

things. Our telescopes pierce the great distances of the celestial world which stretch so far beyond our vision; all the wonders of the heavens have been created and established by Him.

In verse 13 God declares again that Cyrus has been raised up by Him for His own righteous purposes and that He will control all the actions of this great world conqueror. God predicts that Cyrus will let the Israelite captives go, not for price nor reward but because this is part of God's plan. In verse 14 He declares that He will deliver Egypt and Ethiopia and Seba to Cyrus in return for allowing the Israelites to go. We recall that this had already been predicted in Isaiah 43:3.

Verse 15 is probably the declaration of one who is troubled. He says that God is hidden; he cannot understand the ways of God. God's answer follows. The idol worshippers will be confounded. They have no answer to the problem of life. Israel is to be saved and will not be ashamed, world without end. God established the universe with a definite plan and He is now declaring that plan. In verse 18, He states that He did not create the earth in order that it might be destroyed. He formed it to be inhabited; He has His own great purposes in all that occurs. Although sin seems to have destroyed the appearance of God's wonderful creation, we know that He will yet restore all things as in the beginning and will establish His wonderful millennium upon this earth.

In verse 19, God says that He did not speak in secret, but that He has declared these things openly. He did not tell the seed of Jacob to seek Him in vain but He is speaking righteousness and He will open the way for the attainment of His righteousness by those who truly seek Him. Just how is He to do this? The full answer is not yet given. We do not reach it in its completeness until we come to chapter 53!

In verse 20 God again calls upon those who worship an idol to prove that it has any power whatever. He demonstrates His own power in verse 21 by the argument so often stressed in these chapters -- His power to predict the future. He tells us what He will do and then He proceeds to do it; consequently we know that He actually exists and has the power to perform these things. Many a man has attempted to predict the future and has utterly failed. There are so many circumstances involved in prediction that it takes more