

The Trinity Indicated

Still another startling element of this striking verse must be noticed. Not only is the speaker, whose deity is indicated, designated as one sent by the Lord God, but there is mention of the Spirit of God in the same phrase. The presence of the Holy Spirit, as the third member of the Trinity, is undoubtedly suggested. Again we find a great truth suggested in anticipation of later full explanation. One can never truly understand the divine Book without recognizing the fact that it often suggests great truths before they are fully explained.

While this may seem strange in some of the books of the Bible, it is just what one would expect in a poem with such a structure as that of this part of Isaiah. Sometimes a note is heard so faintly as to be hardly recognizable. Again and again it may recur, constantly becoming clearer, until at last it may become the great theme of a longer section. The theme of Cyrus, the deliverer from Babylon, has been presented in exactly this fashion. The theme of the real cause of the exile -- the sin which caused it -- has been similarly treated. Now we are fast approaching the point where the theme of redemption from sin -- an evil even greater than the exile which it has caused -- must be more fully dealt with.

A minor point in connection with the teaching regarding the Holy Spirit calls for attention. We have noticed that the King James Version ends the verse with the words, "and now the Lord GOD and his Spirit, hath sent me." In the American Standard Version the translation is somewhat different. It reads, "and now the Lord Jehovah hath sent me, and his Spirit." Thus the King James Version takes the Spirit to be associated with God in the sending, while the American Standard Version considers the Spirit to be sent with the servant. The original Hebrew contains no indication whether the phrase "and his Spirit" is subject or object. One is free to take it either way, depending on which he considers to be most in line with the teaching of Scripture elsewhere.

Isaiah 49 and 50

These two chapters form a section which is divisible into three parts. The first is 49:1-13; the second is 49:14-50:3;