

idea in 45:14.

The theme of God's love for Israel and the certainty that He will re-gather and deliver them is continued in verses four to seven.

In verse eight the theme of the vanity of idols recurs. All the nations are called upon again to appear before the Lord and to attempt to show that their false gods have either knowledge or power. In contrast to this God declares in verse ten that the Israelites are His witnesses. They are His servant whom He has chosen; in spite of everything that has happened Israel is to be the medium through which His world-wide work ~~of God~~ is to be accomplished.

Verses eleven and twelve repeat the thought of the greatness of God as the only possible saviour. Verses fourteen to seventeen stress the deliverance from Babylon which God will bring about. In verses eighteen to twenty-one He declares that even His great deeds of old will be surpassed by the new wonderful acts which He will perform and that this people which He formed for Himself will yet show forth His praise.

Between verses twenty-one and twenty-two occurs a sharp transition from God's promises of wonderful things which He will do for His people to His recognition of their present attitude. We have already noticed what a pathetic statement is found in verses twenty-two to twenty-four. How the Lord yearns over His people and longs that they shall really love Him and endeavor to be true to Him! Can we not imagine Him even today yearning over those who believe in Him? How He must look upon us with longing that we would truly serve Him and turn away from the many minor things which we allow to usurp His place in our lives and to keep us from giving Him that full devotion which He desires!

Even despite the sin of Israel so pathetically remembered here God declares