

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for February 4-5, 2006

"Why Was Jesus Rejected"

John 12:37-38

The first fact about unbelief is that many dismiss the evidence (John 12:37).

The expression "yet they were not believing in Him" indicates an ongoing spirit of rejection, an unwillingness to accept Jesus in spite of the "signs."

It is not the lack of evidence that is the problem in respect to the rejection of Christ, but rather an unwillingness to consider the evidence that Christ has provided.

The second fact about unbelief is that the unbelief of so many Jews, in spite of the evidence, fulfills prophecy (John 12:38).

The prophetic statement from Isaiah 53:1 recorded for us in John 12:38, pictured the future Messiah of Israel and His faithful ambassadors asking two different questions.

The expected negative responses to the two questions in Isaiah 53:1 clearly communicated that the rejection of the Messiah by the Jewish nation was biblically anticipated.

The "report" (AKOE - literally, "that which is heard") that Isaiah referenced in Isaiah 53:1, would have consisted of the words spoken by Jesus during His earthly ministry.

The "arm (HOBACHION) of the Lord" that Isaiah referenced in Isaiah 53:1 would have consisted of the miraculous signs Jesus performed during His earthly ministry.

The Jews' rejection of Christ was not an accident, it had been determined by God so "that" (HINA) Isaiah's prophecy might be fulfilled.

The interface of divine pre-destination and human responsibility is inevitably mysterious, but the former, "divine predestination," no way eliminates the latter.

May God give us the grace to see that the rejection of Jesus by the Jews was a necessary stepping stone not only for their salvation but for our salvation as well.