

Prophets -21-

in Isaiah 42. "He shall not be discouraged till he set justice in the earth; and the isles shall wait for his law." He goes forward with--he doesn't raise His voice in the streets; He doesn't have to exert every ounce of energy He can to accomplish the work; He can go forward with calm patient accomplishment of that which is His duty, because He has the power and the ability to accomplish the thing that is before Him. It is a picture here in v. 4 which fits exactly with the picture of Christ Who set His face to go up to Jerusalem even though He knew what awaited Him there. He knew that He was undergoing voluntarily suffering and misery but He knew that He would not be ashamed. He knew that the Lord God would help him. V. 8. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is my adversary? let him come near to me. Now would the prophet have expressed v. 8. Does this describe something in the prophet's life? Not in the prophet's known life, and I doubt if we have any reason in tradition to suggest that this is something in the prophet's life. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together. Who is my adversary? let him come near to me. Does that sound to you, Miss---, as if it were Israel speaking as a nation. (Student) Well, why not? (Student) Yes. The whole picture is of one who can speak out with this courage. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? Let us stand together. It hardly fits Israel. There is no reason to think that it is the prophet speaking. There is nothing in the prophets life that we know of to fit with v. 8 here. Could the sinless Christ, the holy Son of God say, "He is near that justifies me?" Did He need justification? Why did He need justification? (Student) In other words, this might very well be a reference to the resurrection. He is near that justifies me. But on the first question I asked, would a perfect, righteous, holy One need justification? What is justification? The Roman catholic church says justification means to make one righteous, and they translate the word "justify", as "make just", and so when we are baptized God infuses righteousness in us;