

The second phrase in verse 10, "he hath put him to grief," uses the same Hebrew word as the one translated "grief" in verse 4. It can be better rendered "he has made him sick" or "he has caused him physical injury." It refers to the act of God in causing that Jesus should go through the terrible suffering and physical torture of the cross.

"When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin" could just as well be translated "when his soul shall make a sin offering." It does not make much difference to the sense which rendering we take, except that there is no obvious reason for the insertion of the second personal pronoun at this point in the chapter.

Verse 10 also contains a remarkable statement about the result of the Servant's sacrifice. We have noticed that He seemed to be stricken and cut off from the land of the living so that no one could see any prospect for Him of posterity or of continuing accomplishment (v. 8). Yet it is promised that, as a result of the offering which He will make, "he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand." It is a seeming paradox -- one of the marvels of history -- that this man, cut off at a very young age, and leaving only a small group of scattered disciples, should nevertheless see a following that would stretch on and on through the ages, until the time of His return, and that His name should be praised as far as the sun's rays extend.

"He shall prolong his days." His days seemed to be cut off, but here is the suggestion that they are again to be continued. Only three days after His life seemed to have ended He rose from the tomb in triumph and began that resurrection life which continues to this very day and will never end.

"He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied" (v. 11). Many a man performs great labor and toil and dies without seeing much accomplished, wondering whether his life will prove futile or whether something worthwhile may yet come out of it. This One returned from the dead and saw the fruits of His labors. As He sits at the right hand of God making intercession for us, He sees the results of His accomplishment on Calvary's cross. As each new individual comes to believe in Christ and to receive salvation through His finished work, He is satisfied.