

Between verses 21 and 22 occurs a sharp transition from God's promises of wonderful things He will do for His people to His recognition of their present attitude. In verses 22-24, the Lord tells how He yearns over His people and longs that they shall really love Him and endeavor to be true to Him. Can we not imagine Him even today yearning over those who believe in Him? How He must look upon us with longing that we would truly serve Him and turn away from the many minor things which we allow to usurp His place in our lives and to keep us from giving Him that full devotion which He desires and deserves!

Even despite the sin of Israel so pathetically remembered here God declares in verse 25 that He is not merely going to deliver them from Babylon but that He is actually going to blot out their transgressions and to put an end to the sins which are responsible for the suffering into which they have come. This theme is only briefly touched upon in verse 25. Verses 27 and 28 revert to emphasis upon the sin of the people and declaration of the punishment which God has already given by sending them into exile.

#### **Isaiah 44-47**

We have noticed that this section of Isaiah is not arranged as a logical discourse presenting arguments and evidences for its position; its structure is more like that of a symphony with recurring themes, as it deals with various emotions in the hearts of the Babylonian exiles. It touches upon a theme, presenting some phase of God's answer to it; then the attention turns to other themes, then the first again comes to the front and demands to be discussed once more.

Outstanding is the idea of the certainty of God's deliverance of His people Israel from the terrible suffering of the exile into which they have come. God is not bringing them this deliverance simply because they are "pets," but rather because Israel is His servant through whom He intends to perform a great work. All through these chapters we find frequently stressed the theme of the supremacy and omnipotence of God. Israel is tempted to doubt this in view of His seeming inability to protect them from conquest by the Babylonians but He declares repeatedly that He alone is powerful