

is the first suggestion of another phase of His experience - His humiliation and apparent failure.

The last part of the verse is sometimes translated, "the justice due me is with the LORD, and my recompense [or reward] is with my God." Objection to this rendering must be made on two counts, as follows:

1. While the insertion "due me" is possible, it is probably not correct. The Hebrew word rendered "my judgment" may refer to one's activity in establishing justice or to his receiving the justice due him. It is unlikely that the latter is what the Servant has in mind. It is far more probable that He is saying that though visible results of His work appear at this point to be lacking, He knows that the Lord will use Him to perform the assigned task.
2. The translation "my recompense [or reward]" has little warrant. The word that we have translated "my work" is a noun related to the common verb *pa'al*, meaning "do" or "act." This noun occurs in a number of contexts where "toil," "labor," or "activity" is clearly meant. Only in one case does the meaning "wages" seem desirable (Lev 19:13), and even there it may be a term to indicate the results of labor. While there are several other Hebrew words that have the definite meaning of "reward" or "wages," evidence of such a meaning for this word is almost entirely lacking. Our Lord is not here thinking of receiving a reward but of accomplishing the work for which He came into the world.

Verse 5 again refers to the fact that the LORD "formed me from the womb," and may possibly refer to the virgin birth. It continues with the statement that the bringing back of Israel is included in the Servant's work, a fact that readers of chapter 42 might not have expected, since the emphasis in that chapter is almost entirely on His worldwide ministry.

We have translated part of this verse, "in order that Israel might be gathered to him." The King James Version renders it, "though Israel be not gathered." The two translations represent a variant reading preserved in the Hebrew manuscripts,