

A very interesting instance of the working out of this principle of progressive revelation is found in connection with this theme, "the servant of the Lord." This phrase appears first in verse 8 and is repeated in verse 9.

Here God declares that Israel is His servant -- not His pet. He has raised up Israel to be His servant, to accomplish a vital task. Until this task is performed no one could destroy Israel.

Verse 10 declares God's protection over His people. It is a wonderful promise-one which is often used by people today to strengthen them in times of adversity.

Do we have a right to take this verse out of its context and apply it to ourselves? In order to determine this we must examine the situation under which it is spoken. We note that the context is entirely addressed to Israel. Yet it is not given simply as a sign of special favor to Israel, but because Israel is recognized as being the servant of God. If one of us is sure that he is a servant of God and that his life is being used for God's glory, then truly he has a right to apply this verse to himself even though it is originally addressed to Israel in exile in Babylon.

Verse 11 is not quoted as frequently as verse 10; yet it is equally true. How often verses 11 and 12 have proven true in the history of the Jews! Men who have attempted to destroy them have indeed been ashamed and confounded. Even in our own day we have seen severe retribution come to those who have persecuted Israel.

What a statement is contained in verse 12: "Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them." Today we look in vain for any remnant of the great empires of Assyria and Babylonia. The great forces which have persecuted the Jews through the ages have disappeared and been forgotten. Only a few remains of broken walls and ruined buildings attest the one-time greatness of these mighty empires. We can seek in vain for those who have persecuted God's people, but God's people remain.

The preservation of the Jew is one of the great proofs of the truth of God's Word. Everything which God has not planted shall be rooted up (Mat. 15:13). That which truly is established by the Lord will abide forever.