

be "clothed with the robe of righteousness" (v. 10). We may rest assured that we make no mistake in saying that the speaker here, as in Isaiah 49, is the great Redeemer Himself.

It is striking to note that practically the entire content of the chapter consists of blessing for God's people. Only in one phrase does the Redeemer bring out the fact that there is a grim side to His message and that it includes the declaration of doom to the inveterate enemies of God. This phrase in verse 2 - - "the day of vengeance of our God" -- reminds us of Isaiah 11:4 and shows that the Redeemer here pictured is also the Messianic King of Isaiah 2, 7 and 11.

The chapter, which probably ought to include the first verse of the next chapter, differs from many future predictions in the general nature of its statements. Little is here specifically predicted; it is rather a general picture of the whole redeeming work of Christ, including both what He accomplished at His first coming and what will find perfection at His second coming.

In Luke 4:16-21 the section of this passage that Christ reads in the Nazareth synagogue ends with the first phrase of verse 2. Some interpreters say that this shows that everything up to that point was fulfilled at His first coming and that what follows is not to be fulfilled until the second coming, but this idea is questionable. It is probably better to say that the whole three-verse passage deals with the work of Christ in its entirety. Yet it may be noted that the previous portion deals more largely with what He preaches and proclaims, while the latter portion has greater stress on actual accomplishment. The fact that the last phrase of verse 2 introduces a universal note -- "to comfort all that mourn" -- would suggest a relevancy to the time of Christ's return, when He is to establish righteousness over the entire earth, more than to His first coming when the Word began to be disseminated as a savour of life to many but as a savour of death to many others.

It is noteworthy that except for one phrase, "the day of vengeance," these three verses stress effects upon minds and hearts rather than physical or material accomplishments.

The passage begins with the reference to the indwelling of the Redeemer by the Holy Spirit. To Him alone was the Spirit given without measure. Isaiah 11:2 states the same