

show us that this great activity of the servant's mouth lies still in the future.

The other thought in this verse is that God has hid him "in the shadow of his hand" and "in his quiver." God has protected his servant. Though all the forces of the ancient world attempted to destroy God's people Israel, they could not succeed because God's hand was protecting. Though all the forces of wickedness have tried to destroy the Word of Christ, they have never succeeded. God's Word is eternal because God Himself protects it.

We have already looked at the third verse and seen what it reveals about the relation of the servant to Israel.

Apparent Failure

Verse 4 suggests a note which is hard at first sight to reconcile with the description in chapter 42 of the claims and successful accomplishments of the servant. The suggestion has been made that in this verse the nation of Israel interjects a statement of its inability to fulfill the tremendous task that has been assigned. Although this may be the correct view, it is not impossible to consider that the servant himself is here expressing the apparent failure of the nation, which he represents, and suggesting the additional fact that his own work would appear to many as a failure. Truly that is how it appeared to the little band of disciples immediately after Calvary. Yet his judgment is with the Lord, and there is no reason for discouragement. God will make sure that the work which He has planned will be accomplished.

Verse 5 echoes the thought of the "seed of the woman" and points out that the servant is to bring Jacob again to the Lord, and is himself to be glorified through the strength of God.

In verse 6 the work of the servant for the tribes of Jacob, while recognized as a matter of tremendous importance, is nevertheless subordinated to the far greater task of being a light to the Gentiles and bringing the Lord's salvation to the very ends of the earth.

In verse 7 the humiliation of the servant is contrasted with his later exaltation. In anticipation we enter into the teaching clearly developed a few chapters later, in chapter 53.