

no more

people of Israel. Thou shalt weep/-- the Hebrew has the form of the infinitive absolute, the form of strong assurance. It is interesting to note here that the word "no more" is not in the Hebrew. It probably was put in by the translator to express the infinitive absolute, the form of strong assurance. What it really says is, Thou shalt certainly not weep. Our English version suggests that it means that weeping is forever at an end. Actually it means that after the terrific misery of the threatenings by the coming of the Assyrians, there is relief found which brings the end of the weeping. It does not mean that there will not be later crises and later sieges and eventually, of course, complete destruction for Jerusalem. That, however, was more than a century after this time. Verse 19 continues "He will surely be gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cries. When he shall hear, he shall answer thee." We cannot but be reminded here of the account in Isaiah 36 to 39 of what happened when Hezekiah cried out to God for help in the situation which faced him. Isaiah brought him the message from God that God would deliver his city and that the boastful Assyrians would return by the way in which he had come but would be killed in his own land. (Here compare the next chapter 31 verse 5 "As birds hovering, so will the Lord of hosts protect Jerusalem." Also the statement there that the Assyrian will fall by the sword, not of man, and the sword, not of man, shall devour him.) ^{Here} It surely predicted that which we find later on fulfilled when Hezekiah cried to God for deliverance and God gave him the deliverance and God sent his angel to destroy the great host of the Assyrians until Sennacherib could do nothing there but had to return to his own land. Isaiah later gave the immediate prediction of it; here he is predicting it some time in advance.

We have noticed that at least chapter 28 is written in the time of King Ahab, the wicked king who made the alliance with the Assyrians and turned his back on God. We know that actually went to Damascus to do homage to the Assyrian king and brought back Assyrian idolatry and set it up right in the