

the Lord. The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man. He shall prevail against His enemies." The theme of comfort and deliverance. "I have long time holden my peace. I have been still, and refrained myself. Now I will cry aloud. I will destroy and devour at once. I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs. And I will make the rivers islands. I will dry up the pools. And I will bring the blind by a way they knew not. I will lead them in paths that they have not known. I will make darkness light before them." "These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. They ~~shall~~ shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images." Idolatry again. You see how often it comes out, more than just about any other part of the Scriptures. "These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them."

And verse 18. He turns to His servant, and what does He say. Does He say, go forth Israel. You are going to do all this. You are able to just lift up and step out and do it. Take off your shackles and step out and do this great task. Is that what He says? He says, "Who is blind, but my servant? Or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? Who is blind as he that is complete, and blind as the Lord's servant? Seeing many things, but thou observest not." You see, it is a rebuke, but an unusual kind of rebuke. You never had a rebuke like this in Isaiah before, or in Jeremiah anywhere. It is a different sort of a rebuke, altogether. "Thou observest not, opening the ears, but he hears not. The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake. He will magnify the law, and make it honorable. But this is a people robbed and spoiled." Here is God's servant that should step out and do the work. But how can they do it. They are a people robbed and spoiled. They are snared in holes. They are hid in prison houses. They are a prey, and none delivered. Who among you will give ear to this? Who will hearken and hear for the time to come?" It is as if Israel says, how can we do the work of the servant? Here we are, robbed, and spoiled. We are in prison houses. And then you talk about our bringing judgment on the nations, and lead the blind by a way they know not. How can we do that? Why ask us to do the impossible. We're in prison. We are robbed and spoiled. And what's God's answer. Verse 24.

"Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? Did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle.