

Prophets 1)

because it might be that the prophet at any particular time would think that it was worth denouncing the drunkards of Ephraim, but there is the possibility, at least, that Ephraim is very prominently in people's minds and that there is some reason why people feel, why it would arouse their attention and interest. Supposing that somebody got up and talked a lot about the danger of troubling Palestine. You'd know that that wasn't given before the present war, that is, it might have been but very few people would have, but today it is a thing which anyone might speak of. It's a very vital issue. So in this case, as long as Ephraim was a part of the people of God, of the people of Israel, and as long as there was wickedness there, any prophet might denounce it, but it is a good possibility that the denunciation is in connection with some definite action or some definite situation. Well, have we so far in our discussion of the book of Isaiah seen any situation in which Ephraim is a particularly vital problem to the people of Judah, where Isaiah prophesied? Have we? I hope everyone immediately says to himself, "Why, remember at the beginning of our whole book of Immanuel, the whole thing is based upon when Ephraim was confederate with Damascus, Ephraim and Syria are confederate together, they are going to attack Judah and the heart of the House of David is shaken like the trees, like the leaves of the trees, with fear in the situation, and they rush out and they make their wicked plan of joining together with wicked Assyria in order to get deliverance from them, just as our nation rushed into a wicked alliance with Russia in order to get deliverance from Germany and some now would want a similar alliance with Roman Catholicism for protection against Communism. This first verse does not prove that the historical background is the same as the beginning of Isaiah 7, but it proves that it is comparatively early in Isaiah's ministry and it suggests the possibility to be investigated by further verses that it might be the same historical background. Now how many put, in a few words of course, not at length as I did here, but the gist of this undertaking in connection with this? (Student) Good. Then, the second verse. Do