

Lesson II.

THE SUFFERING SERVANT OF JEHOVAH

July 9, 1911

Isaiah 52 : 13 to 53 : 12. Read Isaiah 42 : 1-9 ; 49 : 1-13 ; 50 : 4-11—Memory Verses, 4-6.

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

13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he 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 had 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 turned every one to his own way ; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth : he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment : and who shall declare his generation ? for he was

cut off out of the land of the living : for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death ; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him ; he hath put him to grief : when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied : by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many ; for he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong ; because he hath poured out his soul unto death ; and he was numbered with the transgressors ; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Isaiah was a great prophet, who lived in Jerusalem about seven hundred years before Jesus came. He was a friend and counselor of King Hezekiah. Many of his teachings he gathered together into a book, which is now part of our Bible and is called, The Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

In this book, Isaiah wrote a great many things about the Servant of the Lord. This wonderful Servant was Jesus Himself, and long, long before He was born, Isaiah told what He would be like, what He would do and what others would do to Him. It was God who taught Isaiah all these things about Jesus. Sometimes Isaiah pictured Jesus as the greatest of all sufferers. His face was so worn and scarred that all who saw it were astonished ; they could not understand why One who was so high, could at the same time be so sorely afflicted.

In Isaiah's wonderful story of the Servant, we are told how the Jews, when He came to them at last, would have nothing to do with Him. They were so proud that they despised one who was born in such a humble home as that of Jesus, and whose family was so poor. Besides, they were looking for a great Leader to set them free from the power of the Romans, and so would not listen to Jesus when He told them that He had come to save them from their sins.

That was the reason, Isaiah tells us, of the Servant's sufferings, that He might be a Saviour from sin. "We have all", he said, "wandered away from God, like sheep going astray from their shepherd ; we have each followed his own sinful way, and God will send Him to us to bring us back again. He will be persecuted and tortured, yet He will not open His mouth to complain, and at last