

the mercy of God and the election of God is not based upon anything in us. Any goodness in us, but it is based upon God's good purposes, and He has good reasons for what He does, and He saves us in order that we may accomplish His own will. Now what is the will for one of us, may be that He shall do a great work in the world that will accomplish much for the Lord. His purpose in another may be that he shall develop good Christian character that he may show forth the grace of Christ in a most wonderful way. We cannot tell in what way He is going to use us. But we know that when He elects us, He is going to use us in some way, and perhaps in many ways. Perhaps in some ways more than others. But we know that we are saved for service, not just saved in order that He can just be good to us, and bad to somebody else. He is not bad to anybody. He gives people their just deserts. But he releases us from our deserts, for His good purposes.

And so it is for Jacob my servant's sake and Israel mine elect, that He calls Cyrus. And surnames Cyrus even though Cyrus had not known Him. And so verse 5, stresses again the existence and power of God. It is God who chooses Cyrus even though Cyrus did not know God. In order that ^{45.5} from the east and from the west, people might know that there is none beside the Lord. You notice that He says from the rising of the sun, and from the west. The two directions. The east and the west. He doesn't say, from the fire than from the west. [?] [?] Fires is never used as a conquest to west. Never. And there is one case where some people think it is used, but it is absolutely unique. There is no comparison anywhere else. But then they know from the east and the west that there is none beside me. I am the Lord. There is none else. I form the light, and create darkness. I make peace and create evil.

Evidently God had not read the Westminster Confession that says God is not the author of evil, because Isaiah says that God created evil. But what is this word which is translated here evil. It is the Hebrew ~~word~~ ^א ^ל , and this Hebrew word, ^א ^ל is the word which is used where Joseph tells Pharaoh his dream and he sees the good cows, and the evil cows. And it is the word that is used where Jeremiah goes into the market place and holds up two baskets of figs and one were good figs and the other, the English they were naughty figs. That is a good moral word, naughty. But in old English it was not moral at all. It was physical. Good for nothing. Naughty, but the Hebrew is ^א ^ל . The Hebrew word ^א ^ל is physical evil. It may be used as a figure for moral evil,