

Survey of Isa. 7-12, 28-35

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things in the future and you can look forward to these things, and be greatly encouraged. So its helpful, looking at a section of the prophets to ask, What was the <sup>purpose</sup> immediate puprose of the prophet in giving this? Was he rebuking the immediate situation? Is he telling== encouraging people by telling ~~fozz~~ of the blessings that are ahead in God's plan. Now in Jer? as I said, You'll have a passage of rebuke, then a passage of encouragement, then you'll start again with a section of rebuke and a <sup>Isaiah</sup> section of encouragement. And through perhaps two thirds of Jer? you'll have this alternation. And each section consists of rebuke followed by encouragement. There are a number of ~~such~~ sections of Isaiah that are just the same way. But the particular section we are dealing with today has encouragement and rebuke mixed together. You don't have a long section of rebuke followed by a long ~~section~~ section of encouragement. But you have individual verses which have predominately one purpose, and long groups of -verses which have predominately the other purpose, and consequently it is very helpful in understanding them to keep in mind this question. Just what is the purpose originally as spoken to the people in the prophets? Is it rebuke? Is it encouragement? Or is it some other purpose perhaps involved.? and in most cases you will find that rebuke or encouragement is specifically involved in it.

Another thing that is very important in understanding the prophets, is to have an understanding of the historical background because the prophets were speaking to people in their own times and the situation of their own days was in the background of their thoughts.

I look~~k~~ back on the Lectures I have given on Isaiah during the time ~~Zhave~~ of the second WW and over and over illustrations occur, particular points occurred whier where it exactly fit with our present situation, and whhere references were naturally made to that. And then after that/~~people~~ period was over, it doesn't seem== that relevance doesn't seem to suggest itself so much to us any more. Then we had the beginning of the cold war and the new realization of the terrible menace of communism, and you begin to see how apt, and how directly much of it <sup>applies</sup> ~~applies~~ to that situation. Well it