

65 42:1-4

the task for which Israel had been called to be God's Servant. In chapter 42 the task is only generally outlined; few details are given, and many aspects that are later developed are not mentioned here. The parts of his work stressed in these verses bear a close relation to the various matters described in the previous chapter. There the nations were filled with fear at the coming of a great conqueror whose purposes were quite unknown to them, though Israel was told that she need not fear this conqueror. Here it is stated that the Servant of the LORD will bring forth justice to the nations.

The word translated "judgment" <sup>10</sup> in the King James Version really means "the establishment of justice." The word there translated "gentiles" <sup>11</sup> can equally well be translated "nations." It covers all the nations outside of Israel and is sometimes used to include Israel as well.

This thought is repeated in verse 3: "He will make justice come forth in accordance with truth." These two verses show clearly that all injustice and wickedness are to be brought to an end by his activity, and that the justice that he establishes will be completely equitable and right. Further assurance that the Servant will establish complete justice throughout the earth is repeated in verse 4, with the added mention that the distant areas, which are called by the general term "coastlands," will wait for his law. Their actions will be controlled by his decision and they will look with expectation to his proper determination in all matters of uncertainty.

Thus in chapter 42 it is declared that the Servant will produce results that are worldwide in scope. The work is described in rather general terms, and, as we shall see later, some of the most vital aspects of the task of the Servant are not mentioned at all in this introductory passage.

In neighboring portions of this section of Isaiah much is said about the sad condition of the Israelites, held in captivity far from their homeland, tending to give way to despair, needing many words of comfort and hope. In our present passage the need of Israelis hardly touched upon. Attention is focused almost entirely on the tremendous task to be performed for the