

to Isaiah's followers, since the Northern Kingdom had already gone into exile. Just before the beginning of this section of his book, Isaiah had explicitly predicted that Judah would be captured by the Babylonians rather than by the Assyrians (Isa 39:5-7). Use of the name Cyrus requires belief in a supernatural God who could reveal a fact long before it occurred. Anyone who believes in such a God should have no difficulty in believing that He could reveal these facts to Isaiah, or that He could lead Isaiah to write in such a way that he would not only bring comfort to his godly followers but precisely meet the need of those Israelites who would live as exiles in Babylonia a century later.

This historical argument is the basic one. Once it is solved, it is easy to see that the difference in subject matter is sufficient to account for differences of literary style or theological emphasis. Anyway, these differences are far less than the very marked similarities in these regards between this and other sections of Isaiah. One critic has gone so far as to say that "the second Isaiah" seems almost to be Isaiah returned from the dead! To the believer in an inerrant Bible, the fact that the New Testament quotes this section as well as the earlier part of the book as being the words of Isaiah would seem to settle the matter (cf. Rom 10:16, 21; 9:27, 29).

#### **NOTE 5: THE INEFFABLE NAME OF GOD**

Wherever the word Lord is written in capital and small capital letters it represents the ineffable name of God. This name is written with the consonants YAHWEH, but its exact pronunciation is unknown, since the Jews stopped pronouncing it before the time of Christ (though it formed the first part of such proper names as *Jehoiakim* and *Jehoshaphat* and the last part of such names as *Hezekiah* and *Adonijah*). Long before the time of Christ the custom developed of reading the common word *Lord* wherever this name appeared. When the vowel marks were inserted in manuscripts, probably about the tenth century after Christ, the original consonants were copied, but the vowels of the ordinary word *Lord* were inserted, and that word was read