

5 thou of me hadst no knowledge as yet. My name is Javé, and there is no
 6 other to rival me, no God but I; I, still unknown to thee, was fain to make
 thee strong, to what end? Because I would proclaim it from east to west
 that there is no other God. My name is Javé, and there is no other to
 7 rival me; I, the fashioner of darkness, the creator of light, I, the maker
 of peace, the author of calamity. I, the Lord, am the doer of all this.

8 (You heavens, send dew from above, you skies, pour down upon
 us the rain we long for, him, the Just One; may he, the Saviour, spring
 from the closed womb of earth, and with him let right order take its
 being.)¹

9 I, the Lord, have made my servant what he is. At his peril does
 man, poor shard of earthly clay, bandy words with his own Fashioner;
 shall the clay dare ask the potter who moulds it, What ails thee? Or tell
 10 him he is no craftsman? Strange, if a man should be asked by his
 11 own son, why he begot him, or a woman, why she gave birth!² Thus
 says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and Israel's maker, Of me you
 must learn, what times they be that are coming; mine to do what I
 12 will with my sons, with my own creatures. It was I framed the earth,
 and created man to dwell in it; it was my hands that spread out the
 13 heavens, my voice that marshalled the starry host; I, too, have sum-
 moned this man to perform my designs faithfully; go he where he will,
 my guidance shall be his. He shall build up my own city, he shall let
 my captives go free, without bribe or ransom, says the Lord of hosts.

14 This, too, the Lord says: all the toil of Egypt, all the merchandize
 of Ethiopia, and tall slaves from Sabaea shall come into thy power
 and be thine; they shall walk behind thee, their hands manacled as
 they go, paying thee reverence, and crying out, God is with thee,
 with thee only; there is no God where thou art not.³

15 Truly, God of Israel, our Saviour, thou art a God of hidden ways!
 16 All the makers of false gods must needs be disappointed, must go
 17 away ashamed and abashed. Israel has found deliverance in the Lord,
 eternal deliverance; while ages last, no shame, no disappointment
 18 for you. The Lord has pronounced it; the Lord who made the heavens,

¹ The Hebrew text has, not 'the Just One,' but 'justice' (that is, God's faithful mercies to his people, or their acquittal from sin); not 'the Saviour,' but 'salvation.' This verse seems to interrupt the thread of the argument; unless indeed it is put in the mouths of those Jews who would not expect deliverance from the king of Persia, but only from a Messiah. Some would include the first sentence of verse 9 within the parenthesis.

² 'Why he begot him,' 'why she gave birth'; it is equally possible to translate, both from the Hebrew and from the Latin, 'what he has begotten' and 'to what she has given birth.'

³ It is not certain whether this promise relates to the people of Israel or to king Cyrus.