

up His people.

Verse twenty-three ends with a wonderful promise: "for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me." God does not promise that there may not be temporary embarrassment or even seeming failure, but in the end His will is bound to be accomplished. Those who truly and sincerely seek to serve Him will often find their efforts rewarded in ways far beyond what they had ever dreamed. God makes even the wrath of man to praise Him and brings things to pass in most unexpected and wonderful ways. Surely the people of God, reading these words of the prophet Isaiah, would have their faith strengthened and be encouraged to wait for the Lord, well assured that His wonderful promises would be fulfilled.

The second and third ANSWERS.

Heading The second answer to Zion's complaint is found in verses twenty-four to twenty-six. God says in effect: "It may seem difficult to you that the mighty ^{sh} would be forced to disgorge their prey or to surrender the captives whom they have taken. However, My power is far greater than that of any of the mighty of the earth and I shall exert this power to save the children of Zion." He will save them not merely from physical oppression and from the Babylonian captivity, as He has promised to do through Cyrus, but also from something far worse. He will deliver them from the terrible bondage of sin.

In verse twenty-six He points out the ~~terrible~~ fate ahead for the oppressors. They are to be filled with confusion and their paths will lead to destruction. We have seen this in our own generation in the case of many who have sought to obtain their own ends at the expense of human suffering. We have seen them fall into confusion and terrible disaster. God promises that this will be the fate of those who oppose His will or oppress His people. He is going to make it plain to all that He the Lord is the Saviour and the Redeemer and the Mighty One of Jacob.

The third answer to Zion's complaint is based upon the Lord's relationship to Zion (Isaiah 50:1-3). He asks the people of Zion: "Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement?" A better rendering would be "Where is there a bill of divorcement of your mother? What evidence is there that God has put her away, or that He has sold