

In the King James Version, the third phrase in verse 19 seems quite out of harmony with the others. It reads: "Who is blind as he that is perfect?" The rather rare form here translated "perfect" could be derived from either of two very similar Hebrew verbs, one of which means "to be whole, sound, or perfect." ^12 The other means "to be at peace," or "to be in a covenant of peace." ^13 The form of the verb is a passive *pual* participle. ^14 There are a number of instances in Hebrew where certain types of passive participles are considered similar to the Latin gerundive, which indicates what ought to be rather than what is. If this interpretation is permissible here, it would fit perfectly with the context, and would designate one who ought to be perfect enough to do the work described in the early part of this chapter as the task of the Servant of the LORD. Another possible interpretation, deriving from the other root, would take it as meaning "one who has been placed in a covenant of peace."

Verse 20 continues the thought of verse 19 in somewhat elliptical fashion. The word that we have translated "observe" means "to keep, or guard." It does not mean that the Servant has not looked intelligently at the many things he has seen but rather that he has failed to carry out and protect God's commandments.

(21) The LORD was pleased for his righteousness' sake to make the law great and glorious. (22) But this is a people robbed and despoiled; they are all trapped in caves or hidden away in prisons. They have become a prey with no one to rescue them, and a spoil with no one to say, Give them back. (23) Who among you will give ear to this? Who will give heed and listen for the time to come? (24) Who gave up Jacob to the spoiler, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned? and in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they did not obey? (25) Therefore he has poured on him the fury of his anger, and the might of battle. It set him on fire roundabout, but he did not understand it; it burned him, but he did not take it to heart.

Verse 21 might seem to represent a change in subject, but it