

that the same book would contain those pictures and this one. Clearly the speaker here is not Israel, but the servant of the Lord taking the place of Israel and of the people of God, and undergoing in their place the suffering which they deserve.

This passage begins with a declaration of the wonderful teaching work of God's servant. God has indeed given Him the tongue of the learned. We read in the Gospels that people said of Christ: "Never did man speak like this Man." He was able to speak a word in season to the weary. He said, "Come unto Me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

The very close relation of the Servant to His Father is here described. God wakened Him morning by morning, wakening His ear to hear God's message.

In verse 5 we have a statement which no other who ever lived except the Lord Jesus Christ could truly say. "I was not rebellious neither turned I away back." Every other has failed God at some point or other. This One was absolutely true to the work to which God called Him.

In verse 6 we have the voluntary suffering of Christ. It is utterly different from the involuntary suffering that Israel went through for its own sin. He went as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. He hid not His face from shame and spitting but willingly offered Himself a ransom for many.

In verse 7 He declares that with the help of God He set His face as a flint to perform the work that God gave Him. We read in Luke 9:53 that He set His face to go up to Jerusalem. He knew what was ahead of Him there but nothing could deter Him from doing His Father's will.

Perhaps in verses 8-9 we hear the Servant continuing to speak and declaring His certainty that God will enable Him to carry out the work to which He has been called. It is more likely, however, that the speaker in these verses is one of those who believe in the finished work of Christ, joyfully proclaiming that the One Who has justified him is near, and that consequently, he fears no one. He is ready to face the adversary in the knowledge that he is perfectly safe because God has procured his justification, and God is ready to protect him. All who oppose the work of God shall wax old