

going to put the Babylonians in subjection--that is not the simplicity of the picture. He goes on to make it clear. He is not simply saying--you are my people Israel and you my people, are going to receive great blessing and you Babylonians are wicked and are going to be punished--that is not it at all, though that is a part of it. They are far from giving the whole picture. Israel is saved because she is God's servant. The work of the Servant must be done. There must be a light brought to the Gentiles, because those in prison-houses must be brought from them and we have noticed in previous chapters that ~~if~~ she is in captivity how can Israel do it--how can she perform this work. He is trying to bring these ideals out and make it clear that Israel is not saved because it is a righteous thing that Israel should be saved and Babylon be punished but because God is going to perform His whole work of salvation and that a part of that is the deliverance of Israel from its condition of suffering in order that the work may continue through Israel and that the work of the servant may be performed. He is trying to point out the fact that God is going to deliver Israel and they should not get faint-hearted or discouraged. His work is a work of grace to Israel, and not a work of what they deserve but they are in the situation because they deserve the misery and Israel is to be saved so she can do the work that God wants her to do. He is trying to impress upon their minds the greatness of God--His majesty and power is all important. Read. Isa. 48:1--He tells them that they have all the forms and they are worshipping God but there is something wrong. He says they call themselves of the holy city and stay themselves upon the God of Israel and the Lord of hosts is His name--He says, I have declared the former things from of old; omscience--yes, they went forth out of my mouth, and I showed them: I did them suddenly and they came to pass. Why did they come to pass just as He had predicted--because He knew that they were obstinate and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass--from the beginning He had declared this. Before it came to pass He showed it so that you would have no way absolutely of getting around the fact--the fact that God predicted what He would do and He did it. Now you can't say, that is just an idol and that it just happened, or that came to pass because we worked. I LL. of speaking to a Jew who once was training to be an orthodox Rabbi--I told him how remarkable how all the systems of writing that is alphabetic in style have come from beginning in Palestine--isn't that wonderful I said to him. Yes, he said, brains make all the difference. He attributed it to something