

44:2² be accomplished, and the light is to go to the Gentiles, and deliverance is to come. "Thou art my servant, I have formed thee, O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten....I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions." Israel can't do the work because of its sin. Sin is the root of the problem. They are in exile because they have turned away from God. Something must be done about the sin. "I have blotted out thy sin.../ return unto me, for I have redeemed thee." God's deliverance again. "Sing o heavens; for the Lord has done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth...for the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel." Now, a great theme on omniscience. "Thus says the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from thy womb..." Now, the stress is on omnipotence. "I am the Lord that maketh all things...~~and~~ and maketh their knowledge foolish. Now, omniscience. "Confirms the word of his servant, and performs the counsel of his messengers...that says of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure.." Cyrus predicted 150 years ahead. Here even is his name given, ~~and~~ God shows His omniscience as proof of his existence, and omniscience. That's Cyrus is going to be God's shepherd to do His purposes, and to be the instrument to cause that Jerusalem shall be rebuilt. "Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus..." Cyrus, the coming one to be God's instrument for His purpose. "I will ~~open~~ open ~~me~~ before him a two leaved gates and give Babylon unto him. I will go before him, and make the crooked places straight..." God is going to use Cyrus as the mighty coming conqueror to cause that Jerusalem will be ~~rebuilt~~ rebuilt, and he will give Cyrus the hidden riches, hidden away by the kings of Babylon and the other countries, the treasures hidden in dark places, that thou mayest know that I the Lord have called thee by thy name, and the God of Israel. Why is ~~God~~ God doing all this? "For Jacob my servant's sake..." Notice how many times he speaks of my servant, or the servant of the Lord from ch.41-53, and never again. Not once more any way. But all through here, over and over, and over in these chapters, the stress on the servant theme, the servant of God. I am the Lord, and there is none else. Omnipotence again. God's ~~supreme~~ supreme power. There is no God beside me. God's supreme power. "I form the light,