
Church in Campbell Weekly News

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LIFE-STUDY OF ISAIAH 27 - CHRIST AS THE SERVANT OF JEHOVAH (6)

2. Being Oppressed and Afflicted, yet Not Opening His Mouth

"He was oppressed, and it was He who was afflicted,/Yet He did not open His mouth;/Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter / And like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers, / So He did not open His mouth" (v. 7). He did not have any reaction toward those who were persecuting Him.

Verse 8a continues, "By oppression and by judgment He was taken away." The word oppression here means persecution. First, Christ was persecuted and then He was judged. By these two things He was taken away.

Verse 8b goes on to say, "And as for His generation, who among them had the thought/That He was cut off out of the land of the living/For the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due?" This means that no one understood that it was for us that Christ suffered persecution and judgment and died. Even those who were with the Lord Jesus when He was dying on the cross did not understand that He was dying for them. The stroke that should have been the due of God's people fell on Him. He suffered death for us.

Verse 10a says, "Jehovah was pleased to crush Him, to afflict Him with grief." The Hebrew words translated afflict Him with grief literally mean "make Him sick."

This verse continues with the phrase, "If You make His soul an offering for sin." The Hebrew can also be rendered "His soul would make an offering for sin." Leviticus 4 and 5 indicate that the trespass offering may be regarded as part of the sin offering. It is from sin that Christ has redeemed us. "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Redemption is thus for the sin, including the trespasses, of fallen man. While Christ was on the cross, God was pleased to crush Him, to afflict Him with grief, in order to make Him an offering for sin. This is a further indication that Christ died a vicarious death for the purpose of accomplishing redemption for us.

3. Pouring Out His Soul unto Death and Being Numbered with the Transgressors

Whereas Isaiah 53:10 says that God put Christ to death, making His soul an offering for sin, verse 12 says that "He poured out His soul unto death." If Christ merely put Himself to death on the cross, and God did accept Him as an offering for sin, Christ's death would not have been a vicarious death for us; it would have been only martyrdom. Likewise, if God was pleased to put Him to death, and He was not willing to die, then His death would not have been a vicarious death. The vicarious death of Christ depends on God's being pleased to put Him to death and on Christ's being willing to die in such a way. Moreover, if Christ had sinned, His death could not be counted as a vicarious death; He would have had to die for Himself, and He could not have died for us.

Isaiah's writing in this chapter presents a clear defense in the heavenly court, testifying that God was pleased to put Christ to death, that Christ was willing to die for others, and that He was altogether sinless (v. 9). Thus, His death was truly a vicarious death.

Verse 12b says, "Because He poured out His soul unto death/And was numbered with the transgressors,/Yet He alone bore the sin of many / And interceded for the transgressors." While Christ was on the cross, He prayed for the ones who had crucified Him (Luke 23:34).

Isaiah 53:9 tells us, "They assigned His grave with the wicked,/But with a rich man in His death,/Although He had done no violence,/Nor was there any deceit in His mouth." This verse reveals that Christ was sinless and that His death was not for any sins of His own. If He had done any violence or if there had been deceit in His mouth, He would not have been sinless and He could not have died for us. Christ was altogether sinless. Because He had no sin, He did not need to die for Himself. His vicarious death was for us.

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
- Prayer meeting on Tuesday (3/8) 7:30 pm at meeting hall.
- 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.
- 3/27, South Bay blending on ICSC at Santa Clara 4:00pm ~8:00pm with dinner.
- 2010 Tax Return form, please contact brother Chu.
- Please update phone, address in church directory.