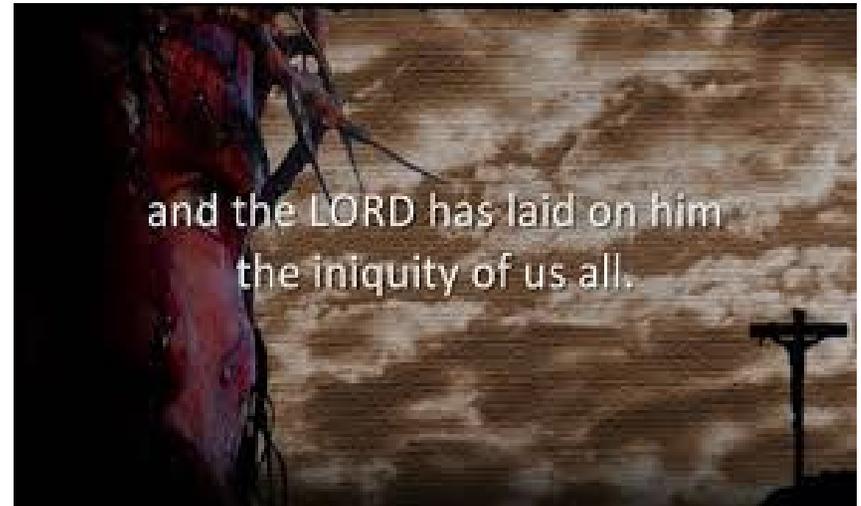


Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Whilst on YouTube recently I happened across a hauntingly beautiful version of the hymn *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted*, written in 1804 by Thomas Kelly (1769-1854).

Sung by Fernando Ortega, and played on piano and viola, it is my choice of hymn for April as this month we meditate on the Lord's death and resurrection more deeply, perhaps, than at other times of the year.

There is no backstory this time... the prophetic and anguished lament of Isaiah 53 - the Song of the Suffering Servant so poignantly evoked in the words of the hymn itself, is all the story...



**Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree.**

**'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He! 'tis He!**

**'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;**

**Proofs I see sufficient of it,
'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

**Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great**

**Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.**

**Mark the Sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;**

**'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.**

**Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?**

**Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;**

**Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;**

**But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.**

**Here we have a firm foundation;
Here the refuge of the lost;**

**Christ the Rock of our salvation,
His, the name of which we boast.**

**Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt,**

**None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.**

If you would like to hear this hymn on YouTube, it can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-QFx5RRqFM>

Fernando Ortega has also recorded another exquisite version of this hymn, accompanied on this occasion by harp and viola, found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qr7-fgX1CB0>

And if you prefer traditional congregational singing, this rendition by Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. is quite splendid:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pG4iw9ruMyY>

*May God bless you,
Elizabeth McDonald
April 2019*

(A slightly different version of this item first appeared in the April 2019 edition of the Frindsbury Baptist Church Newsletter)