6th to the 9th hour God was directly dealing with Him, i.e. the very judgement of God for sin.

v5 "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes (stripe) we are healed".

The sin offering aspect of the death of Christ, what He suffered at Calvary to make atonement for sin, required a Divine wounding/bruising/chastening/stripe.

v4 "stricken, smitten of God and afflicted" - the judgement of God upon Christ.

v6, "And the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all"; v10 "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him, He hath put Him to grief".

NB. 3x in Isaiah 53 "His soul"; v10, "when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin"; v11 "He shall see of the travail of His soul"; v12, "because He hath poured out His soul unto death".

Men did their worst to His sacred body; only God could deal with His holy soul.

2nd Cor 5v21 "He (God) hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin".

Isaiah 52v14 conveys the result of this unprecedented suffering - "His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men".

10. He suffered death:

A final step of suffering for the Saviour - necessary to fully & finally deal with sin.

Isaiah 53v7 "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter"; v8 "For He was cut off out of the land of the living"; v9 "His death"; v12 "poured out His soul unto death".

Hebrews 2v9 "who was made a little lower than the angels for (with a view to) the suffering of death ... that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man".