

26 The King of Persia as Deliverer

and leading up to a promise that God will cause Jerusalem to be rebuilt and that Cyrus will be His shepherd to perform this task. This sentence begins after the first few words of verse 24. The translation below is so arranged as to show its logical structure.

I, the LORD, am
the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens
by myself and spreading out the earth
all alone,
causing the omens of deceivers to fail, so that he
makes fools out of diviners, causing
wise men to draw back, so that their
knowledge becomes foolishness,
confirming the word of his servant so that it fulfills
the counsel of his messengers,
the one saying of Jerusalem, She shall be inhabited,
and of the cities of Judah, They shall
be built, and I will raise up her ruins,
the one saying to the deep, Be dried up, and I will
make your rivers dry,
the one saying of Cyrus, He is my shepherd and he
will perform all my desire, to say of
Jerusalem, she shall be built, and of the
temple, your foundation shall be laid.

This long sentence begins with an emphatic statement of God's creative power over the universe, followed by condemnation of false prophets and so-called wise men who wish to explain the universe without taking the Creator into account. Next God declares His determination to fulfill the predictions made by His messenger.

The first three parts of the sentence have stated general facts about God's activities, using a number of participles, none of which has an article attached to it. The three remaining parts predict specific future activities, each of them being introduced by the participle of the verb *to say* preceded by the definite article, and therefore meaning "the one saying" (or