

Studies in Isaiah

(continued from the November Issue)

Isaiah Forty-four to Forty-seven

We have noticed that this section of Isaiah is not arranged as a logical discourse presenting arguments and evidences for ~~the~~ ^{its} position; ~~which it attempts to prove~~; its structure is more like that of a symphony with recurring themes. Dealing with various emotions which are in the hearts of the ^{Babylonian} exiles, it touches upon a theme, giving some phase of God's answer to it; then the attention turns to other themes until the first again comes to the front and demands to be dealt with once more.

Outstanding is the idea of the certainty of God's deliverance of His people Israel from the terrible suffering of the exile into which they have come. God is not bringing them this deliverance simply because they are "pets," but rather because Israel is His servant through ~~whom~~ ^{whom} He intends to perform a great work. All through these chapters we find frequently stressed the theme of the supremacy and omnipotence of God. Israel is tempted to doubt this, in view of His seeming inability to protect them from conquest by the Babylonians. He, however, declares repeatedly that He alone is powerful and that other gods do not even exist. He asserts that Israel has gone into exile, not through any inability of His to deliver them, but because He chose that they should suffer this punishment for their sins. He often repeats His promise to deliver them by His own hand. Most important of all, every now and then we find clear suggestions that the basic problem of sin will be dealt with by the Lord in His own complete and satisfying way.

Chapter forty-four begins with a declaration of the certainty of the fulfillment of the work which God has committed to Israel His servant. In verses one to five we read that Jacob need not fear, for God is going to pour out His Spirit upon the seed of Israel and to bring into existence a great multitude of