

CHRIST'S REWARDS OF RESURRECTION

Isaiah 53:10-12

INTRODUCTION

- There are many liberal theologians and clergymen who reject the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Such heretics are of all men most miserable (1 Corinthians 15:19)
- Those who disbelieve the resurrection of Christ are not saved (Romans 10:9)
- But we declare and testify today that we believe with complete certainty that the Lord Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave
- And we declare that we will give our lives for that truth, if necessary, as countless saints throughout history have done
- The resurrection of Christ was central to the apostles' preaching in the book of Acts
- As they preached the gospel, they showed that Christ's death and resurrection were foretold in the Old Testament
- When Paul defined the gospel as the atoning death of Christ, his burial and resurrection, he said it was "according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- David prophesied Christ's death (Psalm 22:12–21) as well as his resurrection (Psalm 16:10)
- The prophet Isaiah also makes reference to Christ's resurrection
- Isaiah 53 has been called the evangelical heart of the Old Testament

- It is more than a mere prophecy of the Messiah, it is detailed description of his humiliation and exaltation, as clear as any of the gospel writers
- “This chapter contains a beautiful summary of the most peculiar and distinguishing doctrines of Christianity.” (Adam Clarke)
- In this chapter, Isaiah covers Christ’s humble entrance into the world, despised and rejected of men, his substitutionary atonement, his suffering, death and burial; but also his triumphant resurrection, his priestly intercession, and his glorious kingdom
- It is no wonder that when the New Testament authors quote Isaiah, the vast majority of their quotes are from this chapter
- While there is no explicit statement of resurrection here, it is assumed
- The same Righteous Servant who was cut off out of the land of the living (v.8); who died with the wicked and was buried with the rich (v.9) and was put to grief (v.10), will also see his seed, prolong his days (v.8) and have a portion with the great (v.12)
- How could he be clearly said to die, and also be clearly said to live a continuously prolonged life?
- Only by his resurrection from the dead
- As we study these three verses, we are shown the great consequences of the suffering and death of Christ prophesied by Isaiah, that he claims by his glorious resurrection from the dead

I. THE CHILDREN HE WOULD SEE (10)

A. The death of Christ, the will of the Father

1. Who killed Jesus?

a. The Roman authorities, Herod, Pilate?

- b. The Roman soldiers?
 - c. Judas Iscariot?
 - d. The Jewish leaders?
 - e. The Jewish people?
 - f. All of sinful humanity?
2. While all of those people/groups of people were responsible for Christ's crucifixion, he said, "No man taketh it [his life] from me but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:17-18)
 3. He was "delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23)
 4. Wicked men did to Christ "whatsoever thy [God's] hand and thy counsel determined before to be done" (Acts 4:27-28)
 5. God did not take pleasure in seeing his beloved Son tortured and murdered, in seeing his holy Son bearing the sins of the world upon himself, in suffering the wrath of divine justice for those sins, in becoming a curse for mankind upon the cross
 6. God has no pleasure in death, even the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 18:32; 33:11)
 7. But it was the good pleasure of God to reconcile helpless sinners to himself through the death of his Son (cf. Hebrews 12:2)

B. The death of Christ, the offering for sin

1. "Soul" here indicates his life
2. The substitutionary atonement of Christ is a major theme in this chapter

- a. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows" (v.4)
 - b. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities (v.5)
 - c. "The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (v.6)
 - d. "For the transgression of my people was he stricken" (v.8)
 - e. "Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin" (v.10)
 - f. "He shall bear their iniquities" (v.11)
 - g. "He bare the sin of many" (v.12)
3. Jesus Christ did not die as a martyr, nor as an example, nor by accident, nor by the will of man, but as an atonement for our sin according to the will of God, ordained before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19-20)
 4. God made Christ to be sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21), and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10)

C. He shall see his seed

1. Longevity and offspring were regarded among the highest blessings of God on a person (Psalm 127:3-5; 128:6; Proverbs 17:6)
2. Christ had no natural descendants – this refers to spiritual children
3. Christ's seed are all those who repent and believe in him, and are thereby born of God, becoming sons of God through faith (John 1:12-13)

4. They are redeemed to God by Christ's blood, "out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Revelation 5:9)
5. "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Hebrews 2:10)
6. This is the fulfillment of the promise God gave to Abraham (Genesis 22:18)
7. Christ not only makes it possible for sinners to become his seed through his death; he "sees" his seed, indwelling them, receiving them to himself, and dwelling with them for eternity through his resurrection

D. He shall prolong his days

1. This prolonging of days is never-ending
2. "He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever." (Psalm 21:4)
3. God would not suffer his Holy One to see corruption (Psalm 16:10), raising him from the dead three days later
4. "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18)
5. Christ's priesthood is "after the power of an endless life" (Hebrews 7:16)

E. God's pleasure in redeeming sinners prospers in Christ's hands

1. The Father has given the Son the authority to impart eternal life to man (John 5:26)
2. The Father has committed all judgment to the Son (John 5:22)

3. All fulness dwells in Christ, to perform the complete work of redemption, even until the last enemy is destroyed (Colossians 1:19-20; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28)

II. THE CONTENTMENT HE WOULD SAVOUR (11)

A. Satisfaction after suffering

1. Christ experienced unimaginable travail and anguish of soul
 - a. We have a glimpse of that travail as he prayed in the garden (Luke 22:41-44)
 - b. And in his cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)
2. But that momentary anguish cannot be compared to the eternal satisfaction Christ has in eternally redeeming "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" (Revelation 7:9)
3. The Good Shepherd rejoices even when one lost sheep his brought into the fold (Luke 15:4-7), he justifies *many*
4. As the Son is satisfied, so is the Father, who is "well pleased" with the Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5), demonstrating his satisfaction by accepting his sacrifice, raising him from the dead, and exalting him to the highest glory

B. Christ justifies by his knowledge

1. To be justified it to be declared righteous before God, to be made acceptable to him
2. This is only possible through the righteousness of God's "righteous servant" being imputed (reckoned, accounted) to us

3. We receive this justification through a personal, experimental knowledge of Jesus Christ (John 17:3; Philippians 3:10)
4. Not *all* will be justified, but *many* (Hebrews 9:28)

III. THE CROWN HE WOULD SECURE (12)

- A. God has blessed the Son with the highest honour, power and glory for the work of redemption he accomplished (Isaiah 52:13; Philippians 2:9-11)
 1. The language here is that of a victorious prince, having conquered the enemy, taking the spoils of battle to himself (cf. Ephesians 4:8)
 2. The greatest prize Christ receives are those many souls he justifies – the “great” and the “strong”
 3. The Father says to the Son, “Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession” (Psalm 2:8)
 4. On the day of his Second Coming, Christ will not descend from heaven alone, but with the armies of heaven, clothed in white (Revelation 19:14), with ten thousands of his saints (Jude 14)
 5. These are his redeemed, called “overcomers” who will sit with him in his throne (Revelation 3:21) and reign with him (Revelation 5:10)
- B. He makes intercession for the transgressors
 1. He did this during his earthly ministry (John 17:9-26)
 2. He did this as he suffered on the cross (Luke 23:34)
 3. He presently does this as our High Priest, Mediator and Advocate before the Father (Romans 8:34)

CONCLUSION

1. The world is full of people who are living a hopeless existence, without purpose, in fear of death
2. They are seemingly ignorant that Christ by his death and resurrection can free them from such despair and fear
3. In rising from the grave and conquering death, Jesus Christ has accomplished the greatest and most consequential work for humanity that has ever been done
 - ✓ In forgiving our sins
 - ✓ In granting us eternal life
 - ✓ In giving us true peace
4. Yet most people shrug this off as nothing, and instead devote themselves to the vanities of this evil, passing world
5. As an election draws closer, the political leaders want us to put their trust in them to deliver us from our problems
6. All such hopes will end in despair, death and finally hell
7. Only Jesus Christ can bring true deliverance, in this life and the next
8. What is your hope in?