

passage ~~is~~ reaches its conclusion in the satisfactory fulfillment of the work of the servant which is not merely putting an end to an exile, but removing the cause of exile, removing the sin, and solving the problem of sin. Therefore, in v.12 of 53, "will I divide him a portion with the great, and he will divide the spoil with the strong; the great one, the strong one...." It does not say that Satan is ~~the~~ to loose everything that he has seized, of course ~~the~~ Satan does lose it, it doesn't do him any good in the end. But, he divides it. Satan has seized the whole earth as the result of his leading Adam away in Adam's sin, but the servant of God divides a portion with the mighty Satan. He seizes back much of the spoil. He seizes it from Satan. He does this in what way? Because he has bruised the serpent's head, but himself has had his heel bruised by the serpent. Because he has poured out his soul unto death, he was numbered with the transgressors, and he bore the sin of many, and he made intercession for the transgressors. And chapter 54 seems to be a strange change at first sight, after ~~the~~ 53, after what precedes. Actually, however, it is the very natural, and proper conclusion to what we have just had. What is the result? The sin question is dealt with. The servant of the Lord meets it. He divides a portion with the strong. He bears our sins upon the cross. There the Lord says, "Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear." (chapter 54) Who is this that did not bear? Who is this that up to this point has had very little to show? That has had nothing of an Isaiah, or a David, or a Jeremiah, or a great spiritual leader to show. Thou didst not bear. "Break into singing and cry alone, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord." What a remarkable thing. The married wife, the one who has been God's choice, the one who was ~~the~~ called apart to do His work in the world, the one who is described by Hosea in such vivid words, as under the figure of a young faithful wife, ~~this one~~ has had many great spiritual children, many true believers, many great leaders in the true ~~the~~ work of God, and we have noticed Moses and David and Isaiah, and Ezekiel and Jeremiah, and so many of them, but he says, "More are the children of the desolate, ~~the~~ than the children of the married wife."