

Prophets 90, continued

Now supposing that I were to make this statement: "The opening exercises of Faith Seminary will be held in the last week of September and after that we will proceed to the study of the Old Testament prophetic books and then we will have our examinations in January!" Now if I were to make a statement like that and you were to read it written on a letter from me nobody would say I wrote the letter in November. They would say: "That letter was written last summer." It predicts certain events in the future. But supposing that in a letter I were to say: "Now we all enjoyed the opening meeting of the Seminary and we all have enjoyed the first few weeks of it but now examinations are getting near, we'd better get busy and work hard if we expect to pass them." If you read a <sup>statement</sup> ~~letter~~ like that you would say: "That wasn't written last July." That presupposes the opening; it presupposes a certain number of hours having taken place; it takes for granted a certain situation in the past; it makes certain predictions regarding the future. You would say: "That letter was probably written about the beginning <sup>end</sup> of January or perhaps the ~~last~~ of December, hardly as early as the middle of November." That would be your assumption from the statement. Now Driver says that is certainly a general principle about prophetic writings and he says if we apply this, he says we will find that the first part of Isaiah says "God is going to send you into exile. He is going to punish you for your sins." He says that beyond the exile he still has great purposes of blessing and he tells much about it but he predicts going into exile and he predicts return from exile and he predicts blessings after it. While in the last part of Isaiah, from Chapter 40 on you do not find any prediction of going into exile. You find rather this question asked: "Why has God sent you into exile? What have you done that God has sent you into exile? Has God forgotten His people that He has sent them into exile? Is God powerless to rescue His people?" No, God is going to rescue you. He is going to bring you back from exile and He is going to give you great blessings. In other words, after Chapter 40 exile is presupposed rather than predicted. That is the statement which Professor Driver makes and that is a simple statement of fact as far as the chapters following Chapter 40 are concerned. It nowhere predicts their going into exile but it assumes it and presupposes it and discusses it as a thing that has occurred. Now if someone wants to attempt to combat this by