

them from getting back to their homes in Palestine, one cries in the ~~wilderness~~
 wilderness, "Prepare ~~the~~ ye the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert
 a ~~ghighway~~ highway for ~~us~~ our God." All the obstacles, all the difficulties that are
 in the way of the people coming back from Babylon, they are going to be removed.
 The valleys lifted up, and the mountains and the hills put down, the crooked
 made straight, and the rough places plain. Just like when we build a road
 through the difficult country, that it would take you days to go through,
 and they build a great big super-highway through so you ~~can~~ can shoot through
 in a ~~few~~ few hours. He is going to open up the way and make it easy for ~~them~~^{them}
 to come back from exile. But we don't have specific reference to exile
 here. Because we are here not making a prediction, but we are dealing with
 the emotions. We are ~~an introduction~~ introduction here to the whole section,
 and so what is said relates not merely to this one deliverance through God,
 but in a whole stream of deliverances that God is going to give His ~~people~~
 on through the ~~ages~~ ages. It relates to the deliverance from the difficulty of
 the exile, come through the sin of the ~~people~~ people, and it relates even more
 to the thing that has caused the exile, the problem of sin itself, that God is
 going to open up the way for the coming of His grace. He is going to make the
 rough places straight, and open up the way in order that there may come the
 true answer to the sin question, and therefore it is altogether appropriate to
 apply it to the coming of John the Baptist, opening up the way, declaring the
 preparation of the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not
 a specific prediction of John the Baptist. Because of the nature of this
 particular chapter. This particular chapter is touching on these ~~emotions~~
 dealing with the whole ~~question~~ question of God's deliverance from exile, and going
 on from the sin that causes the exile. And so He is here not predicting John
 the Baptist, but He is dealing with the emotion, and prediction that God will
 open up the way for the fulfillment of all the ~~portions~~ portions of His work, and
 the most important of it is, of course, the coming of Christ...end of P 195