

very evidently the city of Jerusalem. This is a passage which is describing a situation where God is going to pour out His wrath upon Israel. Isaiah is looking forward to the beginning of the period of the exile. This is the interpretation I believe which careful examination of the verses make clear. If we had an extra half hour I think it would be very easy to make that quite obvious to you that that's what he is talking ~~about~~ about here. It is also in line with the general practice of the prophets. It is the common practice of the prophets to start with what is near and then go on and look at what is beyond. That is their common practice, to start with people's sin, to show the present sin, to show the present suffering <sup>for</sup> fro their sins ~~and~~ that God is going to send and then to look beyond that to God's future blessing. So here we have Isaiah describing the exile that is coming to Israel, the condition of depopulation and misery that occurred within the next two centuries after He wrote.

I will not take time to go through these 12 vs. in detail. It would be very worthwhile to do so for a better understanding of that period and for comparison with similar periods in later times, but I want to get on to some of the very important and interesting things further on in the chapter.

So we will look on beyond this period, this picture of the beginning of the exile, this picture of God's punishment upon the ~~land~~ land of Israel for the way they had failed to follow Him when He determined to send them off into exile. And then as we come to vs. 13 we begin to think perhaps there is a transition in vs. 13. Perhaps he is going on to something future. It is not certain from vs. 13 that this is the case, but there is a strong suggestion in it. "When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people there shall be as the shaking of and olive tree and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done." Is this simply carrying on the picture of desolation and destruction contained in the previous verses? Is he saying the destruction is going to be so great, the depopulation so ~~of~~ vast as a result of God's punishment upon the people that when that occurs there will be no more left in the land than you find in a field that has been harvested when there is just a few ~~of~~ gleaning grapes when the vintage is done, or just the little that remains in the olive tree after most of the olives have been picked?