

THE EXPLANATION OF THE PASSION 211

Jehovah, the prophet says that, in consequence of its distress of soul, it should see results through the knowledge of which it would be satisfied, and that it should be instrumental in making the many right or righteous, because of its willingness to bear the guilt of their iniquity. The first preposition here, which is wrongly rendered in the English versions "of", is the same as that in the first part of verse five, and means because of, or on account of; and the knowledge here mentioned is not knowledge that was to be communicated to others, but knowledge that was to give gratification and prove satisfying to the possessors. The meaning is that the loyal Israelites would see the outcome of their sufferings, and that the knowledge of it would completely satisfy them. This explanation harmonizes with the next member of the verse, which shows what was to be the practical effect of their distress of soul on their ungodly countrymen. The "many", and the term stands for the disloyal part of the nation, would be made righteous, not in the forensic sense of being declared or accounted righteous, but in the ethical sense of being brought or turned to righteousness. In other words, those who had been estranged from Jehovah would become both reconciled to him and devoted to his service. The godly exiles should see such results of their sufferings, because they had voluntarily borne the guilt, that is, the consequences, of their countrymen's iniquity.