listen carefully in order to understand the unbelievable riches of His marvelous offer.

The next passage begins in the middle of verse 3:

> (3*c*) And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. (4) Behold, I have given him as a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander to the peoples. (5) See, you will call a nation you do not know, and nations that have not known you will run to you because of the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

The invitation is followed by assurance that the blessings promised are not temporary but permanent. This was already suggested in the statement, "that your soul may live." Here the Lord promises that He will make an everlasting covenant with all who answer His gracious invitation. In the physical matters of life one may feel completely satisfied for a time, but a few hours later he will hunger and thirst again. Psychological stresses and strains often produce a feeling of dissatisfaction or uncertainty; but the one who has received the gift promised in this chapter has a right to say, "God has established an everlasting covenant with me. No matter how I may feel, I can know that He has given me the wine and milk I need. I should turn away from the merely temporary things of this world and let my soul delight itself in fatness."

The promised covenant is described as "the sure mercies of David." There are three problems involved in the translation of this phrase. The first relates to the word rendered "sure" in the King James Version and "faithful" in the *New American Standard Bible*. This Hebrew word ^55. literally means "made firm." It is related to the word *amen*, with which prayers are concluded.

The second problem concerns the word that is translated "mercies" hundreds of times in the King James Version. ^56 Most modern translations tend to render it "loving-kindnesses" or "steadfast love." It goes far beyond our modern word mercy, but the element of forgiveness and compassion is involved in