

Prophets 93.

the ships. Now, for Isaiah to make a great, remarkable prediction in Chapter 39, "You are going into Babylon to captivity", that is a tremendous thing. But you have a whole long section in which, in 43:14 and 48:20 and 47:12, in a large number of other verses here, 42:22, 25, 43:28, R. V. margin, 47:6, 52:5 and all these various passages, you find the assumption made that the people had already gone into exile, they're suffering, and that these sufferings are at the hands of the Babylonians and the people of Chaldea. That is something which is very, very strange, written so far ahead, but very natural in a book which is predicting deliverance from that which the people are now suffering. Now, the mention of Assyria, you notice, was - we had Assyria mentioned in Chapter 7: v. 17, 18, 20; 8:4, 7; 10:12; 11: 11, 16; four times in Chapter 19, three times in Chapter 20, once in 27, eighteen times in 36-38. We have the same word rendered Assyrian, exactly the same Hebrew word, in Chapter 10: verses 5 and 24; 14:25; 19:23; 23:13; 30:31; 31:8; 37:36 and only once does that word occur after Chapter 39, and that is in Chapter 52:4 where, as it was pointed out yesterday, he is looking back

in those distant days

not describing a present situation or a future prediction. The background of it is not the background of the early part of Isaiah, of the great Assyrian menace which threatened to rule over the nation but the background is the background of something which has already come and which has come, not at the hands of the Assyrians but at the hands of the Chaldeans. now, there are a good many verses which might be noted in connection with these particular points but we go on to look at the general attitude toward the future in these chapters. We find that the return is considered as imminent. It is not the picture as in Jeremiah, "You are going into exile, but way on in the distant future there is deliverance for you. God is going to bring you back", but he says right away in Chapter 40; "Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem. Cry to her that her warfare is accomplished. She has received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins". "The misery is about over. You are about ready to receive the blessing". In Chapter 46, Verse 13 you find that he says: "I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory". In Chapter 48, Verse 20, you find: "Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this,