

LiFT Online No 6 – August 2020

This is Jesus

Welcome to this month's LiFT Online. As the title would suggest we will be spending a little amount of time thinking and worshipping Jesus with passages from both the New and Old Testaments, before taking time to listen to the Holy Spirit and praying for our family, friends, local community and the wider world.

Lord Jesus, please forgive us when we limit You to our own understanding. We thank you are so much more than the confines of our imagination and knowledge and so we ask You to reveal more of Yourself to us this evening as we quieten our hearts and our minds, as we sit at Your feet in awe and wonder. Amen.

Please take time to read the contrasting passages below, taking time to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through individual words or phrases.

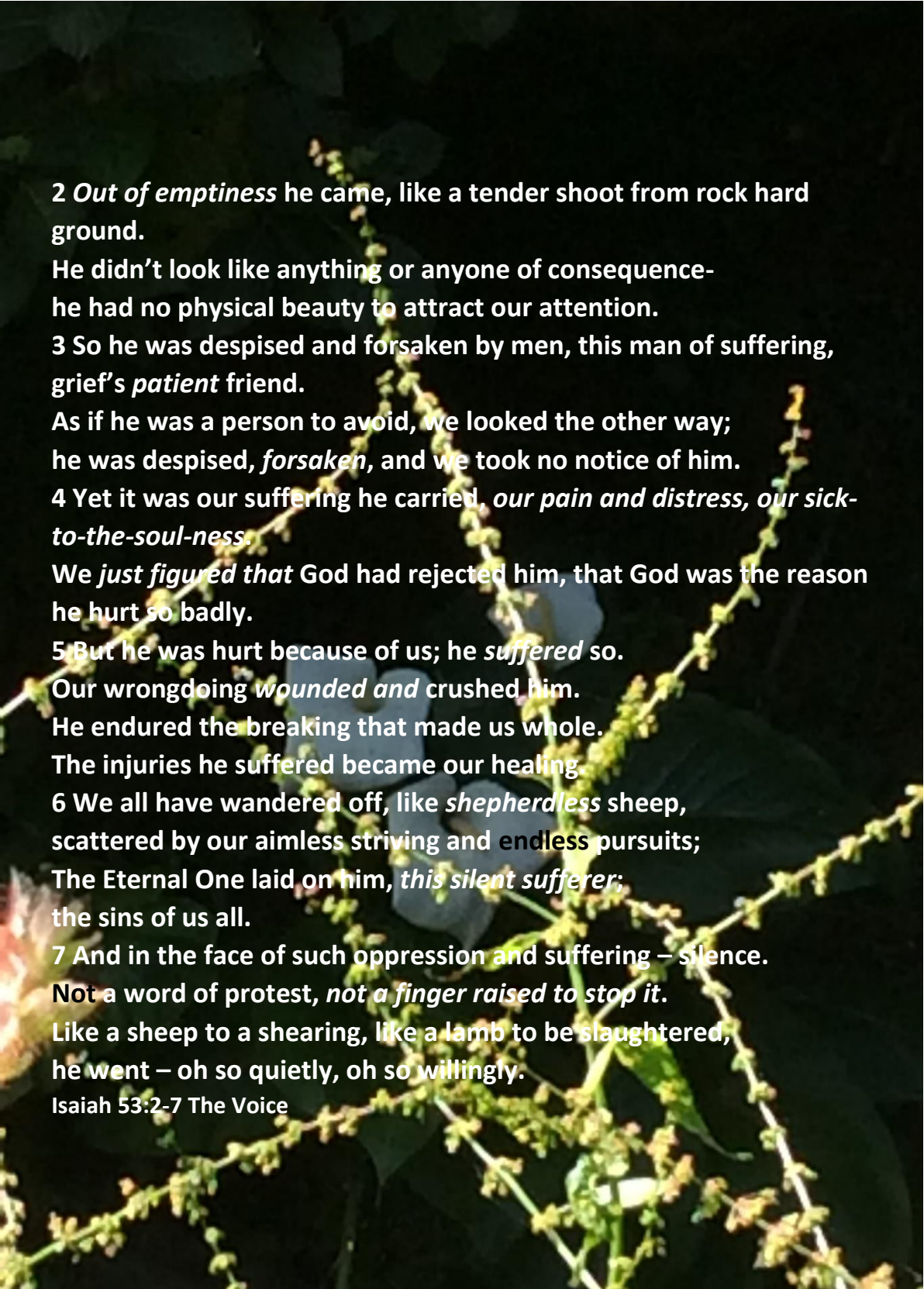
Extracted from The Voice, Revelations 1, the vision from Jesus to John. If you have time, please read the whole chapter for context.

John's Vision of Christ

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man,[Ⓜ] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.



2 *Out of emptiness* he came, like a tender shoot from rock hard ground.

He didn't look like anything or anyone of consequence- he had no physical beauty to attract our attention.

3 So he was despised and forsaken by men, this man of suffering, *grief's patient* friend.

As if he was a person to avoid, we looked the other way; he was despised, *forsaken*, and we took no notice of him.

4 Yet it was our suffering he carried, *our pain and distress, our sick-to-the-soul-ness*.

We just figured that God had rejected him, that God was the reason he hurt so badly.

5 But he was hurt because of us; he *suffered* so.

Our wrongdoing *wounded and* crushed him.

He endured the breaking that made us whole.

The injuries he suffered became our healing.

6 We all have wandered off, like *shepherdless* sheep, scattered by our aimless striving and endless pursuits;

The Eternal One laid on him, *this silent sufferer*; the sins of us all.

7 And in the face of such oppression and suffering – silence.

Not a word of protest, *not a finger raised to stop it*.

Like a sheep to a shearing, like a lamb to be slaughtered, he went – oh so quietly, oh so willingly.

Isaiah 53:2-7 The Voice

As we take time to reflect on what we have just read and as we allow ourselves time to simply just be in Your Presence, may we bring the thoughts and sentiments of our worship song as an act of commitment of love, to You, Lord Jesus. Amen

This is my Desire by Zacharia Mjungu

https://youtu.be/lxRVXK_z8jo

As we allow the last few notes of the song to fade away, we will stay for awhile in that place of quietness and readiness to hear the Holy Spirit speaking to us through words and pictures for our Church and for one another.

Confident in knowing that our Father God always listens to the prayers of His children, we come to Him now with the worries and anxieties, cares and concerns that we have for all those in need, wherever they may be.

Please be led by the Holy Spirit as you pray.

Some suggestions:

Those who are unwell at this time or coping with bereavement.

Children preparing to return to school.

Our Government and Ministers as they negotiate the way forward.

The towns and cities facing a second lockdown.

Countries experiencing a desire for democracy from their populace especially Belarus, Lebanon, Hong Kong and Thailand.

For those being persecuted for their faith, or for just being different. For global warming, pollution and the fine balance of eco systems.

In all these areas and many more, we pray "Your Kingdom Come" Amen

To bring our time together to a close:

Thy Kingdom Come by Pete James

<https://youtu.be/mA2q295I9A0>

AMEN

Keep safe and God Bless

Margaret