

just aspersions. The Pentateuch often speaks of our loving God's commandments and his judgments. The revelations which God gives of what is right and true are a phase of his judgments. We now learn that the servant is to bring judgments to the nations;—the authorized version translates it Gentiles, an equally possible translation. The word nation used here is occasionally used of Israel, but this is rare. Ordinarily it refers to the nations outside of Israel. Sometimes it is translated heathen and sometimes nations. The translation ^{nations} Gentiles is comparatively uncommon in the Old Testament but the corresponding word in the New Testament is quite regularly translated by it.

(6 $\frac{1}{2}$) This statement makes it clear that Israel was never intended to be a self-sufficient group apart from^a relationship with other nations. It is true that Israel was God's instrument to keep the true faith alive through the centuries and to give his full revelation. Yet from the very beginning it was part of the plan that Israel should be God's instrument to make his message known to all the nations. This was a vital part of ultimate objective.

The next two verses tell us the manner in which the servant is to fulfill his work. We see in them the steady progress of one who can walk forward with confidence and certainty that the work will be performed. He does not need to throw himself impetuously into a task or to summon up his very last possible efforts in order to do it. God is upholding him and giving him the strength and courage to move forward quietly but effectively. He shall not cry nor lift up his voice nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. His work is not one performed with a great rush of emotion or a terrible effort. It is done with quietness and confidence. The third verse shows that he will not simply destroy everything that he finds in order to make way for his-own what he has. A reed, even bruised, he will not break. Where there is strength, even extremely feeble strength, he will preserve it rather than destroy it. A smoking flax (Revised Version, margin, the half-burning wick) he will not quench. Where there is even a small flame of truth, of real truth, he will support it, not destroy it. This is not the method of one who is making his energy accomplish the very utmost because he is far from sufficient for the task set before him. We see omnipotence and divine wisdom in the picture of the accomplishment of what the servant is to accomplish. He ~~must~~ ^{will} bring forth judgment unto truth. Again we have this