

at the end of chapter 57. Dividing a book into sections because of the occurrence of similar phrases or by other artificial signs is always dangerous. Such signs are sometimes inserted to indicate a division, but we must always look for other and clearer indications; otherwise one may be greatly misled.

A Remarkable Verse

Isaiah 48:16 is one of the most remarkable verses in the entire book. If it is interpreted merely in the light of the immediate context and the larger context is not taken into consideration, it presents an insoluble mystery. For this reason the only way out of the difficulty which modernistic interpreters are able to find is to say that it is an error and that the phrase that causes difficulty should be omitted. In his translation of the Bible, James Moffatt simply omits the last part of the verse altogether. This he does without note or indication to show that he is departing from the text of the Bible.

Moffatt's translation sometimes uses phrases or words which are helpful to the reader, giving him an idea of the true meaning of the original, which may be somewhat obscured by the seventeenth century English wording of our common version. Yet, unfortunately, his translation is of little use to those who are really anxious to know what the Bible says, since he frequently omits verses or phrases, or inserts into his translation words or phrases which are not found in the original at all. Instead of a translation of the Bible as it is, he has given a presentation of what he thinks the Bible ought to have said. The book is useful to one who desires to find out what James Moffatt thinks, but is not of much help if one's purpose is to learn what the Bible actually says.

As it starts, the verse seems to be spoken by the One who has been telling of His own great power. In this verse He calls upon all to come near to Him and listen. He declares that He has not spoken in secret from the beginning. From the time that any of these things were happening He was present. What a marvelous picture of the fact of God's great omnipotence, of His power, of His accomplishments, and of