

Isaiah 4

53:7 to 63:6 or the section from the beginning of Chapter 40 that ran clear through the middle of Chapter 56, whether it is a third main section of this portion of the book from 40 on or not is one which we cannot simply say, "It must be this way or that". We examine what is in between and see it. When we notice, however, that 42:56, or 7, I forget the exact verse, was one definite unified section with a progress right straight through it, for that period of seventeen chapters and when we notice that from 56 right through 63 here was another unified section with a definite plan and progress through it, and that the sections in the earlier portion of the book are mostly sections of considerable length like that, it seems reasonable to endeavor if possible to interpret 63:7 to the end of 66 as one section. The first endeavor should be to see whether there is a principle of organization in this section which will justify us in considering it as one unified section. Now to my mind there is such a principle of organization. To my mind the prayer, which is certainly a definite unit, which begins in 63:7 and runs to the end of 64, to my mind that prayer is best interpreted in the light of the beginning of Chapter 65 and if you interpret it in the light of Chapter 65, make a hypothesis from what you find in 65 that this prayer, being immediately followed by rebuke and denunciation is not a representation of the ideal prayer but is a representation of the attitude of the people, an attitude compounded of that which is right and that which is wrong, an attitude including many very true things but also certain very false emphases. If you take that attitude toward the prayer based upon the beginning of Chapter 65, then it seems to me that you are right in interpreting Chapter 65 as a whole as an answer to the prayer, divided into two parts, the first of which part deals with the erroneous attitude of the prayer and deals with that part of the nation, or with the nation as a whole thinking of it as being addicted to these attitudes which are wrong in the prayer and dealing also with certain aspects which would only be part of the nation, but dealing with rebuke