

left him and said will ye also go away? His work seemed to have accomplished nothing, and yet he knew of course that actually it was heading toward the fulfillment of the great purpose for which he came into the world.

Between these two views there is no certain way to determine which is correct but it actually does not affect the main thought, the thought of the chapter, either one fits into the general teaching of the chapter. In view of the great stress on the relation to Israel in this whole section, I confess to a certain predilection for the view that this is the personified Israel here speaking in verse 4, while it is the individual servant of the Lord, who represents Israel, that speaks in the rest of the soliloquy.

side 9.

^{of} After ~~the~~ the interruption of the statement in verse 4 we have an answer given by the Lord. This answer, however, is not directly given but is quoted in the servant's soliloquy, as is proven by the use of the first person in it. And now, says the Lord, who formed me from the womb, ~~now~~ again a reference to the relation to the mother, a reference which fits in very easily with the teaching elsewhere in Isaiah of the miraculous birth of the coming one. And now says the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him. This statement seems strange in view of the relation to verse 3. There the servant was called Israel, here he says he is to bring Jacob again to him, and speaks of the possibility, even of Israel not being gathered at all. Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious. He is contrasted with Israel. The answer as we've already seen, must be the servant represents Israel, the servant is a part of Israel. And yet the servant is not the whole nation, he is an individual, and therefore can be thought of in distinction from Israel. It is quite natural to think that after the statement in verse 3, which seemed to imply ~~that~~ the whole, possibly to imply that the whole nation was to perform the work of glorifying God, that the nation answered, expressing its frustration and yet confidence that God would fulfil His promises, and now we find that the individual servant answers and shows God's promise which clearly distinguishes him from the nation as a whole.