

In verses four to nine we have a statement by the servant describing the suffering which he is to go through and the great justification which he is to accomplish by it. As we read this passage describing the sufferings of the servant of the Lord—a theme which has been hardly touched upon thus far—it is natural to ask whether it is necessary to consider this passage as spoken by the servant, or whether it can be ~~considered~~ ^{taken instead} as a description of the sufferings which Israel is undergoing in exile. The answer to this question is furnished by verse five. There the ~~servant~~ ^{speaker} declares that he has not been rebellious nor turned away from doing the will of God; giving his back to the smiters he has voluntarily undergone the suffering here described. Such a statement is utterly out of harmony with the picture of Israel contained in the previous chapters of the book. Israel was there represented as a servant who is dumb and blind and rebellious. He has been sent into captivity for his sin; he has failed to bring any sweet corn to the Lord or any signs of love, but has turned away his ear and been rebellious. For Israel then to turn to the Lord and say, "I was not rebellious, neither turned away back" would be utterly inconsistent with the previous chapters. It is inconceivable that the same book would contain those pictures and this one. Clearly the picture here shows not Israel, but the servant of the Lord taking the place of Israel, and of the people of God, and undergoing in their place the suffering which they deserve.

This passage begins with the declaration of the wonderful teaching work of God's servant. God has indeed given to him the tongue of the learned. We read in the Gospels that people said of Christ "Never did man speak like this Man." He was able to speak a word in season to the ones who are weary. He said, "Come unto Me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

The very close relation of the Servant to His Father is here described. God wakened him morning by morning, wakening His ear to hear God's message. Jesus Himself said that He spoke not of Himself but that which the Father gave Him was what He said (John 5:30).

In verse five we have a statement which no other who ever lived except the Lord Jesus Christ could truly say. "I was not rebellious neither turned I away back."