

not necessary to suppose that God simply had someone in 1300 A.D. who never heard of America simply sit down and write a description of Chicago and New York City, describing the elevated trains and so on--God could do that if He chose but He doesn't ordinarily choose to do that sort of thing and there is no evidence that this is what he did in these latter chapters of Isaiah. The background facts are mostly those that wouldn't require a lot of revelation but are such that would be known at the time of Isaiah. The divine revelation consists in what is going to happen in the future to that time, consist in the interpretation of these facts and a revelation of it all as a purpose to God's people, but it is not a great revelation of many background facts which would not be known until later. One is that it is to Babylon that they were going into exile and the other is the name Cyrus--that is a remarkable instance of a specific prediction of something far in advance.

6. Conclusion--the argument from background is a very strong argument. It is an argument that has gone a very long distance in leading godly people to believe in two Isaiahs and to give up the unity of the book. It is an argument which on close observation doesn't seem to have the weight that it has at first sight because there is a purpose even in the time of Isaiah in giving this comfort to the godly who are already living in imagination in the exile as they see the wickedness of Manesseh coming in upon them. It is very natural to think of Isaiah in this situation desiring to help these people and God speaking to the people through Issaiah to help them.

D. New Testament Evidence on the Authorship of Isaiah.

Someone might wonder why we wait so long before mentioning this--after all we are Bible believers and we accept what the Bible says to be true. The answer to this, if what we were interested in was to find out who wrote Isaiah we would surely go to the N.T. first and see if it throws light on the matter. If I were interested in ~~terasted~~ in providing the unity of the book--that it is one and two books, I would say go to the N.T. If the N.T. throws light on it that settles it but if it doesn't then we would say we don't know. But that is not our primary instance if it is one Isaiah or many--that is not to find simply one point, but rather to examine a ~~method~~ method. Here is a great plateau and it is steep on all sides except one and once you find that way, it is simple to go right straight. ILL. of while in Grand Canyon, trying to get to a place six miles away