

is actually a reiteration of God's determination that the work of the Servant will be fulfilled and God's law made great and glorious by the One who will establish justice in the earth.

Verse 22 returns to the inability of the Servant to carry out this work. How can Israel bring justice to the nations and establish God's purposes throughout the world when the Israelites themselves are trapped in caves or hidden away as prisoners, with none to deliver them? How can Israel do the work of the Servant when Israel itself is in bondage?

In answer to this frustration, the prophet lashes out with the strongest words of condemnation for Israel's sin that our section has yet contained. He declares that God Himself has given Israel to the robbers because they sinned against Him and refused to walk in His ways and be obedient to His law. For this reason He has poured on Israel the fury of His anger. Yet even now, He says, Israel has not taken it to heart. Thus chapter 42, which began with complete confidence that the great work of the Servant would be accomplished, ends in utter frustration because of the inability of those who have the responsibility for fulfillment of this work. The reason for Israel's inability is shown to be Israel's sin. The problem has been made clear. It will be further emphasized and developed before the solution is reached.