

the knowledge of Christ is clearly taught in this passage. I remember discussing in a seminar a few years ago early trade relations and there were these different men there and the question was raised about Sinim and it was pointed out that a very interesting thing had happened after the book of Isaiah was written. That a conqueror in this section of China conquered all of China and he established a government over all of China so that China would be ruled by his house and ~~his~~ his government spread all over China and somehow the name of his province spread all over as the name of China and this is not supposed to be the name which the Chinese use for their own country, but it is the name given by foreigners given by people outside of China--it was a development that came after Isaiah wrote this passage--is this not interesting that Isaiah would select a name that is now throughout the world to represent that great land. We have China mentioned in ch. 49--where there will be followers of the Servant of the Lord, those who are to receive the blessings that are mentioned in this chapter. So he says, Lo these from the north and from the west and these from the land of Sinim. It is a little hard in some of these verses to be sure if it is Israel that is spoken of as a nation because sometimes it seems to refer to more than Israel. Some of the verses could very well apply to nations of the world. Even Israel in the day of Christ was subject to other nations. Jesus seems to be subject to Pilate and Herod and actually He was over them though they didn't realize it at the time. Of course there have been those rulers that have accepted Christ as their Saviour and have accepted the salvation which he offered. But there are phrases in it that seem to suggest that it speaks of Israel as a nation. In v. 13 we have a great word of praise to the Lord for the great work which He has done. It has in it the simple note of comfort which begins this section of Isaiah--Comfort ye, comfort ye my people. He always comes back to the immediate situation. We look into the distant future and see the answer to the problem and the vital way the Lord is going to take care of it, but then we always come back to the situation. Here they are rejoicing in the great work that God is going to do and how he is going to comfort His people. But Zion says, The Lord has forsaken me. This is all very well to talk about a work that is going to reach clear to the land of China, and far off to the isles and it all is very interesting but the Lord has forgotten me. Then comes the comfort to Israel. Can a woman forget her sucking child that she should not