# **Christ Gave Himself to Suffer**

Isaiah 50

Isaiah 50-53 record many details of Christ's suffering. He was obedient to the death of the cross.

## I. The CHALLENGE to Israel (vs. 1-3).

Israel felt like they were forsaken by God (49:14–"Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me..."). God was chastening them, but He did not abandon them.

#### God's appeal:

- "Check out your mother's bill of divorcement (50:1). What are the charges there? Was it my fault that the marriage was ruined, or was it your mother's? Why do you blame Me for your captivity in Babylon?"
- "Do you think that I've been pressured by creditors to sell you off to pay a debt? I don't even have creditors. I don't own anyone anything!"
- The truth is this: "Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away." Everything that happen to Israel, they have brought it on themselves.

➡God's plea. "I called to you, but you would not answer. I am able to deliver you, but you would not respond." [65:12; 66:4 cf. Prov. 1;24; Jer. 35:15-17; Rom. 10:21.}

- vs. 2b-3—God tries to reason with Israel by reminding them how He demonstrated His great power to deliver and defend them. He is able, but Israel would not avail themselves of His help. Isn't this like us many times—God offers to help us out of a jam, but we fail to call upon Him.
- Spiritual application to an unsaved man who does not answer when God knocks on the door of his heart (Rev. 3:20).

Israel in the O.T. is likened to a divorced woman who is put away by the Lord. See Jeremiah 3:8; Hosea 2:2-7

"For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer" (Isaiah 54:5-8).

- 1. The husband is the "Maker... the LORD of hosts... the Holy One of Israel."
- 2. He marries Israel "a woman forsaken and... a wife of youth."
- 3. There will be *"a small moment"* when God will forsake her and hid His face from her.
- 4. After this *"moment"* He will gather her again in kindness and mercy.

Get the picture: God married Israel in the Old Testament. However Israel played the harlot and God forsook her. In *"a small moment"* He gathers her to Himself again. This interval ("*a small moment"*) is the church age and tribulation period. For the last 1950+ years God has set Israel aside (Acts 13:46; 18:6; Rom. 11). However, there is coming a day when Israel will make herself ready (Rev. 19:7), and be gathered again to her first husband.

- A. THE BRIDE DIVORCED.1
  - God allows a divorce when there is unfaithfulness in the marriage (Mt. 19:9). Israel was unfaithful to God (Ezek. 16:28). God says of Israel, "Surely as a wife treacherously **departeth** from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD" (Jer. 3:20). Because of Israel's adultery, God gave "her a bill of divorcement" (Dt. 24:1; Isa. 50:1; Jer. 3:8).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The root word of "divorce" is *diverse / divert*. Diverse means to turn aside or to be different. Strictly speaking, divorce is to turn to a different way. A parting of the ways.

- B. THE BRIDE FORGIVEN.
  - Under the new covenant, God will forgive Israel's adultery and remember her sin no more (Jer. 31:31-34).
  - The prophet Hosea gives a picture of Israel's relationship to God. Hosea is married to Gomer. Gomer is unfaithful and plays the harlot, just as Israel played the harlot (Jer. 3:6-14). Gomer finds herself in a "thorny" situation (Hos. 2:6). Her lovers desert her. Then she says, "I will go and return to my FIRST HUSBAND; for then was it better with me than now" (Hos. 2:7). Likewise, adulterous Israel will someday return to her FIRST HUSBAND!
  - Hosea 2:14-20 indicates the Lord will "remarry" Israel in the future. This is what Isaiah referred to when he prophesied, "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee" (Isa. 62:4-5).
- **II.** The CRUELTY on the Messiah (vs. 4-9). Christ is speaking (cf. Isa. 49:26b).
  - A. The HEARING of Christ (vs. 4-5). God gave Christ "the tongue of the learned." The Jews marveled of Christ saying, "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" (John 7:15 cf. Luke 2:46-47). The words Jesus spoke He received from God (Dt. 18:18 cf. John 7:16; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10, 24).

How may we learn to speak a word in season (Prov. 15:23; 25:11)?

First, pray, "Lord give "me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak speak a word in season to him that is weary?" (see Colossians 4:3-4).

- <u>Second</u>, pray for God to wake up your ears to listen as the learned (vs. 5-6).
- 1. Christ's ear was opened to His Father's voice (v. 5). Jesus will hear and obey what the Father tells Him (John 4:34; 14:31).
- This may also be a reference to a bond-slave who is willing to serve his master forever instead of being set free. His earlobe would be cut open (or pierced) with an awl (Ex. 21:5-6; Dt. 15:15-17). He would thus become his master's "bondslave" forever.

#### B. The HUMILIATION of Christ (vs. 5-6).

- Jesus was obedient unto death (v. 6). He "<u>GAVE</u>" Himself (Mt. 20:28; John 6:51; 10:15-18; Gal. 1:4, 2:20; 1 Tim. 2:6; Titus 2:14).
  - He <u>GAVE</u> Himself to the brutality He suffered. His back was scourged; beard ripped off; face smitten and spat upon (Ps. 129:3; Lam. 3:30; Mt 26:67-68; Luke 22:63; Mk. 14:65; 15:19; John 19:1-3 cf. Isa. 52:14).

Through all beatings and mockery, Satan would tempt Christ, "Why don't you quit. You don't have to take this abuse. You're the Son of God. Just give up and destroy them all!" Hebrews 12:3 says, *"For consider him that ENDURED such a contradiction of sinners against himself..."* [Christ did not deserve the abuse inflicted upon Him. He took it willingly.] *"Christ also hath once SUF-FERED for sins, the JUST for the UNJUST, that he might bring us to God..."* (1 Pet. 3:18).

2. He did not hide Himself from the humiliation (vs. 7-8)—He knew the suffering that awaited Him at Jerusalem, yet He set His face like a flint to go (Luke 9:51–"He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.").

v. 8b—Christ challenge to the devil—"...who is mine adversary?" Answer: The devil (1 Pet. 5:8).<sup>2</sup> "...let him come near to me." ["Satan, take you best shot!"]

- C. **The HELPING of Christ** (vs. 7, 9). "...*the Lord God will help me*..." God enabled Christ to endure the suffering inflicted upon Him.
  - "...therefore shall I not be confounded...I shall not be ashamed." Jesus was not confused about the death of the cross. He knew He would rise from the dead! The grave would not hold Him.
  - 2. "He is near that JUSTIFIETH me..." God justified Christ by rising Him from the dead (Rom. 1:4; 1 Tim. 3:16).

### Some spiritual applications to Christians today (vs. 5-9):

- 1. God must open our ear to hear (v. 5a).
- Be obedient (v. 5b)—Don't rebel or turn away from what the Lord tells you.
- 3. Present your bodies to God (v. 6). You may suffer for Him.
- God will help you endure persecution (v. 7; Heb. 2:18; 4:16; 13:5-6). You don't need to be confused (2 Tim. 1:12). God will reward you (Mt. 5:11-12).
- 5. Determine to go wherever the Lord leads you (v. 7b; Acts 20:22-24; Phil. 3:13-14).
- 6. There is no condemnation for a Christian (v. 9 cf. Rom. 8:1, 32-39)

## **III. The CONSEQUENCES we face** (vs. 10-11).

- A. Isaiah's **APPEAL** Is there anyone who fears Him? Is there anyone who will obey Him? It there anyone who is walking in darkness? Here is what you should do—*"Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God."*
- B. Isaiah's ADMONITION—If you don't trust the name of the Lord, and trust in your own light, you'll *"lie down in sorrow."* You only have yourselves to blame. [50:11 may have an application to smoking cigarettes.]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Although unsaved Roman soldiers crucified Christ, they were being used by the devil (Eph. 2:2; 1 Cor. 2:8).