

will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come?" How can Israel do the work of the servant of God? Israel is in exile. It is being spoiled. It is in suffering. It is blind and it is deaf. What is the answer? God says, "Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel ~~to~~ to the robbers? Did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not ~~not~~ walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law." It is Israel's sin that has put them where they are. You can't blame the Lord for it. The Lord says his servant ~~will~~ will do his great work. He describes the great work, and they can't do it. Why? Because they have fallen into sin. Therefore he has "poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about..." Here is God's servant. Here is what the servant is going to do. Israel is God's servant. And yet how can Israel do the work, because Israel falls far short of it. Israel has fallen into sin. Israel is in bondage in exile. And yet this is what God has called Israel for, for this work to be done. How can the work be done?

Well, we go on and we find further light on it. We go forward. But first, after pointing out in ~~1~~ v.25, it is not for your sin you are going to go into exile, you notice, but on account of your sin you have been sent into exile. "But now thus saith the Lord (43:1)..." God gives His theme again of comfort. Yes? Student.....AAM: We are going back, yes. That's the problem. Well, he goes on and he says, But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob. Here is comfort. Here is deliverance. "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee." Israel has fallen into sin. Fallen into exile. But it is not the end. The work of the servant must be done. Though Israel has failed, God is going to see that the servant's work is accomplished. And so he says comfort. "When thou passest ~~thou~~ through the waters I will be with thee...For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee." These sections Cyrus eventually conquers...end of P ~~198~~ 197