

to be brought to the ends of the earth. Light is to come to the Gentiles. Israel is responsible for this work and God guarantees that the work will indeed be accomplished.

This last section of this chapter strikingly parallels the last section of chapter 42. The contrast between verse 21 and 22 is very sharp. God has been declaring his power, the things that he is going to do, the certainty of their accomplishment. Now he turns again to the actual condition of Israel. God has promised all this to Israel and has done so many things for it in the past, but they have not called upon him. This is one of the most poignant passages in all literature. After describing his mighty power he reproaches the people for having been weary of him, not brought him the small cattle for their burnt offering, or honored him with sacrifices. He declares that he has not laid heavy burdens upon them (the last part of verse 23) but 24 shows them failing to be interested in trying to please him. Instead of this they have made him to serve with their sins, wearied him with their iniquities. Verse 25 declares that he was willing to redeem them, to blot out their transgressions, he is going to blot them out, and not to remember their sins. Verse 26, calls upon them, pleads with them to seek the justification he is so ready to give. The Verses first-of 27, and 28, vigorously condemn their shame and declare that it is a result of this that he has sent them into exile and given them over to suffering. Even after this striking rebuke, ~~verse~~ <sup>Chapter</sup> 44 begins again as 43 did, with strong assurance of God's continuing love toward his people.