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utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed His servant Jacob". It is right at hand. He's calling them to come out and be delivered. Rather strange thing to say when they haven't even gone into captivity, but a very natural thing to say toward the end of the exile. The picture in these verses is as of deliverance as at hand. Cyrus would conquer Babylon and release the Jews, who on their return will rebuild Jerusalem and the temple and enjoy unimaginable prosperity. That is the general picture here in these verses. Look at Chapter 40 again, Verses 9-11: O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; behold the Lord God will come with strong hand, and His arm will rule for him. I just read two or three phrases out of the three verses. In Chapter 41, Verse 27: The first shall say to Zion, Behold, behold them: and I will give to Jerusalem one that bringeth good tidings. The prediction of the return coming real soon. Chapter 43, Verse 19 ff.: Behold, I will do a new thing; I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. This people have I sworn for myself; they shall show forth my praise. In Chapter 44, Verse 26 he says: God is the one who performs the word of His servant, and performs the counsel of His messenger, who says to Jerusalem: Thou shalt be inhabited, and to the cities of Judah: Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof. Note how it is assumed that the land is desolate. It is assumed that it is a wilderness. It is assumed that it has gone into exile. The prediction is: God is going to rebuild them. He is going to bring back His people. And then in the same chapter, two verses further on he tells how He is going to do it. He says: I am the Lord who is going to do this thing when the cities of Judah be rebuilt. Verse 27: That says: to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers. a very easily understood figurative expression about Mesopotamia, the rivers, the great rivers there symbolic of the great conquering armies of Mesopotamia. "I will dry them up. I will bring an end to the great power of Babylonia" Verse 28: That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure; even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden to subdue nations before him; I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates (description of the gates of Babylon); and the gates shall not be shut. I will go before thee and will make the crooked places straight. God's promise of what He is going to do with Cyrus. Now, you