

66 42:1-4

Gentile nations, bringing judgment and law to the distant coastlands.

The third and fourth subjects in the passage deal with the way the Servant will do his work. Here these matters are developed much more fully than the actual nature of the work. The second verse stresses the calm certainty with which he proceeds to accomplish his purposes. It is not necessary for him to exert great force. He does not face a crisis situation in which it is necessary to yell and push. He does not cry out or lift up his voice or cause it to be heard in the street.

Verse 2, taken by itself, could picture a supine, ineffective individual who was accomplishing nothing; but in connection with the great deeds summarized in the neighboring verses, it is clearly a picture of one moving forward with confidence, possessing such great strength that only a small part of it needs to be exerted to bring about the desired result.

Verse 3 further stresses the gentleness of his activity. It is not necessary for him to strike out violently, letting the chips fall where they may. He is so strong and so confident that he can deal gently and reasonably with every particular factor. He will not break a bruised reed that seems fit only to be thrown away. The same idea is brought out in the next figure: He will not "extinguish a dimly burning wick." The picture here is of a lamp that is trying to give light but failing to dispel the darkness. The natural tendency is to say, "Let's simply throw it away." He, however, will not quench it but will act gently toward it, giving it full credit for its effort. Thus verse 3 presents both his gentleness and his unfailing confidence.

This fourth factor, the confidence and apparent ease with which he will accomplish his task, is clearly brought out in verse 4.

These four verses contain a remarkable picture of the work the Servant will accomplish and the amazing manner in which he will perform it. It is no wonder that the mind cries out, after reading them, for assurance that there is a God who is able and willing to make this prediction come true.

In answer to this need, verse 5 departs from the immediate