

Isaiah 53:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'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.' The Servant's silence under suffering is emphasized twice: 'opened not his mouth.' The Hebrew 'nagas' (oppressed) indicates harsh treatment. The lamb imagery points to sacrificial death - not resisting, not protesting.

Historical Context

This was remarkably fulfilled when Jesus remained silent before Pilate (Matthew 27:12-14) and before Herod (Luke 23:9). The Ethiopian eunuch was reading this verse when Philip explained the gospel (Acts 8:32-35).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's silence teach about how to face unjust suffering?
2. How does the lamb imagery connect to Old Testament sacrifices?

Interlinear Text

וְנַגֵּשׁ	וְאֵת	נִעְתָּה	וְלֹא	נִפְתַּח
He was oppressed	H1931	and he was afflicted	H3808	so he openeth
	H5065			H6605
פִּוּן	כֶּשֶׁ	בְּחֵטָאת	לֹא	לִפְנֵי
not his mouth	as a lamb	to the slaughter	he is brought	and as a sheep
H6310	H7716	H2874	H2986	H6440
נִגְזִיזֵי	וְלֹא	וְנִפְתַּח	וְלֹא	וְלֹא
her shearers	is dumb	H3808	so he openeth	not his mouth
H1494	H481		H6605	H6310

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:63 (Parallel theme): 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.

1 Peter 2:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Mark 14:61 (Parallel theme): But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

John 19:9 (Parallel theme): And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

Luke 23:9 (Parallel theme): Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

Mark 15:5 (Parallel theme): But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.