

Prophets 93.

But in regard to that question, you say are there critics, if by critic you mean a man who has any sort of an interpretation as to the date, you will find all possible kinds of interpretations given. You will find people who, like the early gnostics, believed that Satan wrote the Old Testament and you will find all possible sorts of views given but I mean our present question is what are the facts, and I would like to proceed along that line a little further before examining the question as to particular background of certain individuals. That may be an interesting and valuable thing to examine and it may have a real place but right now the thing I am interested in is what are the facts about the material here, and the material we find here to have the general attitude of assuming that Jerusalem is ruined and deserted and that this condition already has lasted considerable time. I read to you Isaiah 51:3. I believe I read 52: 2, 5. Did I read 58:12? Well, then I shall read to you Isaiah 58:12

And they that be of thee shall build the old waste places: they shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. **Isaiah 58: 12.**

You look at Isaiah 63:18-19 and you read the statement: "The people of the holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down the sanctuary. We are thine: thou never hearest rule over them; they were not called by thy name." Do you see the point of that? Supposing that somebody was writing about five years after they went into exile. They would certainly say: "Look at this land of Palestine. Our ancestors held that land for generation after generation, thousands of years we lived in it, and now these people, these upstarts, these aggressors have had it for a few years. They have taken it away from us. We want it back again, but here the people have been in exile about seventy years and that seems like a long time, when you look back on it. You ask what has been the condition of the United States since Columbus' day, and to one of us you would say: "Well, the United States has been a land of the free, with forty-eight states or originally thirteen states. Now it has developed into forty-eight, a land with its government in Washington, and all that for a long, long period, and then there was a little while before that, after Columbus discovered it, before the Revolutionary war." That is the way it would appear to us unless we go back and figure up how many years it is. If we figure up the years we find that from 1492 to 1776 is over twice as long. Is