

Isaiah 11

some way get into the canon and they are both accepted. Instead of taking one and disregarding the other, we take them both", which, of course, people do occasionally. sometimes they take things utterly inconsistent with each other, but that certainly is not our view of this at all. It is our view that God wanted the temple built and that He wanted Zechariah and Haggai to urge the people after the return from exile to go on with building a temple for Him but it is also our view that this is true, that this verse here has a real meaning, and what does it mean? It doesn't mean it is wrong to build temples. It does mean that if a temple becomes the primary thing, that is wrong. It does mean that a temple is not an instrument for bargaining with God. It does mean that you can't win God's favor by giving money to build a church, that it is the heart that God is interested in, that it is the attitude of the soul to the Lord that is vital and it will show itself in good works and building temples and doing good things, but that in itself will never win God's favor, and so when they say, "Our holy and our beautiful house is burned with fire. Will you restrain yourself in the fact/ Oh, God?" God says, "the heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool. That's not the argument that is going to win my favor." He says, "All these things has my hand made, but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembles at my word. You can't win my favor with building a temple and you can't force me to come to your assistance by pointing out that the temple has been destroyed. All that is true and it is vital, but the thing that is really vital is "What is the attitude of your heart toward God?" To him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembles at my word. Why, God says, ritual is right in its place; ritual is true with the right treatment of it, but He says if put in the primary place it is wrong. He that kills an ox does a wonderful thing. Here is a man who slaughters an ox, sacrifices an ox. That was, "With burnt offerings will I praise thee and will lay bullocks upon thine altar. He that sacrifices an ox is as if he slew a man. It is just like murder. It