

The Servant's Soliloquy: Isaiah 50:4-11

WE HAVE NOW COME to the third extended passage dealing with the Servant of the LORD. In the first (42:1-7) the exaltation of the Servant and the success of His mission were described with no hint of discouragement or humiliation. In the second (49:1-12) there was a brief hint of discouragement. In this third passage humiliation becomes prominent. The final passage (52:13-53:12) will describe and fully explain His humiliation and its relation to the accomplishment of His mission.

This passage reads as follows:

(4) The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens me morning by morning; he awakens my ear to listen as those who have been taught. (5) The Lord GOD has opened my ear. I was not rebellious; I did not turn back. (6) I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who pluck out the beard. I did not hide my face from humiliation and spitting. (7) Indeed the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I am not disgraced. Therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. (8) He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. (9) Behold the Lord GOD helps me; who will condemn me? Behold they will all wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them. (10) Who among you that fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his Servant walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. (11) Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with firebrands; walk in the light of your fire and by