

as a garment, and moths shall eat them up. Only those who are true to the Lord remain safe forever.

Two Possible Fates

Verses 10-11 contain a declaration addressed to two classes of people: those who fear the Lord, and those who kindle opposition to Him. The first group is urged to trust in the Lord. "In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:8,9 American Standard Version). One who obeys the voice of God's true Servant need never walk in darkness and be without light. Even though he cannot see the way which is ahead, he can safely trust in God and know that God will bring him through; his feet are on the solid Rock of the finished work of redemption provided by the Servant of the Lord.

In contrast to verse 10, verse 11 tells the fate of those who oppose God and kindle fiery darts of destruction and confusion. By their own fires they are to perish. Their own schemes will bring swift destruction upon them. This is their fate from the hand of God: they will lie down in everlasting sorrow. These verses state clearly the two possibilities before every man. He may accept the finished work of Christ and enjoy perfect peace in God, or, resisting the Lord and opposing His Son, he will receive eternal sorrow and death as his portion.

Isaiah 51:1-52:12

The great passage about the Servant of the Lord which we have just examined and the even greater one in Isaiah 52:13-53:12, are separated by a passage of exhortation.

This passage is divisible into three main sections, of which the first has three sub-divisions, each beginning with the word "hearken." The second section has three sub-divisions, each of which begins with "awake." The third is a chorus of joy, made up of three subdivisions. These portions begin as follows: