

who is described at several places in this section of Isaiah as an instrument for the accomplishment of God's purposes. God declares that He will give Cyrus great victories, and even calls him His anointed one (Heb., *messiah*), but never speaks of him as the LORD's Servant. In this part of Isaiah the word *servant* is restricted almost entirely to a specific one who is described in this and later passages.

Although there is no mention of sin in this passage, there is a reference to its effects. Verse 7 shows that the work of the Servant involves alleviation of the misery that sin has produced. He will open blind eyes and bring out prisoners from their dungeons.

There is no mention in these last two verses of the way that the Servant will do his work, this having been rather fully discussed in the first four verses.

In these seven verses the emphasis is on the worldwide work of the Servant. Much is said of what He will do for the nations and for the distant coastlands, but there is no clear statement that He will do a work for Israel. Only by inference can it here be suggested that since Israel is blind it will be necessary to open her eyes, or that since Israel is in prison it will be necessary to free her.

Release of Israel from exile might be thought of as involved in these verses, but there is here no specific statement connecting Israel's return from exile with the work of the Servant. In fact, apart from one rather uncertain phrase, there is no specific statement in this passage about the Servant doing anything for Israel. The one phrase that might be thought of as referring exclusively to Israel is found in verse 6, which says, "I will make you as a covenant to a people, as a light to nations." Here the phrase "covenant to a people" could be taken as referring to Israel in contrast to the nations to which the Servant is to bring light. Yet it is equally possible to consider it as a general statement that the Servant will represent God's covenant to each of the various nations. In the light of New Testament teaching it would certainly be possible to take it as referring to His covenant