

declares that their assailants will eventually fall and that God's purposes will triumph in and through His people.

In verse 16 God states that no one can build instruments of destruction without His permission and that He will use even the forces of evil as instruments to accomplish His purposes.

This verse summarizes the teaching about God's relation to the Assyrians that is presented in Isaiah 10:5-15.

The first part of verse 17 promises that every weapon formed against God's people will eventually fail and that everyone who attacks them will eventually be overthrown.

The fact that two separate sentences are included in this one verse can easily give the false impression that the last half of the verse merely summarizes the first half. Actually, the final sentence summarizes the entire chapter, saying that this is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and belongs to them because of what the LORD's Servant accomplished, as described in Isaiah 53. As a result of what the Servant has done, His followers, here called "the servants of the LORD, " will receive a marvelous heritage, including the general blessings described in this chapter and the individual blessings described in the next two chapters.

The King James translation of the final words of this verse, "their righteousness is of me," ^53 can easily give a false impression. The Hebrew uses a very emphatic preposition which combines the two words *from* and *with*, thus clearly pointing to God as the source and origin of the righteousness mentioned. In view of the full statement in chapter 53 of the foundation on which all true righteousness must be based, we can reasonably consider these words a clear statement of the fact that justification of God's people must originate with Him and is not produced by any accomplishment of man. God imputes His righteousness to those who are saved through Christ. Thus the chapter ends with a positive declaration that justification is only by faith.

At this point the Revised Standard Version says "vindication" instead of "righteousness." ^54 This reading may be proper in certain contexts but is quite out of place here. The word