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children of Israel, would it? (Student) The children of Israel were left and there was the great forsaken city because their armies are so strong that they are able to conquer all of these cities, you could say that. Or you could say, the children of Israel looked and could see in front of them great forsaken cities because their land had been laid desolate by man. It could mean either one of the two, but the next verse would seem to make it not a victory but a punishment, so in view of the next verse saying it is a punishment rather than a victory, it wouldn't look as if the Israelites were saying, "Oh, my, isn't this awful! The cities of Egypt have been wrecked." Like the Germans about 1914 saying, "Oh, my, isn't this awful, to think of all the French cities that have been wrecked." They wouldn't say that. They would say today, "Isn't it awful! Look at the German cities that have been wrecked." It would seem that the next verse expresses it as being a punishment rather than a victory. Mr. Ludlam? (Student) Yes, but Damascus had overcome much of Israel and wrought tremendous damage, but that was before Isaiah's day. It seems as if this is describing what happens in Isaiah's day when Israel and Damascus are allies. It would seem likely that is wreckage that's done by somebody else who also wrecks Damascus. (Student) Because they have forsaken the God of their salvation. That would be just Israel. (Student) It's forsook here. It's " " or forsake. Our English word "left" is rather ambiguous, but it's " " to forsake. Mr.---? I mean that v. 9 is talking about Damascus and 10 about Ephraim. It looks to me as if in v. 4 we have specifically Israel. In v. 6, most likely Israel. In v. 7, definitely only Israel. In v. 8, definitely only Israel. In v. 9, Israel is spoken of. In v. 10, quite definitely only Israel. In all these verses no explicit reference is made to Damascus, and therefore with no explicit reference to Damascus in so many verses which would seem necessarily to refer only to Israel, it is not impossible that the remaining verses have Damascus included but it would seem at least somewhat unlikely.