

flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill."

The chapter ends with a reference to God's supreme place as the one who will bring the promised blessings to pass: "I the Lord will hasten it in his time." This statement stresses the fact that the entire chapter describes something which God will bring to pass in His own time in accordance with His gracious and sovereign plan.

Isaiah 61

We now reach the high point of the passage from Isaiah 59:15b-63:6. We have called this chapter, "The Redeemer Describes His Work." Between Isaiah 41 and 53 we often found descriptions of the wonderful character who would be the true Servant of the Lord. In those passages His work was usually described in the third person, though in chapter 49 He Himself was represented as speaking, describing what God had done for Him and how God was going to use Him.

In the present chapter the Redeemer speaks again, and describes His purposes in vivid and gripping language.

The chapter may be divided into three parts:

- (1) vv. 1-3 The Servant Declares His Message.
- (2) vv. 4-9 The Glory of the Redeemer's People.
- (3) 61:110-62:1 The Assured Completion of the Redeemer's Mission.

1. The Servant Declares His Message, 61:1-3

Some interpreters have questioned whether the Redeemer is the speaker here. The speaker is certainly not God, in the usual sense, for several times the passage speaks of Him in the third person. Some would suggest that the prophet is the speaker. Such an interpretation would be quite out of keeping with the attitude of the prophet in the book of Isaiah, for he usually keeps himself in the background, and these declarations about the great accomplishments to be performed by the speaker go far beyond anything that Isaiah ever suggests that he himself would be qualified to do. It is inconceivable that the prophet would say that he was able to give the mourners "beauty for ashes" (v. 3), or that he would