

A Tender Plant, and as a Root Out of Dry Ground

Seven centuries before Jesus ever began to crawl as a tiny baby upon this earth, the Messianic Prophet foretold of Him as a “tender plant and as a root out of dry ground” (Isaiah 53:2). We all know that a tender plant is not welcomed and accepted into harsh environments. We all know that a root is not supposed to survive in a dry ground.

As a newborn, the Tender Plant was laid down into a dirty feed trough just outside of an inn because all of the rooms were full (Luke 2:7) and He lived. The Root out of dry ground later found Himself fleeing for His life in the arms of His parents to Egypt to avoid being killed by Herod (Matthew 2: 13-15) and He lived. As He traveled down a dusty road one day, He turned to someone and mentioned that He had no place to lay His head (Luke 9:58) and He lived. His own brothers rejected Him and did not believe in Him (John 7:5) and He lived. After returning to His hometown of Nazareth, the people that He grew up with led Him to the brow of a hill to throw Him down over the cliff (Luke 4:28-30) and the Root out of dry ground lived. Many of His disciples, after murmuring at His teachings, went back and walked with Him no more (John 6:60-66) and He lived. A harsh environment of Jews took up stones to kill the Tender Plant (John 10:31) and He lived.

Day after day and night after night the rejections, assaults, and conflicts continued. While He opened the ears of those who could not hear, many continued to close their ears to His teachings and He lived. After the Root out of dry ground opened the eyes of those who could not see, many continued to close their eyes to see His truth and He lived.

Jesus was not the king that they had envisioned and desired. He did not meet up to their standards and did not fit the appearance of a king in their minds. We are reminded that He had “no form or comeliness” and when the people saw Him, there was “no beauty” that they “should desire Him” (Isaiah 53:2).

He approached the garden of Gethsemane with the remaining 11 apostles on the Mount of Olives standing next to Him; but after His arrest, all the disciples forsook Him and fled (Matthew 26:56) and He lived.

The Tender Plant was accused of speaking blasphemy and told that He was deserving of death. His enemies spit in His face, beat Him, and struck Him with the palms of their hands (Matthew 26: 65-67) and He lived. “The soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying Hail King of the Jews. Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. Then when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off of Him, put His own clothes on Him and led Him away to be crucified”(Matthew 27:27-31).

Jesus was “despised and rejected by men” (Isaiah 53:3). “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11). After 33 years, the Tender Plant died in that harsh environment. The Root out of dry ground was “cut off from the land of the living” (Isaiah 53:8). But after three days and three nights in the tomb, we can all say with gratitude in our hearts that He was raised from the dead and He lived.

- He suffered for us and we need to praise Him.
- He endured the thorns in his head and we need to be thankful for Him.
- He overcame the nails in His hands and the nail through His feet and we need to honor Him.
- They beat Him and spit in His face, but we need to reverence Him.
- They struck Him on the head and mocked Him, but we need to respect Him.

Our sins have been washed away by His blood! “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall

be as wool (Isaiah 1:18). We need to love the Tender Plant, and cherish the Root out of dry ground with all of our heart, soul, and mind.

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