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or whether they are also speaking of Damascus along with Jacob is something that isn't quite so clear. They are not speaking just of Damascus, but if they are including Damascus with Jacob it seems rather natural to expect there will be some further word about Damascus some how and from here on we don't seem to see any specific word about Damascus. Mr.---? (Student) It is a very interesting phrase at the end of v. 3. They shall be as the glory of the children of Israel. It is a very interesting phrase to think about a little to see if we can figure out exactly what it does mean. I must say I don't quite know. If you would say, in the first part of the verse, "Damascus is going to lose out; there is going to be great loss in Syria. The situation there will be like it will be in Israel." And then you go on and discuss Israel. If you are going to do that, then you would say that the succeeding verses are dealing exclusively and only with Israel, describing Israel, but that the earlier statement made clear that a similar fate was going to come to Damascus. Now the great difficulty with that interpretation is that v. 3 begins with Ephraim. It tells you about Ephraim and Damascus and Syria so it would seem as if this word "they" would probably mean all three of them. They will be as the glory of the children of Israel, and you wouldn't say, "Israel will be as the glory of Israel," and that makes the phrase quite a peculiar one, I would think, but if you take that phrase as meaning, "Damascus is going to be like Israel," then you would say surely that the succeeding verses are dealing with Israel, that the verse exclusively deals with Israel but the previous verse says Damascus is going to be in similar shape.

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(Student) Verse 5? I see--that v. 4 is dealing with Israel and then there is a break between 4 and 5. We are now coming back to talk about Damascus