

God's Word and promise also about all His saving work for sinners, "nevertheless, I say unto you, Hereafter, shall ye see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Here Jesus is confessing He is the Son of God Who became also the Son of Man and that in all His saving work as suffering Servant, He would be wonderfully and eternally successful, having God's full approval and blessing in all His saving work on behalf of sinners. Jesus knew as Saviour and Lord, to Him would be given all the glory, indeed, His is now and forevermore, the kingdom, the power, and the glory! Jesus knew all His sufferings for sin would result in the salvation of sinners, for as many as trust and obey Him. Not one of His sheep would be lost on account of the Person and work of Christ the Good Shepherd, laying down His life for His sheep, and rising again triumphantly three days later.

Well, having investigated this about Jesus' avalanche of sufferings, and concluding very clearly that His multiple sufferings were vicious and vile against Him, voluntary and willing on His part, vicarious and substitutionary in the place of His people, and victorious and triumphant beyond all question for the complete salvation of such sinners like ourselves, what now is the message of this all? The message is you need Him as Saviour from all your sins, and so do all people on earth! Are you trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord? Do you live in repentance of sin before Him? Are you calling on Him to save you too? The message is there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, but there is only condemnation for all still outside of relationship with Jesus Christ. The gospel message of Jesus Christ is the most superb, gracious, complete, free, honest, urgent, and happy message there ever could be, the world over! It is the Christian church that has to make this known. Do you have ears to hear what the Holy Bible teaches about the only Saviour for us and His gospel of salvation for sinners? Amen



ANALYZING JESUS' SUFFERINGS AS SAVIOUR

The theme for this message is "Analyzing Jesus' sufferings as Saviour." Let us first read the Scripture passage in Matthew 26:47-68 on which this message is based. "And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him. And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled. And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end. Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of

Hans Overduin, Radio Pastor

April 1, 2007

Publication No.304

BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)

witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?"

Now just considering this Scripture about Jesus' sufferings we can say, Jesus' sufferings came like an avalanche upon Him. Matthew brings out how in just a few short hours, wave after wave of untold sufferings swept upon the Lord Jesus. When you read Matthew 26-27 realizing this all took place in the space of 24 hours, it is overwhelming what Jesus all suffered and endured in his last night and day as the suffering Saviour of sinners. Does it move you, melt and stir you too, what He all suffered sinners to save?

To understand it all more, let us now go to the point about investigating this avalanche of suffering Jesus went through. A closer look at the facts and details of all that happened will bring out at least four facts about Jesus' sufferings. The first is His sufferings were vile and vicious in the sense that it all was so mean and cruel, so unjust and wicked the way Jesus was misjudged and mishandled and mistreated by so many! What was done to Jesus by the covenant and favoured people of God shows us what we are like by nature. Left to ourselves, not only have we in Adam, the first and representative man, turned away from God and become rebels before Him, but with Jesus' suffering and death, we prove that by nature we reject God and all that He is about, even as Saviour of sinners. If you and I were living in Jesus' time, you and I would have done the exact same as what was done to Him then! Jesus' terrible avalanche of sufferings shows not only all that He endured, but what wicked sinful people we are that we should so mistreat and torment Christ Jesus and cause Him to suffer as He did. Do you see how Jesus' vicious and vile sufferings expose our sins and sinfulness?

But notice further, another clear conclusion about Jesus' suffering is that it was voluntary and willing on His part. In no way at all or in any detail of His sufferings was Jesus just a poor victim of vicious and vile enemies, but He gave Himself over to all this awful suffering that came His way. How does it come out in our text that His sufferings were voluntary and willing on His part? Well, Jesus didn't run the other way when Judas came with his large mob to capture Him. From John's account in John 18, we know in fact Jesus went out before them from the garden grove....and at that time, in fact, Jesus with His divine power caused the whole crowd to fall backwards not once but twice, showing His supreme rule here actually. We know too when Peter drew his sword and Jesus told him to put it back in his sheath, then Jesus tells Peter and the others if He wanted to, He could call to His Father to send twelve legions of angels to come to His help if so desired by Him. One legion of angels equals 6000 angels and twelve legions means at least 72000 angels. Jesus had these at His command if He so requested or desired. If you think how in the Old Testament in II Kings 19:35 we have an account

about one single angel killing 185000 Assyrians, think what 72000 times 185000 equals? Those twelve legions could take care of 13 billion 320 million well armed soldiers just like that [many more times the whole world population of that day and even yet our day!] Jesus was well covered if He so chose to get help. But no, instead He voluntarily and willingly suffered all the abuse and torment and injustice brought upon Him. He did it voluntarily that He might do His salvation work as Saviour and fulfill also all the Scriptures about the Saviour.

This fact about Jesus' sufferings being so voluntary and willing on His part is something endlessly stirring. Think of how Jesus had all the power at His fingertips to deal with His tormenters, and He would be well justified if He showed them a thing or two, but instead Jesus willingly suffered all that came upon Him, meekly enduring it all, as is evidenced also in His remaining silent through it all. This was by no means a sign of weakness on Jesus' part but a demonstration of His unbelievable and inexpressible love and care for sinners. For Jesus knew shall salvation for sinners be obtained by Him for people like us, He would have to suffer and endure all the punishment for sin and the full rejection of men and of God His Father even in the sinner's place. So also Jesus said to Peter in verse 54, when he took up his sword to stop Jesus arrest and suffering, "*But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?*"

To understand this more, however, we need to consider this next fact about Jesus' avalanche of suffering. Not only were His sufferings vile and vicious from the people, and voluntary and willing from Jesus, but it was vicarious and substitutionary suffering. In other words, Jesus suffered with clear purpose making payment for sin, as the just for the unjust. Jesus stood in the sinner's place in all that He suffered and endured, and through His sufferings and shed blood He made full payment for sin on behalf of others even as He at the same time offered up to God His Father a perfect righteous life in the place of others. Jesus' suffering and death was as representative of all His people, as many as trust and obey Him, as many as God ordained shall be saved. In other words, Jesus suffered all He did for others, that we through His stripes might be healed, saved, washed whiter than snow, reconciled to God and made His full image-bearers once again! Jesus came to save sinners and restore what the first Adam lost, and all who turn from sin and trust and follow Christ Jesus the Lord shall not be put to shame, but be made more than conquerors through Christ's person and work for sinners.

This comes out so clearly in noticing one more fact about Jesus' avalanche of suffering. It was victorious suffering! As one put it, "in Jesus' capture it was the Captive Who triumphed!" Jesus' sufferings being victorious suffering comes out most clearly, however, in His own words to Caiaphas....when He states in verse 64, "*Thou hast said*", 'yes, I am the Christ, the Son of God'. Then He adds, in so much faith and confidence in