

This same face is alluded to or suggested in various other passages. In 44.28 God says of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid."

In 45.13 God says of him, "I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives/ ..."

Our section contains many wonderful promises that God is going to give help to His people as they make their long return journey across the desert to rebuild Jerusalem. Thus in 48.20,21 we read, "Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob." And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts; he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them; he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out."

In chapter 52.11,12 we read, "Depart he, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord. For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward."

Thus ~~///~~ it is clear that the situation to which Isaiah addresses himself in our marvelous section of his book is a situation in which the godly people are so oppressed with the certainty of the fact that exile is coming, that they imagine it as actually there, and tend to give way to discouragement. Isaiah gives them a picture of the end of the exile, assuring them that it is going to be ended and telling them a good many details of the way in which ~~///~~ God is going to deliver his people through sending a mighty conqueror who will overthrow the Assyrian empire and will give the Jews ^{assistance,} ~~a system,~~ will release the Jews from captivity, and give them assistance toward the rebuilding of Jerusalem.