

9,  
Prophets 89, continued

for a man of Isaiah's standing in the community, for he came of the background of the nobility as you know, it was shocking to them. They couldn't understand how this man could walk without a hat and whatever it was that he left off, or without this particular thing around his loins that the order man of dignity in the community wore. And they said "Why--what is the reason of this. This man is going naked and barefoot. What does it mean?" And when Isaiah said to them: "You've seen me this way for some months, for three years in fact, you've wondered about it. Now God is giving you the explanation. This is a sign to call your attention to what God is going to work in the world." And God often had His prophets work object lessons this way. And the object lesson was something to attract attention. But you don't need to take every word of it and press it to an extreme. Find what the purpose of it was. What was the meaning of it? And the meaning of it was that he went around dressed in a way which was not in accord with the usual custom and which would attract attention. to him. And so I don't think it is necessary to give up belief in pre-millennialism on account of these two verses in the book of Isaiah, although there are those who did do it. . Now in Chapter 37 in the historical section we find Isaiah mentioned by name four times. In Chapter 38 we find him mentioned three times. In Chapter 39 we find him mentioned by name three times and then after Chapter 39 we never find Isaiah mentioned by name in the book again. We never find him mentioned by name in the book after Chapter 39. As we have noticed, 36 - 39 is a historical section with a different style from what precedes and what follows. Now it would be very natural at the beginning of 40 to say; "The further message that Isaiah the son of Amoz received from God", to have some sort of an introduction like that. We do not have it. Nowhere in the latter part of the book from Chapter 40 on is there any further mention of the name of Isaiah. Now there are those who have developed a theory , a theory which is held by nobody today but a theory which was held by many people not so long ago, that just as the Hebrew had a roll, and they have today a roll in the synagogue which has upon it twelve books, the books of the twelve minor prophets, and the last of those books, the book of Malachi, nobody knows whether there was a prophet named Malachi or whether it is <sup>some</sup> an anonymous prophecy which was placed