

the English language has changed greatly since the time when it was written, both as to meanings of words and as to grammatical forms and usages. From time to time reference will be made to a version that was published in 1901, which is sometimes called the "Revised Version," sometimes the "American Revised Version" and sometimes the "American Standard Version." For many years this Revised Version was widely used, particularly by Bible teachers in the United States. Since 1952, when a committee issued the "Revised Standard Version" and tried to get it accepted as a new authorized version, the Authorized Version has generally been referred to in the United States as the King James Version (or the KJV), though it is still called the Authorized Version in England. In this discussion we shall follow the text of the KJV but wherever its meaning is not clear to present-day readers explanations will be given, and some references will be made to readings in the ARV.

#### General Structure and Background

Even a casual reader of the Old Testament is immediately conscious of a great change in literary style when he reaches the book of Isaiah. It is almost like going from Mexico into the United States. A similar difference is found when one gets to the end of Isaiah and begins to read Jeremiah.

Jeremiah presents ideas in fairly simple language, but Isaiah reiterates his thoughts in similies and metaphors, and employs many interesting and beautiful turns of expression. He is not content with describing his sorrow; he laments in poetic language. When he comes to passages of joy, he sings great songs of rejoicing.

Isaiah has a style all his own--a style is so unique that it is easy to distinguish it from other parts of Scripture. This is one reason why it is extremely unlikely that the view of the "higher critics" is true, that the