

death. He gave His soul as a sacrifice, and He receives many souls as His reward. He was obedient unto the death of the cross, and the result is a multitude which no man can number to praise Him forevermore. It is the result of His willingness to humble Himself, to the degree even of being numbered with **transgressors**.

And he bare the sin of many is a different phrase than the words used in verse 11, to bear their iniquities. Here the meaning is 'to forgive sins' to lift up and take away sin by forgiving it. The Lord Jesus in His exalted state is involved in the same work for which He came to earth, namely to take away sin. However, there He is not suffering for it, for that He did while on earth, in heaven He bares their sins by **making intercession for the transgressor** and so to apply His work to them.

This is the Savior which is being proclaimed to you, while we have tried to explain these verses. He not only makes an atoning sacrifice for sins, but continues to the end of time interceding for His people, so that all His people are secured, and all their sins cleansed until they appear before Him.

If you have no delight in the Son of God, it is because you do not see your sin and misery and so cannot appreciate the sacrifice made. It is an awful state for a person to be in, not even to see his disease. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes to see your sin but more than that, to see the wonderful provision made by His Son that you may call upon his name and be saved.

Let those who have been saved by grace rejoice in the honors and enjoyments of Him who died for them. Let us daily pray for the coming of His kingdom, when we shall see His purposes reach the climax. May we know something of the poem of William Cowper who wrote these lines:

*O come, and added to thy many crowns,
Receive yet one, the crown of all the earth,
Thou who alone art worthy. It was thine
By ancient covenant ere nature's birth;
And thou hast made it thine by purchase since,
And overpaid its value in thy blood.*

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



THE FATHER REWARDS HIS SON

Isaiah 53:11-12 *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. 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.*

We return to this wonderful chapter which in the plainest language tells of the sufferings of our blessed Savior for our sins. The closing verses of this chapter are a proclamation of the reward the Father gives to His Son for His work.

There were many, I am sure, who thought Jesus could have achieved great things had He not challenged the status quo. Many thought, and still think, He could have done much more good by living than by dying. Even His own disciples had a hard time when our Lord predicted His coming death. Peter rebuked Christ for uttering such things, and in turn was rebuked by the Lord with words which must have astounded His disciples, "*Satan, get thee behind me.*" It is true that Jesus Christ was the greatest teacher that ever walked our planet; it is true that He was a wonderful example of godliness ever to be found; yet had He only lived and been our teacher and example, we would be doomed to eternal hell. For His teachings, wonderful though they are, and His example, excellent as it is, would not have enabled us to overcome sin or enabled us to obey His precepts. It is His death that gives us life! So despite what many misguided people might teach we believe it is the sufferings and death and exaltation of Christ that is good news to sinners. With that in mind, let us look at the concluding remarks made by Jehovah concerning His Son.

He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied. Something needs to be supplied to make sense of this sentence. It is that he will see the *fruit* of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. The word 'travail' suggests to many the birth pangs which issue in birth of a child. But this is not the meaning in our text nor did the word have that meaning in its context. The word used has the meaning of strenuous labor. The figure may have the imagery of a farmer as he toils and plants; at first as nothing comes up, it may appear his labor is wasted, but wait and see, it is

not so. After a little while there is the harvest and the joy that follows as a result.

Our Lord had had travail, travail of soul, when His soul was made an offering for sin. What a life of toil and severe suffering He underwent in order to accomplish what He had been sent to do. Who can tell of His sorrow? Who can describe the sufferings of His soul? While the language is applicable to the whole of His life, it is especially applicable to the close of His life when He was subject to mental struggle which drew from Him bloody sweat in the Garden; and the cry from the cross, "*My God, My God why hast thou forsaken Me.*" My friend, none of His labor will be lost. Many a man has labored, and yet has not reaped the fruit of his labors; it shall not be so with the Son of God. He shall see the fruit of His labor and be fully satisfied. Just as the Father was satisfied with His Son's sacrifice, so the Son will be satisfied with the reward that is the result of His offering Himself up as an offering for our sins.

What then is the fruit He receives? To get an answer to this question, we need to take a trip there and remain there forever! For the fruits of His work will be unfolding throughout eternity. For there we see how God has been glorified; how a multitude of sinners have been transformed as holy creatures, ever increasing in their joy as they behold God in glory. There we see how Christ secured the gift of the Holy Spirit by which they were made perfect in holiness. There we see the throne of the Son established from which He rules the universe forever. We see how the law has been vindicated and God glorified to the highest degree.

When will the Son see this? Some may do a work, the results of which they may never see in their own lifetime. This is not so with the work of the Son. He will see the travail of His soul at once. He even sees it as He is on the cross, as the Father grants Him the thief as His trophy. He sees it as He is raised and exalted to God's right hand, and obtains the promised Holy Spirit whom He pours out on the day of Pentecost and three thousand are saved. So we see the progress of the Gospel as it spreads from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria, and then to the center of the world as it reaches Rome. The Son will see the fruits of His work consummated in the Day of Judgment when all the elect for whom He died are raised to glory and all His enemies consigned to hell.

He shall be satisfied. When God created the world, we are told He rested on the seventh day and contemplated His works with satisfaction. But, alas, the world was not to remain in that state for long. Men and angels that praised Him were shortly to be allies of Satan and curse God's name. No mere word, even from God, could now restore that primitive order of innocence; it would take the Son of God becoming man and suffering the death of the cross before any praise is given to God by men who were fallen in Adam. The work of our Savior not only brings glory to

God so that once again there is delight in His creatures, but He himself is fully satisfied in this accomplishment. There are no regrets for having been born in Bethlehem, at Gethsemane, or at Calvary.

By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Jesus is the righteous servant of Jehovah because He is innocent and absolutely free of any defilement. But He is also righteous having fulfilled all righteousness in His capacity as our Mediator. He by His perfect obedience provides a righteousness that is the ground of their justification. It is true that the Father justifies sinners, but it is on the basis of the righteousness the Son secures. It is in this sense He is said to justify many. It is **many** that are justified. This may give some difficulty to some, who see that comparatively few believe in the world. We must realize we have not taken into account infants who have died, who will be found in heaven. The work of Christ will not issue in a *meager* reward; for His seed will be a multitude no man can number. They will be like the stars in number.

He will justify many **by his knowledge**. How is a person justified? It is when Christ by His Word and Spirit enlightens him to believe the truth concerning himself. It is faith in the suffering servant, as one who has died in our place and merited for us that righteousness which we need to stand before God. It is faith in Christ as our Great High Priest that we are justified. The phrase, **he shall bear their iniquities**, would in the context be better rendered 'because he has borne their iniquity'. It is as a consequence of Him becoming sin for us, that we are made the righteousness of God in Him. [Romans 3:25, Romans 4:25, Romans 5:1]

Verse 12 goes on to tell us further how the Son is rewarded for His work. The idea here is not that Christ is one among many who will be rewarded, except He will get a larger share. No, there was no one who was a companion in His sufferings. He does His work alone, and therefore this verse is not that He will share with others the reward, but that the reward He receives will be great multitudes. For it is made clear, none can be compared with Him. [Hebrews 1:4, Hebrews 1:13, Philippians 2:9, Psalm 18:40]

The other part of this verse is interpreted by such Scriptures which tell how the mighty will be given him as his prey. [Psalm 72:10, Psalm 110:5]

Jehovah has so exalted His Son that He has given Him all power and authority and exalted Him above all so that all shall acknowledge Him, either willingly now; or in fear hereafter. He will rule the nations with the rod of iron. Even now Christ is bringing all His enemies under His feet. One day shortly all nations will be gathered before Him, to hear from His lips the final benediction and the final woe.

All this is the reward because **he hath poured out his soul unto**