

however, His glory is to be revealed and all flesh will see it together (v. 5). Thus assurance is given of God's existence and of His power.

God's Omniscience

The end of verse 5 brings another note -- the knowledge of God, Who knows the end from the beginning. We can be sure that the wonderful deliverance will come, "for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." This note of the omniscience of God is one of the great themes of the following chapters of the book. It is stressed again in the glorious verses that come next. One of the great proofs of God's existence is His power to predict the future.

Verses 6-8 show the failure of everything human and earthly to endure. All the goodness of man is as the flower of grass. When the Spirit of the Lord blows on it, it withers away, "but the Word of our God shall stand forever." These verses are very appropriately quoted at the end of 1 Peter 1. It is marvelous in our day to see archeology bringing to light many of the great varied civilizations of the past; mighty conquerors are being brought back to our knowledge, some of whom had been completely forgotten for centuries. It is thrilling to see how the Word of God, which had predicted the destruction of some of these great figures of the past, has endured long after they had disappeared.

In verse 9, the theme again reverts to the idea of comfort to Zion and Jerusalem because God is bringing deliverance. In verses 10 and 11 the gentleness of His deliverance is stressed. His arm is strong to accomplish what He desires, but toward His own He is like a Shepherd who "gathers the lambs with His arm and carries them in His bosom and gently leads those that are with young."

Between verse 11 and verse 12 there is a rather sharp transition. It is as if one part of the orchestra ceases and another comes in with a strong triumphant note of a different type. The gentleness of the Lord has been stressed, but if He is to be gentle He must also be strong and able to accomplish. Verse 12 and the following verses compare Him with the gods of the heathen and point to His creative power, declaring that