

This necessity of being free from sin is stressed in the references to release from Babylonian captivity that come just before the beginning of ~~the~~ chapter 53. Those who return from captivity are referred particularly as those who bear the vessels of the Lord. They are the ones who are carrying the instruments for the reopening of the worship of God. They are the ones ~~are~~ who are entrusted with the treasures from the temple. These treasures from the temple are for the purpose of sacrifice. They are in order to show how God is going to redeem man by the sacrifice of bulls and goats as symbols of the marvelous provision that God ~~spoke of~~, will make. Those who bear the vessels of the Lord are exhorted to be clean, they are told to purify themselves, they are told to bring themselves into such a condition that they can properly bear the vessels of the Lord. How can this be accomplished. It is only through the ~~outworking~~ of God's marvelous plan in the accomplishment of the work of the servant of the Lord.

The section that we are now entering is the last that deals with the servant of the Lord. This term or its equivalent, has been used many times since chapter 41. Gradually it has been brought to the attention of the reader that the servant of the Lord is not Israel but a part of Israel, that ~~it~~ he represents Israel but that he is to do a work for the Gentiles, he is to bring light to the Gentiles and to bring judgment to the ends of the earth, yet his work is also to be done for Israel. In chapter 49 his individuality became very evident to us. Now we proceed to learn the great climax of His work. After the presentation of this there is no further mention of the servant of the Lord. Thereafter, Isaiah refers to the servants of the Lord--those who were the followers of the servant of the Lord. The description of the servant of the Lord is complete when chapter 53 is ended.

The first section of Isa. 52:13 to the end of 53 is a summary ~~consists~~ of a summary of the teaching of the chapter as a whole. In brief form its main elements are presented in the first 2 and a fourth verses of the section. It begins in verse 13 with a statement of the success of the servant's work. The first, the ~~the~~ very first words of this statement