

We look on to v. 6 and He says, "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob, and bring back those of Israel which have kept. I will also make you a light to the Gentiles that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." So here we find that the Servant who is Israel and who must represent Israel and be from Israel we find he has a work to do for Israel as well. So we have him individualized that he is a group or individual who can truly represent Israel in doing this great work. So we have the individualization of the Servant. He has to do a work for Israel but it does not stop with Israel. "I will also make you a light to the Gentiles that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

So we have this wonderful promise about what God is going to do thru the servant and the servant is Israel and yet separate from at least a part of Israel. Then we look ahead to v. 12 and we find--first we will look at v. 10 or 11. "I will turn all my mountains into roads, my highways will be raised up. See they will come from afar, some from the North, some from the West, some from the region of Tsinim." Here the work of the servant is going to reach out far to the North, far to the West, even so far as the region of Sinim.

This Sinim is a very interesting word. In China about 300 B.C. there was a section of China called Sin. This section which was the furthest western portion of China, and when merchants and travelers went to China that would be the first place they would come to. Very often an area gets named after the first part of it that you come to. This name Sin seemed to many of them to be a natural way to refer to the land of China. Then c. 300 B.C. the ruler of this section unified all of China and established the first dynasty of Chinese emperors. This dynasty did not last long. But it was a very powerful dynasty and it at least started the building of the Great Wall of China!!

Most other countries since that time have referred to China by the word China which seems to be derived from Sin. The im is the Hebrew plural ending. The people of Sinim. So this is the name that is called for China to this day although the Chinese themselves have never called themselves by that name. That was simply the name of the first dynasty that united the land and the part of the land that foreigners, travelers and business people came to first. So this has been the name used by other countries most of the time since that time.

I got a letter from a man who said the world of the OT did not reach as far as China! I would say the world of the OT reaches everywhere God is. God wrote the OT, and God led in the writing of it. Certainly God knew all about China! In addition to that we have abundant evidence that there was early trade between China and Egypt. There were contacts between them. But there are many who will not admit the knowledge of China as early as the writing of Isaiah, and so we have some translations that instead of calling it like the Hebrew Sinim (which would be the people of the land of Sinim) they take it to represent the little town in the southern end of Egypt!