

This morning I want to call your attention to one of the finest chapters in the Bible. All the chapters in the Bible are good but this one draws together a great deal of very important truth. It is perhaps one of the best known chapters in the OT. It is the 53rd ch. of the book of Isaiah. It is full of rich meat for the Christian.

I'm going to confine our attention today almost entirely to one small phrase in one of the vv., in v. 5. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed." The chastisement of our peace was upon him. I don't think many people today use that word "chastisement" at all. Unless one has heard it in church, heard it in connection with the reading of the KJV, I doubt that many people today are even familiar with the word. The chastisement of our peace. Then when you get the phrase "of our peace" it does not I think bring the thought very clearly to us, just what that means. Chastisement of our peace.

In the NIV this particular phrase is much clearer to us. It is there "the punishment that brought us peace was upon him." Surely there is one of the great thoughts of the Bible. We all deserve eternal punishment for our sin. Man is in rebellion against God and we deserve to be punished eternally, but Jesus Christ on the cross bore our punishment and we can therefore be saved and enter into joy and life with him. It is a most wonderful statement: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him.

Yet I don't think the meaning of it is altogether clear necessarily from these words: the punishment that brought us peace. The chastisement of our peace. This word peace is a word that has a much broader meaning as used in Scripture than it has in our ordinary speech. It is true everything that the word would say as it stands. The punishment that brought us peace. We can have peace with God because of what he did. We are no longer at war with God because Jesus Christ has reconciled us to him. And yet that word peace has a much broader meaning to it, than our English word peace.

We find that in Israel today the common greeting is the Hebrew word shalom. That doesn't mean just I'm not going to fight with you and I say peace when I see you! I notice that in the KJV we read about Moses when he left his father in law in order to go down into Egypt to do the work to which the Lord had called him. There in Ex. 4 we read that he told Jethro that he was going down to Egypt and there at the end of v. 18 of ch. 4 we read: "Jethro said to Moses go in peace." Did he mean, Don't fight with anybody along the way? Peace has a much broader meaning as used in the Bible. The Hebrew word peace has a much broader meaning than the English word peace.

The NIV attempts to translate in such a way that the Ordinary person can understand what is meant, and sometimes it does not translate very literally. In such cases we wonder just how far should it go from a word for word translation. Yet if a word for word translation does