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Chapel Isaiah 24

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We are going to speak a bit about a time of storm. Will you please open your Bibles to the 24th Chapter of Isaiah. I would like to glance at this 24th chapter of Isaiah with you this morning and see what blessings in it the Lord may have for us.

Now as we take up a chapter like this in such a book as Isa., an important question always to ask is, Is the chapter a unit? I find that in the book of Hebrews / ^{very often} a chapter ends and then the next chapter summarizes it in the next two or three verses. Whether that should really be at the end of the chapter summarizing it, or at the beginning of the chapter ^{resuming} resuming what was before as you go on, is a question that needs to be considered. I don't like to read Hebrews and read a chapter at a time. I like to read a little before and a little after each chapter so as to really get the connection. There are some places ^{cases} in the book of Isaiah where the chapter divisions are extremely poorly made. There are cases where you fail to get the beginning of a thought because the chapter starts after the thought is well under way, and sometimes it ends well before the end of the chapter. However, when we look at this place ~~we~~ we find that ~~there is~~ between ch. 23 and 24 there is a very definite break. Ch. 23 is entirely speaking of Tyre. It comes to an end and you have a new subject. In fact there is a rather important division in the book of Isa. between ch. 23 and 24. Chs. 24 - 27 are sometimes called the Isaiah Apocalypse because they are a section of 4 chapters in which Isa. looks forward into the distant future and he gives some glimpses that look far beyond what is usually found in the chapters of the book. So at the beginning of ch. 24 there is no question that there is ~~an~~ a division. Now at the end of ch. 24 we have the beginning of a prayer, and a very definite division there also. So this is one case in which we have no difficulty in saying, Here we have a definite unit - Isaiah 24. Now as we look at this unit we quickly find that it naturally divides into two parts. As you start at the beginning and look at the first 12 verses they are entirely speaking about misery, speaking about trouble and difficulty that is to come. But starting at about vs. 13 you have a new element introduced. So we can say that those first 12 verses - in fact ^{slightly} more than half of the chapter - form one definite unit within the chapter. Let _ I will read to you now these first 12 verses.