

120 50:4-9

His prophetic work, in which He opened up the mysteries of God in the wonderful discourses included in the gospels. Here the Servant declares that God has given Him "the tongue of the learned."

The word that the King James Version rightly translates "learned" ^{^31} is a plural noun, the form of which is clearly derived from a passive participle. It does not mean one who is learning but one who has learned or has been taught. The same word occurs at the end of the verse.

Use of the word "learned" indicates the thorough training of the Servant of the LORD. He has been trained to hear the voice of God. During His earthly life, Jesus Christ lived in a very close relationship with His Father. He said: "I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things" (John 8:28).

God expects Christians to learn to hear His voice, as revealed through His written Word. He has messages in the Bible for all of us. Correct understanding of His meaning requires careful study. God desires us to be able "to listen as those who have been taught."

Verses 5-6 vividly portray the humiliation of the Servant. He voluntarily submitted to suffering and death. Jesus said of His life: "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:18).

Verse 7 declares the Servant's determination to go through with the work assigned to Him. Jesus "stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). Though men might scorn Him, He knew that His Father would vindicate Him. This thought is developed further in verse 8. The One who will vindicate Him is near. Who then can stand against Him?

Verse 9 implies that the Servant possesses everlasting life, for He declares that His adversary will "wear out like a garment." This would be true of any mere human being. The implication is that the Servant is more than human.

These six verses have described the unique character of the Servant of the LORD and have vividly portrayed His humiliation. In the last two verses of the passage, the Servant speaks