

John 12.41 These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.

In the Gospel of John, the word “glory” is used not only of Jesus’ resurrection/ascension but also of his suffering on the cross (John 12.23-24; 13.30-32). So, when did Isaiah see Christ’s glory? One could look at either Isaiah 6 when he saw Yahweh of Hosts or Isaiah 52-53 where Isaiah saw the suffering servant beaten and executed for the people’s benefit. Both portions are referenced in the immediate context: Isaiah 6.10 is referenced in John 12.40 and Isaiah 53.1 is referenced in John 12.38. Furthermore, in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the word glory appears in Isaiah 52.13-14. “Behold, my servant shall understand, and be exalted, and glorified exceedingly. As many shall be amazed at thee, so shall thy face be without glory from men, and thy glory *shall not be honoured* by the sons of men” (Isaiah 52.13-14 LXX). When did Isaiah see Christ’s glory? Was it not in seeing the suffering and consequent exaltation in Isaiah 52-53?