

Gentiles for Gentiles are a nation. However, it seems more likely that here it refers to the people of Israel, in which case it certainly would (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) suggest the servant was an individual rather than he represents the people as a whole. Verse 7 enlarges on the work of the servant. He is to bring help to those who are indeed, to open blind eyes, to bring prisoners out of prison and those that sit in darkness out of the prison house. These last two phrases suggest very strongly the condition of Israel in exile and in suffering, in bondage. How can Israel be the servant of the Lord and yet bring Israel out of bondage. Or does this refer to bring others out of bondage. That question is not answered here, but it may easily occur to the mind of the reader or listener here.

It is a part of the work of progressive revelation to raise thoughts and suggest ideas, and then to answer them later on.

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Part II, The Lord Praised, Verses 8 to 12.

The picture of the work that the servant is to do is now followed by five verses of praise to the Lord, the creator. In verse 8 there is a touch upon the theme of idolatry in showing the superiority of the Lord to the idols. Most of these verses are a rather general declaration of how all men and all types and in all situations owe it to the Lord to give him honor and praise for all that he has done. There's only one rather specific verse in the section. That is verse 9, in which the theme of prediction is again touched upon. The proof that the Lord is the only true God, the only one who has power, and actually the one who performs all these great things, is shown in the fact that he can predict them before they occur. Behold the former things are come to pass, he says, he has predicted the exile. In Isaiah 39 it was declared that Judah would be taken captive, not into what was then the great aggressive force, Assyria, but to what was then a conquered area, striving with little success to get independence from Assyria, the famous old city of Babylon (6 $\frac{1}{2}$). God declared then that to Babylon the Israelites, the people of Judah, would go into captivity. Now he declares that these things have come to pass exactly as he predicted, and Cyrus has come as he predicted that he would and Cyrus is conquering all the nations round, bringing terror to the hearts of the heathen in every direction, all these great things