

are rather hard to translate ~~the~~ English. The KJV reads ~~behold~~ behold my servant will deal prudently. The ASV reads , behold my servant will prosper. The Hebrew word contains something of both and is very difficult to express precisely in English. It means that he is to do what is wise and prudent, but it means much more than that. It means that He is going to be successful and effective in that which he undertakes. Thus it expresses at the very beginning here the statement that what the servant is going to do, whether it appears wise to human beings, or not, is to be part of God's wise plan, and that it is to be effectively carried out. This verse might be called the exaltation of the servant. It stresses the effectiveness of the servant's work and the fact that as a result of it, the servant is to be exalted, to be very high, he is to be recognized as having accomplished that which he came into the world to do.

The second portion of the summary of the work of the servant is in sharp contrast to the first. It describes his humiliation. From the first extended passage about the servant of the Lord, in chapter § 42 , one would never dream that the servant was to suffer humiliation. That passage describes Him as moving forward calmly and effectively, to accomplish what He sets out to do, never discouraged, never tempted to deal violently because of any question as to His ability to accomplish His task. In chapter 49 also we have a primarily a picture of His effectiveness as He gives light to the Gentiles and gathers the people of God regardless of race or background. One verse in 49 might suggest a certain question of His accomplishment, but this verse probably is the people as a whole questioning the carrying out of the work which has been assigned to them, rather than a prediction of the actual work of the servant. In chapter 50, we had a passage which seems best interpreted as a soliloquy of the servant in which he describes himself as suffering much humiliation and insult. Thus the suggestion has been made that the servant is to be humiliated. Verse 14 brings it out very strongly. The first part of 14 ~~has~~ presents a problem to many interpreters. Many were astonished at thee. It would be better to read astounded at thee, because the old English word astonished is no longer used, and is sometimes mis-