

Before looking at it let us examine the verses which intervene.

Verse five again declares the omnipotence of God. Even the people who deny His existence receive their very breath only because He chooses to give it to them. He is the One who has created all things. What is the duty of His servant? Verses six and seven declare that His servant is to be a covenant of the people and a light of the Gentiles. His servant is to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison. How can Israel do this when she is herself a prisoner?

In verses eight to eighteen the theme of the greatness of God as compared with the futility of the idols is constantly in mind. It is God who will accomplish the deliverance and bring mighty things to pass. Those who trust in idols will be greatly ashamed.

A Perplexing Problem

The misgiving which we have mentioned as inevitably occurring in the mind of Israel in relation to the wonderful picture of the ideal servant is clearly expressed in verse nineteen and following. The Lord says, "Who is blind but my servant, or deaf, as my messenger that I sent?" Verse twenty-one tells us that the Lord will indeed magnify His righteousness, but in verse twenty-two we are again brought face to face with the great difficulty. How can Israel fulfill the demands of the work of the servant of the Lord when "this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses?"

set (?)
after "

It is a problem which seems unanswerable. However, there is an additional note that deserves to be stressed. Verse twenty-four points out the reason why Israel has come into this condition. "Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? for