

in the background here? Certainly clearly in the foreground is the Babylonian deliverance. Then verse twenty-one. What is twenty-one? Is it a prediction of Israel's being taken back from Babylon? Is it a recollection of Israel's deliverance from Egypt? The incidents described in it are described in connection with the exodus and we have no description of any such incident in connection with the return from Babylon. Are they then used figuratively in connection with Babylon? Now, in verse twenty-two there is an interesting change of thought altogether. Twenty-two seems to be just like a little \_\_\_\_\_ it isn't closely related to what preceded or to what follows. Was it put in to round out a section? That's an interesting question. Let's look at the commentaries and see what they say about twenty-two also while we're looking up the other passages. See if they have any suggestion along that line. Twenty-two, as we have already noticed, is parallel with a similar statement which occurs in the last chapter of the book of Isaiah and one which is even closer, in fact, almost identical with this which occurs at the end of chapter fifty-seven. Some use these three occurrences as an indication that this part of Isaiah is to be divided into three main sections. I rather doubt this for it impresses me that forty-nine is very closely related with forty-eight. Now, in forty-nine surely it is the servant speaking. The servant seems to speak continually for long passages at the beginning of forty-nine. Is it also the servant who <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ speaking back in those verses in forty-eight?