

Prophets 90, continued

like a pretty bad hodge-podge when he described it, but I fear that it is to a large extent retaining the outward piety of a past generation with the ideas of an anti-Christian thought; therefore it is a very dangerous combination. I don't mean that to be of all Scotch by any means, but I fear that it is of the majority. Well, George Adam Smith and these other men had a great influence in spreading confidence in the idea that the book of Isaiah is two different books. Well now we will take up the arguments for the second Isaiah. We have noticed that this idea of two Isaiahs which is not accepted by anybody, I believe, any living scholar today but which was the beginning of this critical approach at first sight appears extremely natural. It's a natural place to break - after the historic section - before the last prophetic section. It is a very natural place to break. We find Isaiah mentioned repeatedly before and never after that so there is no claim in the book itself that Isaiah wrote the last part of the book at all, and we find that in the early part of the book Assyria is frequently spoken of and the Assyrian menaces and the people are warned that they may be sent into exile. There is no such warning in the latter part of the book. The latter part of the book seems to presuppose a different historic background, and so that leads us to the first of the arguments. As Driver summarizes the arguments in his book "Introduction to the literature of the Old Testament" he puts them under three heads and the first of these is the Standpoint of the Book. Driver points out that prophetic statements in the prophetic books of the Bible grow out of a particular historical situation. It is something that I have constantly been stressing in this class. You cannot understand the prophetic books unless you have an idea of the specific situation in which God used those prophets and He had them speak to the people of their day and of future days and if we understand His meaning for our day we had better know something about the situation in his day to which he was also speaking and which he was immediately interested in. Now the prophetic statements grow out of a particular historic situation, they predict the future, they presuppose the present and the past.