

Isaiah 11

is burned with fire, and all our pleasant things are laid waste. Wilt thou refrain thyself for these things, O Lord? Here your temple is destroyed. How can you be quiet? How can you leave us in misery and in suffering and in exile?, when your temple where we worship you is destroyed? The beautiful house to your honor is gone." You see what a vital place it occupies in the prayer. It's the great climactic argument. Why surely God must be concerned for the honor of His name. He can't leave His people off in exile. Well, God is concerned for the honor of His name and God is going to bring His people back from exile and God is going to bring His people into great millennial blessing eventually, yes; but this is not the approach. This is a sort of a bargaining approach. Oh, God, come and help us! Look at our situation! Do something for us. We are your people. You must look. You've got to come and help us, although we were in sin, but we can't help ourselves. You are the potter and we are the clay. You can take us out of it. Do it. Well, now, the great climactic argument argument, "Our holy and our beautiful house where our fathers praised thee is burned with fire." 66:1. Thus saith the Lord, "The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?" The temple is a great thing and has a great place in God's economy but it is not a primary argument why God has got to bless people because they've built Him a temple, because they have built Him a house. Heaven is His throne and earth is His footstool. Where is the house that you have built Him? Now of the course the modernist interprets it that after the return from exile when these passages were written in the time of the third Isaiah you have the people like Zechariah and Haggai who were urgent the people to build the temple and then you have another prophet, a more Spiritual man, who says, "What a waste of time, putting all your thought and energy on building this temple. The Heaven is my throne. Where is the house you built me? And so you have these two clashing groups in Israel and one of them gives us Zechariah and Haggai and the other gives us the third Isaiah and they both of them