

I hope that everyone has one he can follow, because I want to discuss a good many details of it. I would appreciate it if everybody could follow in ~~the~~ Isaiah 24, because I would like to read with you and consider with you this morning. Now, this 24th chapter, if our hour were a little bit longer, I would have read it as a Scripture lesson, but I think instead we will go through it step by step, and I won't read it first to you, but I will mention this fact which will be quite obvious if you ~~look~~ look ~~into~~ into it, even a few minutes, it would be quite obvious to anyone. That as you start the chapter you have a note of gloom. You have a note of misery. A note of unpleasant things, and these unpleasant things continue without interruption at least until the 12th verse, there is no shining through of sunlight <sup>through</sup> the gloom until you get through the 12th verses. And consequently we can say that this first half of the chapter makes one unit. Perhaps before we note that, we could notice the relation of the chapter to other chapters. Because when you take up a chapter in the Bible, it is always well to see its relation to context. Now, in this case we don't need to take long on that, because it soon becomes apparent to us that there is a sharp break in the book of Isaiah between ~~the~~ chapters 23 and 24. And between chapters 24 and 24 it is less apparent. There is a lesser break, but a very definite break. 24-27 is what ~~is~~ sometimes called the Isaiah Apocalypse, and within this apocalypse, ch.24 is a definite unit. The road was unusually smooth that day and archbishop's horse did not stumble as he made these particular chapter divisions. And ~~so~~ so we are justified in ~~taking~~ taking this as a unit, ch.24, and in this chapter the first half approximately is a unit. And in this first half we glance at it, and we find very little of specific reference to tell us what it is referring to. There is very little of definite reference to particular historical events. And so it becomes a problem to decide what is it relating to? What is the gloom of the first half of this chapter talking about?