

**The Individualization of the Servant of the Lord: Isaiah 49:1-12**

WE NOW COME to the second extensive passage on this vital theme. Its first seven verses read as follows:

(1) Listen to me, coastlands, and pay attention, people from afar. The LORD called me from the womb; from the body of my mother he caused my name to be remembered. (2) And he made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me, he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. (3) And he said to me, You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified. (4) But I said, I have toiled in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and uselessly; yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God. ^27 (5) And now says the LORD who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, in order that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God is my strength. (6) And he said, It is too small a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore those preserved of Israel; I will also make you a light to the nations, so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (7) Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and its Holy One, to the despised one, to the one abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: kings shall see and rise, princes shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen you.

This passage was doubtless included among those that Jesus explained to the disciples after His resurrection (Luke 24:27). It contains many thoughts that would previously have been