

Prophets 11

have in the land. Then he gives them agricultural illustrations. An agricultural illustration-- "Gave ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech. Doth the plowman plow all day to sow: doth he open and break the clods of his ground? When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place? In other words, because things go on this way so long, don't you think it is going to continue this way forever. God has a plan. God has a purpose. The farmer doesn't just keep on plowing. He plows for a certain length of time and then he plants, and you have conditions in the world and you say, "What's the sign that we see that God is doing anything? After all," you say, "we've been going along according to our own working and our leadership and everything and God did great things in the past, we all believe that, but that is past now." Well, he says, "How are you so sure of it? God does a certain thing and then another thing in regular order. He's like the farmer." He says, "The farmer has learned from God, how he can carry on his work in a way that will be effective. God has made the knowledge available to the farmer, that you must do things in a certain way to accomplish a certain result and don't you think God has as much sense as a farmer? God then, we are told in Verses 23-26, that God has definite times and purposes and that He does a certain thing at one time and a certain thing at another and He works out His purposes in their appointed seasons, and then he says, Verse 27 and 28, the farmer uses different instruments for different kinds of grain. The fitches aren't threshed with a threshing instrument. You don't take a cart wheel and turn it about over the cummin but you beat out the fitches with a staff and the cummin with a rod. Bread corn is bruised, because he won't always be threshing, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen. There are different methods in which the farmer treats different types of things, and God may deal one way with Assyria, one way with Israel, one way with Judah. God has His means adapted for His purpose and He is not going to use the means that will destroy the precious wheat. He is going to use the means that accomplishes His purpose. He may