

protection from storms and from the terrible heat of the sun beating down upon the people. This protection is to be found in "a man"! It seems rather plain that this Man is the same One who is described in the previous verse as a King, and it is not at all unreasonable to consider that before he exerts his kingly power in putting down all that is wicked, he will be known as One through whom there can be found protection against winds and storm. He will be like "rivers of water in a dry place," and "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." It seems rather clear that we are here told of the great blessings which we have through Christ in this dispensation, prior to the time when He shall establish the great kingdom alluded to in verse 1.

It is interesting to note that verse 2 begins with the Hebrew word which is often translated "to be," but which more properly means "to happen, arise, or become." It is saying that a time will come in which there will be a Man who will perform these functions for those who put their trust in Him. In verses 3 and 4 we find the results of the activity of this Man. Those who believe on Him will find that, as they look, their eyes will not be dim, and as they listen, their ears will be able to hear clearly, because God will open their eyes and ears and will give them to understand His truth, as the result of the new birth that comes to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 4 continues the description of the new birth. The hearts that were formerly obtuse will now be able to understand the knowledge of God, and the tongues that could not formerly present ideas clearly will now be able to speak out the praise of God through the Holy Spirit who will dwell in them.

Verses 5-8 describe the inevitable division of people into two classes through the preaching of the Gospel. It will become apparent that those who remain in their sins can properly be spoken of as vile or as churls, while those who are born again through Christ can be described as liberal, bountiful, or noble. The result of the preaching of the Gospel is that to some it is a savor of life unto life and to others it is a savor of death unto death. Moral distinctions will become more evident as people accept or reject the opportunity to put their trust in this Man.