

be scattered, and let them that hate thee flee before thee. And when it would rest he would say. Return O Lord unto the many thousands of Israel. I believed I mentioned last time that this passage brings out that there are enemies of the Lord. That there are enemies, that there is wickedness in the world, that there is that which ~~is~~ needs to be destroyed. And we have the tendency in our present day to think that sin is only sickness. And to think that ~~sin~~ every evil that comes in a person life is simply the result of something that his parents did when he was a little boy or some physical thing that has happened to him and he is not responsible. And one of the great central teachings of the Bible is that we are responsible for what we do, and there are those who deliberately choose to follow Satan instead of God and they are the enemy of the Lord. But our primary purpose in life is not directly to fight these enemies. Our primary purpose is to help the people of God grow in grace and to learn to resist the devil, to help those who are wavering to take their stand with the people of God, and to win as many of those who do not know the Lord as we can to be saved thro the Lord Jesus Christ and to be saved from enemies into believers in Christ. Those are our primary duties but we must never forget the existence of evil, the fact that we face it. the fact that we need the Lord's power if we are going to overcome it ~~or~~ to deal with it as we should. And so Moses made this statement when the ark started, when they started going out into the unknown that lay before them, he prayed that the Lord would protect them from the enemies ahead and cause them to flee and be scattered so that they would not interfere with the progress of the work. Now you will meet enemies of the Lord whom you have to face boldly and courageously, and withstand them. But how often you will find it easier, you will find far more frequently the times when you actually meet the enemies of the Lord the time when you have to do with those who are the misguided ~~ones~~ ones who are trying to follow the Lord. Or when you are having to do with those whom you yourself have caused to take an antagonistic stand toward you through errors you have made through mistakes you have made, through wrong methods of handling them. And so ordinarily the vital thing for us to do is to learn to turn into friends and supporters those who claim to be following the Lord but who may seem to us to be enemies. Some of them really are. But a great many of them are simply misguided people whom we need to learn to reach and and to