

**Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”**

Isaiah was given more messianic prophecies than any other of those men whom the LORD sent into the earth, yet he had a very limited understanding of the things which he wrote and confessed with the other OT prophets that these things were written for those to come. *“Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels (messengers) desire to look into.”*

He was told to write of HIM who was *“despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem 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. 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. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.”*

While Isaiah was given the gift to write of those sufferings and the great anguish of our REDEEMER, yet Jeremiah was given the gift to experience (in a limited measure) those very soul sufferings, which are recorded for us in the book of his “Lamentations”. Jeremiah was sent to warn the nation of Israel of their coming judgement and captivity by the Babylonians, but the LORD shut up the ears of Israel that they would not hear his word. Whereas Isaiah was given to prophesy of the glory of the coming KING and HIS redemptive work, Jeremiah was called upon to endure great rejection and sorrow at the hands of those to whom he was sent.

We are not then surprised that he is known as the “weeping prophet”. His sufferings were experienced with each of his emotions and felt by each of his senses. Nonetheless he was but an illustration of the sufferings of that PROPHET which was to come. CHRIST, our PROPHET, PRIEST, and KING was brought into hell itself in our behalf as HE endured the wrath of GOD poured out upon HIS head. *“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin.”* Jeremiah recorded the very thoughts of CHRIST when HE spoke of his own *“affliction and misery”* which was visited upon HIM as HE knelt in the Garden of Gethsemane. *“And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”* Has ever any mortal ever been so tried and bereft of comfort? Has any endured such grief as swept over HIM? No man stood with HIM, HE was well-nigh unto death except that HIS time was not yet come.

This is indeed that “bitterness” of soul and mind which is described by Jeremiah as *“the wormwood and the gall.”* We are not exactly sure what “wormwood and gall”, as a substance actually are. But we are sure that both of them denote great bitterness and sorrow. These words appear together in four verses in the KJV. “Wormwood” appears five times by itself and “gall” is mentioned ten times by itself, two instances being in the NT. In all cases they are associated with bitterness, even unto death. It is interesting to note that whereas Matthew records that the soldiers gave CHRIST (as HE hung on the cross), vinegar *“mingled with gall”*, yet Mark records the same instance as *“wine mingled with myrrh.”* We are sure that the substances are the same and find it striking that even as a babe, HE was given *“Myrrh”* by those wise men from the east. Thus, foretelling the life of sorrow and bitterness which lay before HIM. *“Myrrhis mine; its bitter perfume; Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.”* Our hearts are made to worship HIM as we *“consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself.* Do you tremble as you consider the soul sufferings of CHRIST which HE endured in the behalf of sinners?

*“Thy free grace alone,”* #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)**