

Behold the Lamb of God

Isa 53:7-9 ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked —
But with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Isaiah 53 was written some 700 years before Christ was born, yet it describes in a most excellent manner the coming Messiah's suffering as the Savior of God's people, God's elect or chosen ones. It depicts the picture of Jesus before the Chief Priest, the Sanhedrin, Herod, and Pilate with such detail that one would think it was written after the fact, rather than a prophecy written as noted above some 700 years earlier. Unless one simply ignores or rejects the facts I do not believe that a carefully thinking person could read this chapter without coming to the awareness that the arrest, suffering and death our Lord Jesus Christ is, without question, the only possible fulfillment of this prophecy.

This morning as we come to what some have referred to as the third stanza of this hymn of the suffering servant, we shall note the following: The lamb like character of our Lord's response to His arrest and ill-treatment at the hand of His enemies, the result and reason for His suffering, and finally His vindication and promise of His coming victory. I trust that as we come to the close of each portion of these message you will once again be moved to a humble thankfulness to your God and Savior who has exemplified the greatest love ever known of a Sovereign for His people.

- A. The lamb like character of our Lord's response to His arrest and ill-treatment at the hand of His enemies. - *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.*
1. His arrest and trial before the Sanhedrin.
 - a. A small angry army of men with clubs and swords come to arrest Him.
 - b. Judas betrays Him with a kiss.
 - c. Jesus asks, why they have come as those arresting a robber when He had been daily with them in the temple openly teaching them.
 2. When before the High Priest false witnesses rose up, but they found nothing worthy of death.
 - a. Jesus kept silent before them in the face of all these false accusations, causing the High Priest to blurt out, "Do you answer nothing?"
 - b. He then demanded that Jesus answer the question, "Are you the Christ the Son of God?"
 - c. Here Jesus does answers in response to a true question regarding His person and purpose.
- Matt 26:64* Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."
- d. Immediately this bring a response of the charge of blasphemy and a verdict by the Sanhedrin that He is worthy of death.
 - e. Then they spit in His face, beat Him with their fists and having blindfolded him began to slap Him mocking Him saying, "Prophecy Messiah, who slapped you."
3. He was then taken before Pilate, but when he became aware that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction sent Him to stand trial before Herod.
 - a. Herod having heart reports about Jesus began to question Him hoping to see Him perform some miracle.
 - b. But Jesus remained silent while the chief priests and scribes continued their accusations against Him.
 - c. When Jesus remained silent Herod with his soldiers put a gorgeous robe upon Him and began to mock Him and then sent Him back to Pilate.

4. Pilate now becomes the trial judge.
 - a. Standing before Pilate he again remains silent causing Pilate to say to Him, "Do you not know that I have power to crucify you and I have power to release you.
 - b. Receiving from the Lord, you have no power unless it would be given you from above.
 - c. Pilate questions Him asking if He were indeed King of the Jews.
 - d. Jesus responded that He was indeed a King, but His kingdom was not of this world.
 - e. Pilate desiring to release Jesus gave the crowd a choice between releasing the criminal Barabbas or Jesus
 - f. They choose Barabbas
 - g. Pilate then had Jesus scourged and let his soldiers mock Him

Matt 27:28-31 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

5. The rest of the story is the slaughter of the Lamb of God.
 - a. We know they led Him away to Golgotha - the place of the skull
 - b. There they crucified Him between two thieves.
 - c. When all Scripture had been fulfilled regarding His crucifixion He cried out - "It is finished"
 - d. And bowing His head He committed His spirit to His heavenly Father.
 - e. Indeed no man took His life from Him; He laid it down of Himself.

CONCLUSION: Why did He remain silent?

Most important to note in this passage the words translated for us as; *He was oppressed and He was afflicted* are in the niphal in the Hebrew which is a middle voice and therefore can properly be translated, "*He permitted Himself to be oppressed and afflicted*".

So when we ask why did He remain silent - we will let our Savior respond - "*For this cause I came into the world.*"

It was not that He was without power.

He could have called 12 legions of angels.

Again let Jesus explain in His own words why He did not call upon the legions of angels - Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? **How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?**" (Matt 26:53-54)

Jesus on one occasion had previously stated, "No man takes my life from me, I lay it down of myself."

He went on to proclaim that He was the Good Shepherd and as such He willingly would lay down His life for His sheep.

We can only conclude that as the Lamb of God He came that He might become our Redeemer and Savior that as the Passover Lamb without spot or blemish He might provide for us covering and forgiveness of our sins.

Thus we close with the words of the text: *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.*

Let us then respond with thankful praise - and all the people said AMEN.