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LIFE-STUDY OF ISAIAH 27 - CHRIST AS THE SERVANT OF JEHOVAH (6) HIS DYNAMIC REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS VICARIOUS DEATH AND REPRODUCTIVE RESURRECTION IN RELATION TO HIS BEING THE COVENANT FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY

Isaiah 53 is a sweet chapter that portrays Christ's dynamic redemption through His vicarious death and reproductive resurrection. Chapter fifty-four presents Christ's redemption in relation to His being the covenant for Israel's security. Christ's vicarious death and His reproductive resurrection are both crucial for the security of Israel.

I. CHRIST'S DYNAMIC REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS VICARIOUS DEATH AND REPRODUCTIVE RESURRECTION

A. The Revelation and Report of Christ as the Arm of Jehovah, the Dynamic Redeemer

Isaiah 53:1 concerns the revelation and report of Christ as the arm of Jehovah, the dynamic Redeemer. "Who has believed our report?/And to whom has the arm of Jehovah been revealed?" Here the word arm signifies the dynamic might of Christ in His divinity.

B. His Lowly Birth and Suffering in His Humanity

1. Growing Up like a Tender Plant before Jehovah

Verse 2 says, "He grew up like a tender plant before Him, / And like a root out of dry ground./He has no attracting form nor majesty that we should look upon Him,/Nor beautiful appearance that we should desire Him." In the Bible plants often typify humanity. For Christ to grow up like a tender plant before Jehovah means that Christ grew up before Him in His humanity. In His divinity Christ has always been perfect and complete, and thus there was no need for Him to grow in His divinity. His growth took place in His humanity. First He was a child, and then He grew into boyhood and eventually into manhood. Having become perfected and completed in His humanity, at the age of thirty He came forth to minister for God. Christ grew up not only like a tender plant but also like a root out of dry ground. The words dry ground signify a difficult environment. For the Lord Jesus, this dry ground included the poor home of Joseph and Mary, the despised city of Nazareth, and the despised region of Galilee. Like a root out of dry ground, Christ grew up in the midst of hard circumstances.

Verse 2 also tells us that, in His humanity, Christ had no attracting form nor majesty; He did not have a beautiful appearance.

2. Despised and Forsaken of Men, a Man of Sorrows and Acquainted with Grief

"He was despised and forsaken of men,/A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;/And like one from whom men hide their faces, / He was despised; and we did not esteem Him" (v. 3). The Hebrew word translated sorrows in verses 3 and 4 literally means pains, either physical or mental. According to Keil and Delitzsch, Christ was a "man whose chief distinction was, that His life was one of constant painful endurance." He, as a man of sorrows, was a despised person.

C. His Vicarious Death

Christ's death was a vicarious death (vv. 4-10a, 12b). This means that He died not for Himself but for us. He died in our place. Christ's death was not a martyrdom; Christ was put to death by God for us (v. 4b). Thus, His death was a vicarious death.

1. Bearing Our Sicknesses and Carrying Our Sorrows

In His vicarious death, Christ bore our sicknesses and carried our sorrows. "Surely He has borne our sicknesses, / And carried our sorrows;/Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,/Smitten of God and afflicted. But He was pierced because of our transgressions;/He was crushed because of our iniquities;/The chastening for our peace was upon Him, / And by His stripes we have been healed. /We all like sheep have gone astray;/Each of us has turned to his own way,/ And Jehovah has caused the iniquity of us all/To fall on Him" (vv. 4-6). These verses use the words sicknesses and sorrows along with transgressions and iniquities (that is, sins). This raises a question: Do our sicknesses and sorrows need Christ's redemption? Sicknesses and sorrows are mentioned with transgressions and iniquities because our sicknesses and sorrows come from one thing—sin. If we had never sinned, we could never be sick and we would have no sorrow. Our transgressions and sins surely need Christ's redemption. Since our sicknesses and sorrows come from sin, they also need Christ's redemption. In Isaiah 53 we are told clearly that Christ bore our sicknesses and carried our sorrows in His vicarious death. Therefore, when we are sick, it is proper for us to pray, "Lord, because in Your death for me You bore my sicknesses, I do have the ground to ask You to take my sickness away."

Preparing a Prophecy and Prophesying in the Lord's Day Meeting

Scripture reading:

- **1 Cor. 14:26** What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
- **1 Cor. 14:3-5** But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men. He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church. I desire that you all speak in tongues, but especially that you would prophesy; and greater is he who prophesies than he who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, that the church may receive building up.
- **1 Cor. 14:24** But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all;
- **1 Cor. 14:31** For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

I. To prophesy is to speak for God, to speak forth God, and to minister Christ to people:

- A. To speak for God is to speak with a burden.
- B. To speak forth God is to speak Christ who is the Spirit and life into the people.
- C. In this way, we dispense Christ into the saints in the meeting for encouragement, consolation, and to convict and examine the unbelieving and the unlearned for the building up of the church.

II. If we would get revived every morning and PSR every day, we will have much to prophesy on the Lord's Day.

III. He who does not prophesy in the church meeting is lazy and does not get revived every morning and PSR everyday.

IV. Preparing a prophecy:

- A. Get revived every morning by spending time alone with the Lord using the HWMR.
- B. Practice PSRP every day to be constituted with the truth.
- C. Write down your inspiration, enlightenment, and conviction.
- D. Record your experiences of Christ based on the truth.
- E. Saturday night or Lord's Day morning, develop a prophecy by reviewing your notes, praying, and considering what the burden of the Lord is for you to speak.

F. Prepare one or more prophecies or outlines for prophesying so that you do not have to repeat what others have spoken.

G. Pray with your prepared prophecy to be filled with the Spirit for prophesying.

V. Prophesying in the meeting:

A. Follow the leading of the Spirit and the flow of the meeting.

B. Do not wait.

C. Prophecy with boldness for no more than 3 minutes.

D. Speak clearly.

E. Do not speak too fast, too slow, too loud, or too soft.

F. Pay attention to the prophecies of the other saints to follow the flow of the Spirit in the meeting and that you may be consoled and built up.

Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray for Boston Training Center that all the practical needs will be met.
- For daily exercise in God's ordained way training; prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth and attend Lord's day meeting on time.
- Pray for migration to the 30 cities for shepherding and establishing churches. And for GTCA of the local people and gospel preaching in our daily living.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.
- For young people that they would have morning revival, pursue the truth and become gospel seeds on campus.

Announcement

- Morning Revival: the Crystallization-Study of Isaiah (2), Week 4
- GOW training, monthly training 3/12, observe dress code, be there at 8:45am to pray, bring self-prepared lunch and prepare to overflow.
- Prayer meeting on Tuesday (3/8) 7:30 pm at bro. Peter Liu's place: 14020 Shadow Oaks Way, Saratoga, CA 95070.
- Spring Young People Conference (3/18-20) Please register via brother Ezra Tai before 3/5, \$95 per person
- NorCal sisters blending conference will be held on 4/15-16, Please register via sister Tien or sister Tai before 3/25, \$20 per person.
- 2010 Tax Return form, please contact brother Chu.
- Please update phone, address in church directory.