

Lesson III.

THE SUFFERING SAVIOUR

July 16, 1905

Isaiah 52: 13 to 53: 12. Commit to memory vs. 4-6. Read chs. 42: 1-12; 49: 1-13; 50: 4-11; 61: 1-3.

GOLDEN TEXT—The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.—Isaiah 53 : 6.

13 Behold, my servant, shall deal prudently, and shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

15 So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which has not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

Ch. 53. 1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2 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.

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.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have

Revised Version.—¹wisely; ²lifted up; ³shall; ⁴Like as; ⁵Omit the; ⁶understand; ⁷hath; ⁸been; ⁹grow; ¹⁰Omit shall; ¹¹was; ¹²as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; ¹³yet he humbled himself and opened not; ¹⁴as a lamb that is led; ¹⁵that; ¹⁶yea, he opened not; ¹⁷By oppression and judgement he was taken away; and as for his generation, who among them considered that he was cut off? ¹⁸they; ¹⁹although; ²⁰and; ²¹Omit hath; ²²Omit he; ²³yet.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



"Behold the Man"
(Guido)

Time and Place—More than 700 years before Christ; Isaiah prophesied in Jerusalem.

Connection—This Lesson of all Old Testament passages points most clearly to the coming Messiah.

I. THE SAVIOUR EXALTED.—Ch. 52 : 13-15. Behold, my servant; the Messiah, described in chs. 41 to 53 as the Servant of the

Lord. Shall deal wisely (Rev. Ver.); always keeping one great end in view, Heb. 12 : 2. He shall be exalted, etc. Before telling of the Messiah's sufferings, the prophet here points to the glory that shall follow them. As many were astonished (astonished) at thee. How could men help wondering when they saw the Lord, the world's Deliverer, so lowly and abused? His visage was so marred, etc. It seems as if the prophet were at the foot of the cross beholding the Saviour's sufferings. So shall he sprinkle many nations; that is, purify them from sin. Kings shall shut their mouths; in lowly reverence, as in Job 29 : 9 ; 40 : 4. That . . . not been told them; a fit description of Christ's marvellous works.

II. THE SAVIOUR REJECTED.—Ch. 53 : 1-3. Who hath believed? His own people, the

Jews, did not receive Christ when He came, John 1 :

11. Our report. The Jews had the witness of the prophets to Christ. The arm of the Lord; God's power. This was shown in the Saviour's miracles. A tender plant. The work of Christ had a small and insignificant beginning. A root out of a dry ground. Everything about the Saviour's origin seemed unfavorable, His family, the place He was brought up in, and the condition of the nation at the time. No beauty. Jesus was a King, but He had no rich robes or splendid court. Despised and rejected of men; that is, the most of men. Jesus at first had only a few followers, and these, poor and humble fishermen.

III. THE SAVIOUR SUFFERING.—4-6. Our griefs . . . our sorrows. Compare Matt. 8 : 16, 17. Stricken; as King Uzziah was smitten with leprosy at the altar on account of his sin, 2 Chron. 26 : 19, 20. The people of His time mistakenly looked upon the Saviour's sufferings as a sign of God's anger against Him. Our transgressions. All the while, it was the sin of the world Christ was bearing, John 1 : 29. Our peace. By His death Christ won for us peace with God. V. 6 describes the work of the Good Shepherd (see John 10 : 11).

7-9. Oppressed. His sufferings were cruelly unjust. Was afflicted; "willingly suffered." Jesus gave His life, out of love to men, John 10 : 18. As a lamb. John the Baptist, with this passage in mind, called Jesus the Lamb of God, John 1 : 29. He was taken, etc.; by violence cloaked under the forms of law. As for his generation, etc. (Rev. Ver.). No one of His own time understood the