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emphasize the greatness of God. Verse 8 contains another of Isaiah's beautiful doxologies.

The next verses call attention to the sovereignty of God. The all-wise Creator has a beneficent purpose in all that He does.

(9) Woe to the one who strives with his maker, like an earthen vessel among the vessels of the earth. Will the clay say to the potter, What are you doing? Will the thing you are making say, He has no hands? (10) Woe to him who says to a father, What are you begetting? Or to a woman, To what are you giving birth?

Nothing that God has created has a right to question the designs of the mighty God who sees the end from the beginning. Yet in the next verse the LORD graciously invites His people to inquire about His purposes.

(11) Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and its maker: Ask me about the things to come concerning my sons, and you may command me concerning the work of my hands.

God condescends to allow His creatures to understand some of His purposes. The next few verses stress His power and His determination to free His people.

(12) I have made the earth and created man upon it. My hands have stretched out the heavens, and I have commanded all their host. (13) I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways. He shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price or reward, says the LORD of hosts. (14) Thus says the LORD, The work of Egypt and the merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, will come over unto you, and they will be yours. They will follow you. They will come over in chains and fall down before you and will make supplication to you saying, Truly God is in you and there is no other, there is no other God. (15) Surely you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.

Although man has no inherent right to know the future and can find true happiness only in putting complete trust in the