

of their context in order to fit his ideas; he was interpreting the verse exactly in agreement with the thought of the passage as a whole, with its wonderful promise of worldwide extension of the knowledge of what the LORD's Servant would do at Calvary.

In verse 3 the promise is given that the message will be carried in all directions. As a result, the descendants of the one who was formerly barren but who has now received salvation will possess nations and people cities that were formerly desolate, as far as any knowledge of the true God was concerned.

After verse 3 the speaker ceases to direct his attention specifically to the one who had borne no child and instead addresses the married woman:

(4) Do not fear, for you will not be put to shame. Do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced. You will forget the shame of your youth and will no longer remember the reproach of your widowhood, (5) for your Maker is your husband; the LORD of Hosts is his name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. He will be called the God of the whole earth. (6) For the LORD has called you, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected, says your God. (7) For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. (8) In an outburst of anger I hid my face from you for a moment; but with everlasting loving-kindness I will have compassion on you, says the LORD your Redeemer. (9) This is like the waters of Noah to me, when I swore that the waters of Noah should not flood the earth again; so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you nor rebuke you. (10) For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and my covenant of peace will not be taken away, says the LORD who has compassion on you.

The difference between this passage and the preceding one is very great. Its first two verses show clearly that a different person is being addressed. She is called a "wife of one's youth" (v. 6) who has suffered "the reproach of widowhood" (v. 4) and has been rejected for a time but is now to be restored. The