

What a peculiar thing for him to say? It is an unusual expression and for a man to use for himself and why should Israel say this? Why should Israel make such a statement about itself? What is the reason for this? The one spoken of here is the one called before his birth and what is the great importance of that in speaking to the eyes. Truly there is here a suggestion--just a suggestion. It is not a proof but just a suggestion of the virgin birth and we have had suggestions of it before and here is another one. Nothing that you could build it upon, nothing that would teach it to you but a suggestion that fits in with other suggestions of the fact that this one is one who has been known before his birth and there is something very strange and unusual about his birth. He then says "he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword." That you remember reminds us of ch. 42 where we have a picture of the ideal servant and here indeed the servant is speaking and showing he is like the ideal servant. The verse goes on and it shows to us the work for which it has been cut out to do and made ready and bound to accomplish and it is the work for which it has been established. It reminds us of the statement in 42 of the judgment being brought to the servant of the Lord, the one who goes forward silently and patiently with full assurance. He has the power to accomplish the work which he has set out to do and he shall not fail nor be discouraged but he hath set judgment on the earth and the isles shall wait for his loins. And he said, "Thou art my servant Israel in whom I will be glorified" and here is the ideal servant speaking and the one who represents Israel and that is the one who represents Israel. Yet as he says it you think at once of Israel and you wonder what the servant of Israel has to say about it and then he goes on to say "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength in vain" and there is a note of uncertainty here and yet we know the ideal servant would never be discouraged and we note a little note of frustration and discouragement here. Can Israel do the work of a servant? Israel then asks if she can do it and it has labored in vain. Then comes the statement that surely my judgment is with the Lord and the ideal servant can never be discouraged as God is the one who promises assurance. Then it goes on and we ask if Israel brings forth Jacob, how can it bring forth Israel and the servant is Israel and yet the servant is one who represents Israel. He has a work to do for the rest of the people as well as for Israel. He brings Jacob again to him and then a servant is one who can be thought of apart from this and it performs the work for which Israel comes into the world and it is thought to bring Jacob again to him and yet will he be glorious in the eyes of the Lord and God said He would be my strength. It is a light thing to bring up the

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