

world which stretch so far beyond our vision; all the wonders of the heavens ~~He~~
~~has~~ ^{have been} created and established ^{by Him.}

In verse thirteen God declares again that Cyrus has been raised up by Him for His own righteous purposes and that He will control all the actions of this great world conqueror. Cyrus, God predicts, will let the Israelite captives go — not for price nor reward but because this is part of God's plan. In verse fourteen He declares that He will deliver Egypt and Ethiopia and Seba to Cyrus in return for allowing the Israelites to go. We recall that this had already been predicted in Isaiah 43:3.

In verse fifteen it is likely that we have the declaration of one who is troubled. He says that God is hidden; he cannot understand the ways of God. God answers in what follows. The idol worshippers are to be confounded. They have no answer to the problem of life. Israel is to be saved and will not be ashamed world without end. God established the universe with a definite plan and He is now declaring that plan. In verse eighteen He states that He did not create the earth in order that it might be destroyed. He formed it to be inhabited; He has His own great purposes in all that occurs. Although sin seems to have destroyed the appearance of God's wonderful creation, we know that He will yet restore all things as in the beginning and will establish His wonderful millennium upon this earth.

In verse nineteen God says that He did not speak in secret but that He has declared these things openly. He did not tell the seed of Jacob to seek Him in vain but He is speaking righteousness and He will open the way for the attainment of His righteousness by those who truly seek Him. Just how is He to do this? The full answer is not yet given. We do not reach it in its completeness until we come to chapter fifty-three!

In verse twenty, God again calls upon those who worship an idol to prove that it has any power whatever. In contrast to it He demonstrates His own power in