

viewpoint of the prophet looking into the future and seeing the wonderful salvation that God would provide, rather than through the mouths of those who would observe the life and death of the LORD's Servant.

4. THE PERFECT SERVANT'S SILENT SUBMISSION

(7) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. As a lamb being led to the slaughter, and as a sheep silent before its shearers, he did not open his mouth. (8) By oppressive judgment he was taken away. Who shall declare his generation, for he was cut off from the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due ⁴² (9) His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet he was with a rich man in his death, because ⁴³ he had done no violence and there was no deceit in his mouth.

This paragraph describes the manner of death of the Lord's Servant. Verse 7 depicts His willing submission. This verse presents a serious objection to any who would consider the Servant of the LORD as representing the entire nation of Israel. Israel was indeed oppressed and afflicted, but it could hardly be described as one who did not open its mouth but was silent before its oppressors. Israel has endured a great deal of mistreatment and suffering, but silent endurance has never been one of its characteristics.

The first words of verse 8 have been variously translated. Probably the most reasonable interpretation is to consider the words that literally read "from oppression and from judgment" as constituting a unified thought, which in English could be expressed as "an oppressive judgment." In other words, He was the victim of a judicial murder. He was not given a fair trial but was executed without any real attempt to determine what was just. This clearly fits what actually happened to Christ.

The second clause has also been variously interpreted. In the light of the remainder of the chapter, the translation contained in the King James Version seems best to fit the context,