

## Isaiah 52-53 – The Sufferings of the Son of God

*“With amazement the angels beheld **the infinite love of Jesus**, who, **suffering the most excruciating agony** of mind and body, thought only of others...while pouring out His life unto death, He exercised a love for man stronger than death.” -- RED 79.1*

Comment on Isa. 52:13 – **Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.**

Vs. 13

The Lord permits men to go to a certain length in sin, and then, as in the destruction of the old world, He will arise and punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. The earth will disclose her blood, and no more cover her slain.

**"Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.** As many were astonished at Thee; His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; so shall He sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider."

Thus it was. The terrible scenes of the crucifixion revealed what humanity will do when under Satan's control. They revealed what the outcome would be if Satan was to control the world. Those who witnessed these scenes never lost the impressions made upon their minds. Many were converted, and told others of the awful scene they beheld.

-ST July 12, 1899, par. 7-9

There were many who had not identified themselves with Christ whose hearts were groaning with agony as they witnessed the behavior of the priests and rulers about the cross; and the words of Isaiah were brought to their minds: **"Behold my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.** As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: so shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider." [Isaiah 52:13 - 15.] This prophecy was fulfilled to the letter. How many looked upon Christ as He was passing through that mock trial, and the scourging, while wearing the crown of thorns that caused the blood to flow from the wounds. With His hands bound, He could not wipe the blood away, but no friendly hand in all that company offered Him one act of kindness or sympathy. All this was imprinted on the minds of many who had searched the Scriptures and were familiar with its teachings.

- MS 103-1897.14

Isa.52:14 – **As many were astonished, His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.**"

Vs.14

Satan had studied with diligence the Hebrew prophets. "In the parchment rolls of the Old Testament Scriptures he read that the One who was to appear was to be "brought as a lamb to the slaughter," **"His visage ... so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men."** Isaiah 53:7; 52:14. The promised Saviour of humanity was to be "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; ... smitten of God, and afflicted;" yet He was also to exercise His mighty power in order to "judge the poor of the people..." These prophecies caused Satan to fear & tremble." - PK 686.1

After Jesus had entered the wilderness, “the glory departed, and He was left to battle with temptation. It was pressing upon Him every moment. His human nature shrank from the conflict that awaited Him. For forty days He fasted and prayed. Weak and emaciated from hunger, worn and haggard with mental agony, **“His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.”** Now was Satan’s opportunity. Now he supposed that he could overcome Christ. –The Desire of Ages, 117, 118

When Jesus came to them, He found them still sleeping.... His presence aroused them. [Again, He had felt a longing for companionship, for some words from His disciples which would bring relief, and break the spell of darkness that well-nigh over-powered Him. But their eyes were heavy; “neither wist they what to answer Him.” - DA 690.1]

They saw His face marked with the bloody sweat of agony, and they were filled with fear. His anguish of mind they could not understand. “His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.” Isaiah 52:14. - CSA 33.4

Before entering the City of God, the Saviour bestows upon His followers the emblems of victory and invests them with the insignia of their royal state. The glittering ranks are drawn up in the form of a hollow square about their King, whose form rises in majesty high above saint and angel, whose countenance beams upon them full of benignant love. Throughout the unnumbered host of the redeemed every glance is fixed upon Him, every eye beholds His glory whose **“visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.”** Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. For each there is a crown, bearing his own “new name” (Revelation 2:17), and the inscription, “Holiness to the Lord.” In every hand are placed the victor’s palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awaking sweet music in rich, melodious strains. -GC 645.3

The disciples roused from their slumber to find their Master standing over them in a state of mental and physical anguish such as they never before had witnessed. They saw the grief and agony of his pale face, and the bloody sweat upon his brow; for **“his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.”** The disciples were grieved that they had fallen asleep, so that they could not pray and sympathize with their suffering Lord. They were speechless with sorrow and surprise, but seemingly unable to rise above the stupor that weighed upon them.

Again the powers of darkness pressed upon Christ with irresistible force...The divine sufferer shuddered w/ amazement at this mysterious and terrible conflict. He poured out the burden of his soul with strong crying and tears. His soul was pressed with an agony that no human being could endure and live. Jesus willingly suffered all this for guilty man, although he knew that few would appreciate his love or accept of his salvation. - BEcho Aug.1, 1892, chp.28, par 12,13

Isaiah 53:1 – **Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?**

Vs.1

What shameful humiliation the Redeemer suffered. Priests and rulers, scoffing at Him and mocking Him as He hung on the cross, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him: for He said, I am the Son of God.”

Those who spoke these sneering words did not remember that the Old Testament Scriptures foretold that this would take place. In the fifty - third chapter of Isaiah the prophet says: *“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?”*

- AUCR March 18, 1907, par. 5, 6

"Tho he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him"; that the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, **who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?** Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."

--ST July 8, 1897, par 10

The entire system of the Jewish religion was the gospel of Christ presented in types and symbols. Then how inappropriate was it for those who were under the Jewish dispensation, to reject and crucify Him who was the originator and foundation of what they claimed to believe. *Where did they make their mistake? - They made their mistake in not believing what the prophets had said concerning Christ,* "That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, **Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?** [John12:38] Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."

It is not God that puts the blinder before the eyes of men or makes their hearts hard; it is the light which God sends to his people, to correct their errors, to lead them in safe paths, **but which they refuse to accept**, - it is this that blinds their minds and hardens their hearts. They choose to turn from the light, to stubbornly walk in sparks of their own kindling, and the Lord positively declares that they shall lie down in sorrow. **When one ray of light which the Lord sends** is not **acknowledged**, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned, and so the darkness will constantly increase until it is night to the soul. Christ said, "How great is that darkness!" --RH October 21, 1890, par. 2,3

The steadfast among the Jewish nation, descendants of that holy line through whom a knowledge of God had been preserved, strengthened their faith by dwelling on these... passages... **Yet their hearts were filled with sadness** as they thought of **the sufferings He must endure** in order to fulfill the divine purpose. *With deep humiliation of soul* they traced the words in the prophetic roll:

"Who hath believed our report?

And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

- PK 689-690

Isaiah 53:2 -- **For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.**

Vs.2

Isaiah represents that the world would not receive and acknowledge their Redeemer...

**"For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.**

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. - MS 75 1886.15 4

"I am the true Vine, and My Father is the husbandman." On the hills of Palestine our heavenly Father had planted this goodly Vine, and He Himself was the husbandman. Many were attracted by the beauty of this Vine, and declared its heavenly origin. But to the leaders in Israel it appeared **as a root out of a dry ground**. They took the plant, and bruised it, and trampled it under their unholy feet. Their thought was to destroy it forever. But the heavenly Husbandman never lost sight of His plant. After men thought they had killed it, He took it, and replanted it on the other side of the wall. The vine stock was to be no longer visible. It was hidden from the rude assaults of men. But the branches of the Vine hung over the wall. They were to represent the Vine. Through them grafts might still be united to the Vine. From them fruit has been obtained. There has been a harvest which the passers-by have plucked. - DA 675.2

The world's Redeemer did not come with outward display, or a show of worldly wisdom. Men could not see beneath the guise of humility, the glory of the Son of God. He was "despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." [Isaiah 53:3.] He was to them as **a root out of dry ground, with no form or comeliness that they should desire him.**

-GW92 392.2

Isaiah 53:3 **He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised and we esteemed Him not.**

Vs.3

"To them which stumble at the word, being disobedient," Christ is a rock of offense. But "the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner." Like the rejected stone, Christ in His earthly mission had borne neglect and abuse. He was "**despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: ... He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.**" Isaiah 53:3. But the time was near when He would be glorified. - DA 600.1

As regards temporal things, [we] have a better portion than [our] Lord, and better than his chosen disciples, whom he sent forth to save perishing man. Our great Exemplar, who was in the brightness of his Father's glory, **was despised and rejected of men.** Reproach and falsehood followed him. His chosen disciples were living examples of the life and spirit of their Master. They were honored with stripes and imprisonment; and it was finally their portion to seal their ministry with their blood.

- GW92 67.2

Yet for the fallen world the Lord Jesus was willing to endure humiliation, reproach, suffering, and death, in order that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." "**He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

- RH Aug 6, 1895, par.11

**A Picture That Will Subdue and Humble** - Prophecy foretold that Christ was to appear as a root out of dry ground. "He hath no form nor comeliness," wrote Isaiah, "and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. **He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**" This chapter should be studied. It presents Christ as the Lamb of God. Those who are lifted up with pride, whose souls are filled with vanity, should look upon this picture of their Redeemer, and humble themselves in the dust. The entire chapter should be committed to memory. Its influence will subdue and humble the soul defiled by sin and uplifted by self-exaltation. - 4BC 1147.3

God designed that the Prince of sufferers in humanity should be judge of the whole world. He who came from the heavenly courts to save man from eternal death; He **whom men despised, rejected**, and upon whom they heaped all the contempt of which human beings, inspired by Satan, are capable; He who submitted to be arraigned before an earthly tribunal, and who suffered the ignominious death of the cross, - He alone is to pronounce the sentence of reward or of punishment. He who submitted to the suffering and humiliation of the cross here, in the counsel of God is to have the fullest compensation, and ascend the throne acknowledged by all the heavenly universe as the King of saints. He has undertaken the work of salvation, and shown before unfallen worlds and the heavenly family that the work He has begun He is able to complete. It is Christ who gives men the grace of repentance; His merits are accepted by the Father in behalf of every soul that will help to compose the family of God.

- 7ABC 483.3