

He is to be humiliated and to suffer. Hebrews tells us that He learned obedience through the things that he suffered. Here obedience is followed by the description of His suffering, I gave my back to the smiters, my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair. I hid not my face from shame and spitting. The thought that the servant of the Lord, the marvelous one who is to accomplish such great things, would be thus humiliated is something that would strike the reader as very strange indeed at this point. It is a definite revelation of God, something that human wisdom would never have dreamed of. It is noticeable in verse 6 the emphasis on the voluntary aspect of it. He gave his back, he did not...

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He gave his back, He did not hide His face from shame and spitting. It is a voluntary humiliation which He has undergone. Surely this is utterly different from anything that could be considered as a description of the Babylonian captivity. Israel fought against the captivity to the utmost of their power. They resisted it in every possible way. No one could--God says that they brought it upon themselves by their sin. They could not possibly however be thought of as having voluntarily submitted to it. Here it says that the servant is going to voluntarily submit to suffering and shame. This idea which is thus introduced for the first time with this brief suggestion here, in this one verse, is developed at considerable length a few chapters later in Isa. 53.

The next two verses--three verses, give us the assurance of the success of the servant through the help of the Lord. God is going to help him, the difficulties may appear insuperable, but the Lord is going to accomplish the work. Those who oppose him will wax old as a garment and the moth will eat them up. One thinks of the power of the Jewish temple at the time, arrayed against him, utterly destroyed 40 years later. One thinks of the great power of the Roman Empire, called in to destroy the Lord. This empire itself crumbled away and decayed within a few centuries afterwards. The Lord--He whom the Lord helps need have no fear if he is truly following him he knows that the Lord's will will be done. These three