

Prophets -18-

how can that fit in, how will it be developed? There is one way to find out and that is to read further and see if we find any further light on the matter. So I am glad Mr. Miller called our attention to this verse which had slipped out in the course of the week-end, between our last lesson and the one today. Well, now I think that v. 8 and 9 and 10, perhaps we need not linger on any longer unless there is some question on it. Verse 12, I mentioned last time the fact that it shows the people coming to him, the people who follow the servant, the people who are blessed by Him. They come from the north and from the west and some of them come even from the land of Sinim, and you read about the land of Sinim, and immediately you think, "What is he talking about?" In the seventh century B. C. what would be the land of Sinim? And somebody says, "Well, he is talking about the land of China" and you say, "Do you think Sinim sounds like China?" And what right have you got to say that if the Bible says "Rosh" it means "Russia" and when it says "Meshech" it means "Moscow" and if it says "Sinim" it means "China"? Well, you haven't got the right to unless you can show how it can come about, unless you can show a reason. You can advance a hypothesis where there is a similarity of sound, but that is all you can do until and unless you can advance a reason. It is well to make all the hypotheses you can think of in connection with any of these words, but is there a reason to consider that when he speaks of Sinim, that Isaiah, living in a little land of Palestine there is speaking of China many thousands of miles across the desert from him and saying that people are actually going to come from that distant land. I would doubt if Isaiah had ever seen anyone from that land or if anyone that Isaiah had ever seen had ever been to that land. Now, they may have, but we have no evidence that they had. In the middle ages when Marco Polo went all the way from Italy to China it was thought of as a tremendous thing and his writings were circulated extremely widely. Why should we think that Isaiah in 700 B. C. would refer to the land of China here as a land from which those would come who were rescued by the servant of God, and who