

## A SUFFERING SAVIOR

**“He (Jesus) said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” (Luke 24:25-27)**

On the day of His resurrection Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus. It was, we are told, a seven mile journey. One of them was named Cleopas, and both of them were discouraged. Neither of them recognized Jesus at the time.

The source of their discouragement involved the suffering of the man they thought was their Messiah. Isaiah had predicted that the Messiah would be **“called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.” (Isa 9:6-7)** It was difficult for them to conceive that anyone handed over to suffering and crucifixion could be the Redeemer of Israel. They had heard rumors that Jesus was alive, but refused to believe it. That’s why they were so discouraged!

It was at this point that Jesus accused them of being foolish and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had spoken. Jesus then began with Moses and all the prophets and explained to them what the Scriptures said concerning Himself. (Lk. 24:27).

Please consider some these Scriptures that Jesus may have used on their long journey:

- The first specific reference to Jesus in the Bible is in Gen. 3:15. In this verse we are told that Jesus would crush the head of the serpent, and the serpent would strike His heel. Obviously, a snake bite on the heel involves suffering.
- The first time “worship” is mentioned in the Bible is in Gen. 22:5 and involves Abraham’s willingness to offer Isaac upon one of the mountains of Moriah. How beautifully Isaac carrying the sacrificial wood up that mountain typifies Christ and the cross.
- In Bible times, being “lifted up” referred specifically to crucifixion (John 12:33). It was not by accident that Jesus pointed out that as Moses “lifted up” the serpent in the wilderness, even so the Son of Man had also be “lifted up” (John 3:14).
- Isaiah 53 has been described as the sublimest height and profoundest depth ever reached by an inspired man. That chapter describes Jesus as a “man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering”. According to Isaiah Jesus would be led like a Lamb to the slaughter.
- Ps. 16:10 reminds us that the Holy One of God would not be abandoned to the grave, nor would His body be allowed to see corruption.
- Ps. 22:16, 18 declares that “they pierced my hands and my feet” and cast lots for my clothing.
- Ps. 41:9 predicts that Jesus would be betrayed by a friend.
- Zechariah 11:12 - 13 predicted that He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.
- Is. 53:7 predicted that He would be silent while being oppressed and afflicted.
- Is. 53:10 points out that it was the Lord’s will to “crush Him and cause Him to suffer”.

## A SUFFERING CHURCH

(Here are only three of the many Scriptures on this subject)

- **“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.” (1 Pet 2:21)**
- **“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.” (1 Pet 4:12-13)**
- **So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.” (1 Pet 4:19)**