

44:2 To the fact that they called attention to the Israelites. Here the Lord's servant is used twice and we wonder to whom the word "servant" does refer? In both of them Israel is the Servant of God and will be protected. She will not come to naught and will not disappear among the nations. Israel has been formed of God to do a service. We have the picture of what the ideal servant must do. Right here we wonder though if Jacob can do the work. We are looking at God's assurance that they are not worshippers of idols and they have a special relation to him. Note v. 22. God is blotting out their transgressions. The Lord had redeemed Israel--is it from Babylon specifically or from something else? Yes, here it is from sin. There is no specific allusion to the Jews here worshipping idols. It has been pointed to them the foolishness of worshipping idols but as to their having committed sin to be redeemed--how would that fit in here? Here God is comforting the people who have gone into exile--what has this to do with being delivered from sin?

209 God says--Why are you here in Babylon--You are here because of your transgression. God sent you here and you just haven't simply fallen into bad luck but because of your sin against God. That is the stress here. God has not let them come here because He is too weak to protect them, but because they have sinned and gone against God and they have been sent there because of their sin. That is the reason that it is mentioned right here. In fact we had it right in the beginning of ch. 40. Israel has received double for all her sin but the cause of the exile is the people's sin. ILL. of having a bad cold at the beginning of the summer and it stayed there through two months of the summer and if it had become a head cold, I could have cured that at any time but if I cured the head-cold that didn't do any good because in a short time I had another. It got into my lungs but the root of it was in the throat and it would reach out here and there and I would cure it there but it didn't do any good until I got rid of it where it was centered. It is shown here that the sin is what sent the people to Babylon. They have fallen in all this suffering and misery because of their sin. All right--let us deliver them but what good does it do if they still have their sin. They will need to be sent into exile again. The people feel the Babylonian exile--the misery and suffering but the cause of it all is --Put me in remembrance: let us plead together. Thy first father hath sinned and thy teachers have transgressed against me. Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches. That is the