

to be heard. "A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench." It is a slow quiet orderly work that is to be done, not a forceful work, of the type where you have to strain and push and struggle to do, and something gets in your way, that you grab for it. No. The bruised reed, the smoking flax, the thing that is really (3¹/₂) He deals with, with care and with consideration.

"He shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail, nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His law." And now can't you just imagine the Israelites. They have heard verse 9. Thou art my servant. I have chosen thee. And they say, that's grand. He is going to deliver us. He has chosen us. We are safe. We have the work to do, and nothing can destroy us until the work is done. All right. What's the work? Well, here is the description of it. "Bring judgment to the nations." Well, give us a few tanks and some jet planes and we'll do that. But "He will not cry nor lift up His voice in the street." "A bruised reed shall he not break." How will a jet plane go through without destroying bruised reeds or a smoking flax. Without injuring non-combatants. Without while you are trying to do a great task, doing injury to those of a lesser life. How are you going to do it? "He will not fail, nor be discouraged, until he set judgment in the earth." Can't you just hear the people of Israel giving bent to discouragement as they hear this passage? Why, we are his servants, and we are safe until we do the work, but how can we ever do this work? "He shall not fail nor be discouraged." Well, we've been discouraged all the time. "A smoking flax shall he not quench." Well, if we are going to do a task that is beyond our means, we'll just have to struggle and push and let them chips fall where they may, and they'll be a lot of chips falling. How can this describe something, that Israel can do? You see why I prefer not to call this passage Israel. I prefer to call it the servant passage. Israel is God's servant. The work which the Servant is to do, is here described. And while you have joy and happiness, that Israel can not be destroyed, & because Israel is God's servant, and the work must be fulfilled, yet you wonder, how can Israel do the work, because the work sounds like something that is utterly beyond them.

"Thus saith God the Lord." Well, we need omnipotence after that don't we. How can this be done? How can we do it? Does that sound like Israel? He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. Does that sound like the Jews?