



## *Correspondent's Corner*

### **Perfect Through Suffering**

**February, 2019**

One of the truths concerning the Lord Jesus Christ is expressed by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. Isaiah wrote in chapter 53:3 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief". This

aspect of the experience of the Lord Jesus has at least two parts to it. First the suffering of the Lord during His life here and second the suffering of the Lord for sin on the cross.

Hebrews 2:10 and 18 speak of sufferings that the Lord Jesus would endure or experience throughout His life so that He could be able to comfort others who suffer. In other words, He's been there and done that, and knows what it is like to go through difficulties. When He came into the world from the heights of Heaven it wasn't long until the Roman authority, Herod, sought to have the young child Jesus killed. To protect His Son, God guided Joseph to take the young child and His mother into hiding in Egypt. The town He grew up in after the little family returned from Egypt was Nazareth. When Philip invited Nathanael to come and be one of the Lord's disciples Nathanael said "Has any good thing come out of Nazareth?" It was not a highly valued town. During His public ministry He was in Nazareth at one time and the people in the town were so angry at Him they tried to throw Him down over a cliff but He escaped their evil plan. In fact the writing placed over the Lord when He was crucified said "JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS". Matthew and Mark tell us that this was His accusation which would have been a title of derision.

There were a multitude of times when those who hated the Lord Jesus opposed Him. The Jewish religious leaders were always seeking a way to trap Him in His words or conduct. They sent men who sought to catch the Lord saying something unkind or false but they had to admit that no man ever spoke like this man. There were a lot of people who witnessed the miracles that the Lord performed but some who hated Him said that He did miracles by the power of Satan. His life during the three and a half years of His public ministry was a constant barrage of threats and opposition. In the end the city of Jerusalem rose up against Him and forced Pilate, the Roman ruler, to have Him crucified. There is one time though that it is said that the Lord Jesus rejoiced in spirit in Luke 10:21. I am sure that there were other times when that was so. So the Lord's suffering was not seldom but constant.

The time of His final rejection was a culmination of all the hatred that was heaped on the Lord Jesus throughout His life. As stated above all this suffering in His life was to give the Lord a real understanding of how people suffer in many ways in this life. He truly knows how it feels to suffer. There is one big difference between us and Him. In Hebrews 4:15 we read that He “was in all points tested like as we are, yet without sin.”

At the cross we find the suffering of the Lord Jesus in a much different light. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18 says “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God”. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:24 says “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree”. The suffering of the Lord Jesus on the cross was not only what man had done to Him but rather He also endured the wrath of God for our sins. This is suffering of a completely different kind than the suffering He endured during His life. God has accepted the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus for our sins as He has raised His Son from the dead. God is satisfied, are you? Trust Him as your substitute and go on to live for Him as the one who has done so much for us all.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

P.S. Please feel free to respond to this article by using the contact form on the “Contact Us” page. I will respond with no obligation on your part.