

her to a creditor?" He declares that He has never taken any such action. The fate of the Jews is a result of their iniquity; it came because of their transgressions. They have fallen into serious difficulty as a result of sin. God has called but no man has answered (verse two). There is none other who is able to deliver the people from the fate which they have brought upon themselves. However, He announces that His hand is not shortened so that He cannot redeem. He proceeds to refer to a number of His former actions in connection with the deliverance of the people from Egypt. At His rebuke He dried up the sea; He caused the fish of the river to die; He caused darkness to cover the face of the earth. These are examples of the wonderful work which God performed in Egypt, showing the supremacy of His mighty power. The Egyptian bondage was typical of bondage ^{to sin} a captivity which is far more dangerous than any outward captivity which results from it. God declares His power to establish supremacy over the forces of evil, bringing darkness and ineffectiveness to their efforts. He who has done this in the past can do it again; He still maintains His relationship to those whom He has redeemed. He is still married to them and has never put them away from Him.

This finishes the ^{direct} treatment of the complaint of Zion but does not conclude the matter; what follows gives a clue to the decisive answer to the whole problem. The full bearing of this answer does not become entirely clear until chapter fifty-three has been reached, but its main elements are described in the words of the servant in the next section.

The Servant's Declaration

In various sections of the book so far we have had statements by the servant of the Lord that he is to be a light to the Gentiles; that he is to deliver the people from captivity; that he is to set free those who are in bondage. However, up to the present we have not been told in any clear way just how he is to do this. Now the explanation of the way in which he is to do it is ^{begun.} ~~shown.~~ The means of redemption which he describes is something which mere human wisdom could never have imagined. Only God Himself could have revealed it.