

EXPOSITION of Isaiah, Ch. 53, Ver. 4 & 5. by J.S.G.

11th. May, 1930.

---o)0(o---

15

Just for a moment we will look at the fourth verse in the 53rd. of Isaiah. I want you to notice this fourth verse:- "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted". "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". It is very important to understand a little this wonderful chapter. As you know, it is a general favourite amongst God's people. And you know, the enemy very often takes advantage of people's ignorance in connection with the Word. And there is no weapon more powerful in the hand of Satan than scripture misused. When the Lord was here, he tried to misuse the word. Of course the Lord rightly used the Word and the enemy had to go. Now just for a moment, think of this wonderful scripture. Isaiah was a prophet who lived more than seven-hundred years before Christ came; and, as we were told - rightly, he spoke of Christ. Seven-hundred years before God's Beloved Son came, these wonderful words were given. A Jew said recently:- "If that fifty-third chapter of Isaiah is inspired, then Jesus must have been the Messiah". And there is no doubt about it. No person can read this wonderful chapter without seeing, in the plainest manner, that it speaks of the Lord Jesus.

Though Isaiah was a prophet that lived so many years before Christ came - Christ didn't come for seven-hundred years - the prophet gave what the godly Remnant will know in a day that is coming - after the Church has been completed, after that has taken place, after the Lord shouts. Just as the Lord is about to appear, the godly Jews in terrible trouble feel that the hand of God is upon them and they will turn to God in repentance; and when they turn to God in repentance, then they will take up the very language of this fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. You know how encouraging it is when you find a scripture that exactly suits your case. You may be in some difficulty and some scripture meets you where you are. This is what the fifty-third of Isaiah will be to the godly Remnant in a day that is coming. Now notice the fourth verse;- "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows". That spoke of what was true when Christ was upon earth. They say;- "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows". Now see what grace there was to bear them. When did He bear them? Is there a person in this little hall would say;- "Why! when He died on the Cross". You know you have not read the whole of the sentence and so you have a mistaken idea. There is one little word you have overlooked, or you would never say;- "at the Cross". That little word "YET". In spite of Him carrying our sorrows, in spite of Him taking our griefs, how did they look upon Him? - "He was smitten of God and afflicted". If you remember what we read in the gospels, they said of the Lord;- "Why! He said He was the Son of God - let

Him deliver Him seeing He delighted in Him". They looked upon Him as on that Cross - suffering because of His Own guilt. They looked upon Him - smitten of God because He was a false Messiah; that is how they looked upon Him. Look again at the next verse and notice the little word "BUT" and then you will see the thoughts are quite plain. "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". Just go back and look at this verse again. When was it He bore the griefs and sorrows of people? Not in His death; He didn't die for peoples' griefs, He died for SIN, "the Just for the unjust" suffered for sin. But IN HIS LIFE He carried peoples' griefs. Was there ever a person went to Him in grief that He didn't listen to?; was there a sick person turned to Him that He didn't heal? Never! He took the sickness upon Himself, He healed them. And in spite of all that, He was looked upon as smitten and afflicted by God because of His Own sin. But there are the godly Jews in another day - and what do they say? "He was wounded for us - not for Himself". If you notice the little word "yet" and the little word "but" you will see how plain and clear the thoughts are. When you get home look at the eighth chapter of Matthew and you will find that the Spirit applies the beginning of the fourth verse to the Lord IN HIS LIFE. So the Lord Jesus Christ dying for our sicknesses is contrary to scriptures. He never died for our sicknesses; He died for our sin. If He died for our sicknesses - our sicknesses would be gone. Ah! our sins are gone and gone for ever! He died for our sins, but He took His people's griefs, sorrows and sicknesses up and put forth Divine power and healed them. If you notice that verse

again, you will see a most beautiful figure in it. Here is a clever doctor and you are suffering. He is able to relieve you; he gives you just the right remedy and that relieves you. The man does not feel how ill you are. You feel the man has no sympathy with you. Christ never healed a person until He took the sorrows upon Himself - felt it just the same as His Own sorrow - and when He had ~~done~~ done that, then He put forth His power and healed them. That is the wonderful truth of those words:- "He bare our griefs and carried our sorrows". The godly Remnant will say (looking back on how He was treated) "yet we did esteem Him" ("that is how we looked upon Him") "smitten for His Own sin"- "stricken and afflicted by God". What was true? "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".

Is there one here tonight that is not saved by the Grace of God? Now, dear friend, can you take up this wonderful language? Not everyone can say this 5th. verse of Isaiah 53, no, it is not true of everyone. Is everyone in London healed? No; they are not! Well, of whom is this true? Well, while it is the godly Remnant amongst the Jews in a future day, the believer can take it up now. What can he say? He can say -- speaking of the Person of Christ - the One up there in Heaven tonight, the believer can say:-

"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"  
 "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".