

subject and gives further assurance. Impossible as it may seem that the predictions contained in the first four verses will be fulfilled, we need not fear, for God the LORD has given His word. As evidence that what has been said will actually happen, the LORD points to the stupendous acts that He has already performed. It was He who created the entire universe. He established the wide reaches of space and determined the motions of the planets in their orbits. All the universe moves in accordance with His will.

From the declaration of God's power in making the universe as a whole, the verse proceeds logically to what He has done on this earth. Each of its features exists because it is His will that it should. In addition to the varied shape of the earth's surface, as He "spread it out," He formed all that it produces. All plant and animal life comes into existence according to His will.

Next the verse looks at human beings and declares that it is God who enables them to breathe. He gives spirit to those who traverse the earth. The human body without a spirit would be like an animal, greatly limited in every way and merely following its instincts, active for a few years and then forever still. God has placed everlasting spirits within human bodies. Every spirit comes from Him.

Thus verse 5 stresses the supreme power of God, as evidence that He can enable His Servant to perform all that has been stated in verses 1-4, and it also introduces the next two verses, which reiterate and amplify the first two factors already mentioned in verses 1-4.

The first factor is reiterated at the beginning of verse 6, as God asserts that He has called the Servant in accordance with His righteous purpose and will guard him as he performs his work. The second is discussed in the long sentence that begins in the latter part of verse 6 and includes all of verse 7. This sentence gives a new summary of the Servant's task. He will not be simply a military conqueror who treads down whatever is in his way. He is to be as a covenant to a people and as a light to nations.

The title "Servant of the LORD" is never applied to Cyrus,