

Prophets 19

real importance to us. There is something we can learn from it that applies to us, but it would seem that the prophet said certain things which were of immediate interest to their own generation and of only secondary interest to us. We observe them and we get certain lessons from them as we see them, but primarily they affected their own generation, and there were other statements which he made which would bring blessing to their own generation, like when Isaiah would tell the people of his day that after the exile God's was going to deliver them. It was a great comfort to His people, to the true people of God who were following Isaiah. It was a great comfort to know that they were going to be delivered from exile eventually. That was a great comfort, but yet it was far more important to the people in the exile to know they were coming back than it was to the people before they had even gone into exile. That was primarily for future generations though of great value for the people then. It is all of value for all ages, everything in the Scriptures has value immediately and has value now. Everything in the Scripture, but some is primarily for contemporaries, some is primarily for future generations. Now you take a case like Isaiah 7. In the seventh chapter of Isaiah, a chapter which we've glanced at two or three times already and which we'll glance at many times more but perhaps will not fully understand until we're ready to take up the book of Isaiah and go through it chapter by chapter. In that chapter we find a wonderful promise made, a wonderful promise made by the prophet to the people who are fearing an attack by the king of Syria and the king of Israel. Judah is attacked by a nation twice as strong as Judah, the nation of Israel, which has overcome it at many times in the past and it also threatened by the allies of Israel, Syria, which has usually proven stronger than Israel and which is a good bit larger than Israel. These two nations against Judah--what can Judah do against them? Well, God gives a wonderful promise to them in Verse 16. "Before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings." Isn't that wonderful! Before a little child, not yet born but to be born soon, before this little child can know enough to reach for the warm milk