

Thus says the Lord, the omnipotent one, that creates the heavens, and stretches them out." The omnipotence needs stressing. Faced with a task for the servant to do, that the servant doesn't see how He can possibly do this work. He says, "I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the nations. To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." And that is very flattering to go to David, and Solomon. To go even to Jehoshaphat, and go to some great Israelite leader and say, you are God's instrument, to be a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, and to bring the prisoners out of the prison house. Yes, but to go to people in exile, to people in captivity, to people in suffering, to people wondering whether they will be able to survive, and to say to them, I the Lord will uphold you, to open blind eyes, and to bring prisoners out of prison, and to make you a light to the nations. Well, how discouraging? How impossible is that. How will Israel be able to fulfill the work, for which God has brought them into being? This is the problem which faces us. It is a problem which has developed further during this chapter. Until at the end of the chapter we find a startling climax, in this problem, and an immediate answer to the problem, but not a determining answer. Just one answer to a phase of it, and the ultimate determinative answer has to wait several chapters while the problem moulds, and we look at it from different angles. I think that we should try to learn to understand it better, before we try to find the answer, that the Lord is going to give to us.

And so He continues, "Behold, I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another." God is omnipotent. God is powerful. God can accomplish what He will. "Neither my praise to graven images." The theme of idolatry. "Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare, before they spring forth I tell you of them." The theme of omniscience, again. The predictive prophecy as proof of God's existence and power. "Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise from the end of the earth. You that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof. Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice." Shouting with celebration and joy because God is going to fulfill His promise. "Let them give glory unto