

letter to elect exiles

FIRST PETER

#42

CHRIST, THE SUFFERING SERVANT

ISA.52:13, 53:3-12/1PET.2:18-25

1) CHRIST, THE PATTERN FOR ALL SUFFERING SERVANTS OF GOD

A. The Prophetic Word: Servant Song #4 of Isaiah 53

Isa.53:6ff All we like sheep have gone astray.... He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter... so he opened not his mouth.... By oppression and judgment he was taken away... although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.... he bore the sin of many...

B. The Gracious Reward for God's Suffering Servants

Luk.6:31-35 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what **benefit [grace]** is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what **benefit [grace]** is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what **credit [grace]** is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your **reward** will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

2) CHRIST'S CALL TO BE SUFFERING SERVANTS FOR GOD

A. Suffering Inescapably Defines the Xian Life

Rom.8:16-18 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2Cor.4:17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison...

B. Tracing the Letters He Wrote and Walking in His Footsteps