

Last Friday night we took up a number of illustrations from the Bible, places Archaeology has thrown light on Biblical statements and places where Biblical statements might have been doubted and questioned on the ~~the~~ basis of the knowledge we had a hundred years or so ago, but where Archaeology has given us new evidence showing the accuracy of the historical statements of the Word of God. Now, ~~post~~ ~~to-~~ tonight I would like to go a bit further than that. I'd like to take a little different approach, not simply asking the question, "Are the historical statements of the Bible ^{right,} but is there some sort of evidence that would go beyond that and would show us that there is in back of the writers of the Bible, leading them and directing them, someone, no matter how accurate an observer ~~he~~ he was or how careful in his facts could possibly have written unless there was an intelligence behind Him, knowing matters that no human ~~being~~ being could possibly know, and to my mind one of the best evidences of this type for the Bible is the evidence of fulfilled prophecy. I would like to read you just a few verses in starting in which this very argument is presented in the Bible itself; that is, in Isaiah 41 where the Israelites are pictured as being sent into exile, Jerusalem as having been destroyed, and all the visible signs ^{the existence & power} of their God having disappeared. In that situation, God, through Isaiah, gives a message to ~~the~~ comfort those people and to encourage their belief in God and to assure them that the gods of ~~the~~ the heathen are nothing at all. They have no existence, they have no power. And ~~therefore~~ therefore he presents in ~~this~~ this section, great stress, more than any where ~~else~~ else in the scripture on this ~~particular~~ ^e particular argument, the argument that ~~thought~~ the gods of Babylon seem to be great and powerful, judged by the deeds of the King of Babylon and his men, that actually there is only one God and he is the God of Israel. And ^{here} in the midst of considerable argument of this type, we find the Lord speaks to these gods in Isa. 41:21, "Produce your cause, saith the Lord: bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and shew to us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come."