

## Prophets 18

have to study out. Now in Psalm 137 we have a passage which impressed the commentators of the middle ages as rather bloodthirsty and they didn't think it represented the mind of God, and so they spiritualized it. Psalm 137: 8 and 9. "O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones." Well, your medieval commentators, at least so Prof.

said in the class which I attended with him, the last class of lectures that he ever gave, and he gave it as an example of medieval exegesis. He said, "They said 'The stone is Christ Jesus, and so when it says, "Happy shall he be that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stone," it means how wonderful it is that people are going to bring the descendants of Babylon in contact with Christ for salvation.'" Now, of course, that's/wonderful thought, but I do not believe it is the thought of this particular passage. I think that it is getting away from a difficulty in a passage by introducing a method of interpretation which does away with solid foundation of the Word of God as our source of knowledge, and I think that is made absolutely clear by the previous verse. "Happy shall he be that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. " The Babylonians hadn't brought the children of Israel in contact with Christ. They had overwhelmed their nation and destroyed it and here the declaration is made that the Babylonian nation is also going to suffer as part of the divine economy. That is here given and we may find difficulties in the interpretation, the problem of the psalms and this passage in Jeremiah which declare/condemnation and punishment for sin and wickedness is sometimes a difficult one, but it is not to be mastered in the way of a figurative interpretation which does away with its fitness to the context. Now, the second problem to mention. We have by no means solved this first problem. We have presented it, and I want you to keep it in mind and I hope you will three months from now know far more about it than you do now but I hope that twenty years from now you will know far more about it than you will three months from now. It is something which you can keep on learning more about and understanding better as you keep on studying God's Word.