

ISAIAH

And he is writing to people in his day who know the exile is certain, and they in imagination are already in the exile; and so he is comforting their hearts as they imagine in-the that they are already there. Well, now these people don't go through the exile because it's a century before the exile will come. But when the exile comes and the people have gone into exile, then they find that Isaiah's writing exactly applies to their situation so that they find even greater than

the originally because it fits their situation while with the original people it was just a situation which they were imagining. Now Mr.

- could you suggest, isn't it very strange that these people would imagine exile? I want you to answer one question: Two questions; but the first is: Is it reasonable to think that imagine exile and seen exile of church at that time? -

That Isaiah in the previous chapter had been addressing the wpe- people as a whole, rebuking them for their sin, and saying, "If you don't turn from your sin God will send you into exile." And therefore the godly knew the exile was certain to come in view of what Isaiah had already said. They knew is was sure to come; they knew the nation as a whole wasn't listening to Isaiah but was going on headstrong in its own direction. They knew therefore that Isaiah's conditional prophecy was bound to

be actually fulfilled; and so they tended to give way to despair; they knew anyway that they were implicated in it; they weren't absolutely righteous people - none of them; they had sense enough to know that they also were sinners like the rest, but they were people who were seeking deliverance from their sin and seeking to follow Isaiah. And so they knew that exile was absolutely certain, and in this condition

? 2 5/8 around them was a nation under the was increasing?

master going further and further into heathenism and away. from