

It has been my observation in the prophets that the purpose of prophets has an outstanding feature either to rebuke ungodliness and call people to turn away from sin, and tell what the punishment of it is going to be, or to have God's blessings and mercy on those who are His own, and give them promises of great happiness ahead, to which they can look ahead. Now these two general outstanding emphases, each of them often seem to pervade long passages and they often make a valuable means of division, as you shift from one of these to another. Now of course, we may find that there is a general idea which is very common in one section. It is so common that it seems to be an outstanding feature of the section, and then we find in an adjoining section that idea has happened. Many people try to divide by finding key phrases. They'll find three chapters that end with approximately the same statements, There is no peace to the wicked. Some people will say, that's the division. Well, it may be. It is not a means, in my opinion, of finding what the division is, but after you've found this, it may be that that is an indication that helps to show that the writer really meant it to be a division. I don't think that really does it. On the other hand, in Micah, I find three main divisions, rebuke followed by blessing, rebuke followed by blessing, rebuke followed by blessing. Three main sections and I find each of these three starting with the word "Hear ye", and it impresses me that the prophet began with this general salutation to introduce ~~the~~ the three main divisions. But I would never divide it by the words "Hear ye". I would divide it from what is contained in it, and then I would find that the prophet ~~in~~ brought out as a division by using this, by beginning each section. Now in this case, in chapter 56, anybody taking up chapter 56 I think cannot help but see that somewhere around verse 8 there is a marked change in the planning, because in the first part of it everything is blessing. God's mercy and love being displayed and stressed and in the latter part of the chapter everything is rebuke against him and so at about