

000736

Prophets (1)

About the historical background of 28, Verse 1, what did you gather of the historical background of that verse, Mr.—? (Student) You didn't. I see. Well, now, supposing that you had that verse, and that you didn't know whether this was from the book of Isaiah or Jeremiah. Is there any evidence in the verse which would tell you from which of the two books it is? Mr.—, what do you find? (Student) Yes. By the time of Jeremiah Ephraim was only a memory. Supposing that someone were to say, supposing that you turned on the radio and you heard a speech being given and the man said, "It is absolutely necessary to put a stop to Hitler's aggression." What would you say immediately if you heard that on the radio? (Student) You would say it is either a historical play imitating something that happened in the past or it is a rebroadcast transcribed of something that was given in the past. Nobody today would say that over the radio, because the historical background wouldn't make sense today. Nobody today is interested in putting an end to Hitler's aggression. There is no aggression by Hitler to put an end to today. Now suppose someone were to say, "We have got to put a stop to this forcing Koreans to bow to the Japanese emperor." Suppose you read that in the paper. You'd say right away, "That paper was not written within the last two years," wouldn't you? Well when he says, "Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim," you know that there is such a thing. When he says it, there are proud fellows who are drunkards in Ephraim and that Ephraim hasn't been carried away into captivity, so you know not only that Jeremiah didn't write it or anyone else after the time of Isaiah, you know that it was written fairly early in Isaiah's ministry. You can gather that much about it. Now you might possibly suggest that this would mean that there was some special reason for denouncing Ephraim at the time. Now there you are on a little less certain ground. You know Ephraim exists and you know Ephraim is a proud nation. You know that. That much of historical background you know. Now is there a reason why it is of some importance to discuss the matter of Ephraim? Well, that is the thing on which you might make suggestions but from this verse alone you couldn't feel at all certain,