

"righteousness," making it read, "a man of righteousness." While this could describe a man who is righteous, it could equally well mean one who is God's instrument for accomplishing His own righteous purposes. Thus there is not necessarily any statement here regarding the character of Cyrus but rather regarding God's purpose in enabling Cyrus to carry on his great career of conquest.

When the verse is read exactly as it stands, it says that God is bringing His righteous and just purposes to fulfillment through one whom He will enable to make great conquests. It briefly introduces the conqueror from the east and declares that God has raised him up for God's own purposes.

Verses 5-7 describe the terror of the nations as they see Cyrus advancing. Their immediate impulse is to look for supernatural help, which they foolishly think can be obtained by preparing new idols.

(5) The coastlands saw it and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid. They drew near and came. (6) Everyone helps his neighbor, and says to his brother, be strong. (7) So the carpenter encourages the goldsmith, and the one who smooths metal with the hammer encourages the one who beats the anvil, saying of the soldering, it is good; and he fastens it with nails so that it should not totter.

After this picture of the terror of the nations as they see the advance of the mighty conqueror from the east, a long passage is devoted to telling Israel why she need not similarly fear.

(8) But you, Israel, are my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendant of Abraham my friend. (9) You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its remotest parts, and said to you, You are my servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. (10) Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, indeed I will help you, indeed I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (11) Behold, all who are angered at you will be put to shame and dishonored. Those who contend with you will be as nothing, and will perish. (12) You will seek those who contend with you, but will not find