

Prophets -21-

that be so, according to the Jewish tradition, and finally killed by them, wouldn't necessarily prove a period of humiliation. There might have been a period when others were being taken out and killed for their faith, and greatly mistreated and tortured and a period in which he might have stayed in retirement and then the attempt made to take him, and he fled into the woods and was killed, as described. We just don't know, but this is--I think we must say it is either the prophet, and if it is the prophet it relates to things of which we have no proof and so we can't say that it didn't happen, or it relates to the servant who is to accomplish the great work described before / after this, and if it relates to the prophet, he doesn't bring out what lesson it has in relation to this one or what it is proving or illustrating, while if it relates to the servant it fits in with the previous suggestion that the servant is going to voluntarily--is going to undergo humiliation and suffering as part of his mission and with a later, long developed teaching not so far after this that the servant is going to undergo humiliation as . So I think we might feel that in the context it is undoubtedly a picture of the individual servant and how he will voluntarily undergo experiences that are somewhat similar to that which Israel involuntarily undergoes. Israel has these sufferings on account of its sins. Israel has to suffer because because it has been rebellious against God, but he says, "I was not rebellious. I did not turn away back, as Israel has, and yet I have voluntarily undergone similar sufferings," and one reading this would ponder over it and wonder "What does it really mean. There must be a great and vital meaning contained in it. Just what is it?" Up to this point one would not have the full answer but a number of the elements of the answer in his hands. And so then the, he says, "The Lord will help me; therefore I shall not be confounded. Therefore have I set my face like^a flint and I know that I shall not be ashamed." The one who does this work is going forward and accomplishing it with determination and he knows that he will accomplish the work. It fits with the picture