

(unmkd except for a (4). (4 3/4) 8.

Remember I just ended with a reference to 14:

But Zion said, the Lord has forsaken me . What a contrast to what preceeds. God gives his wonderful plan, what he's going to accomplish. Zion says the Lord has forsaken me. Well, you can't blame ~~him~~ her in a way. Here she is in captivity, in exile, in suffering. God gives wonderful statements of what's going to happen, but Zion says what good are all these wonderful promises, talk's cheap, here I am in exile, in suffering, in misery. So she complained, she just can hardly believe it, how can this tremendous work of the servant be fulfilled. How can it be? God in these chapters is trying to bring to attention and understanding the fact that it is Israel's own fault, there's sin that makes her unable to do the work, that that is the key problem, that God is going however to answer and to provide an answer for it, that God's promises will be fulfilled, and so verse 15 is not what Zion says. Zion speaks in 14 but it is very plain that God answers in 15. He answers with a question. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Well, that's a great argument , isn't it? Can such a thing as this happen ? I remember one time I was in the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and I heard a professor speaking about the subject of etemal secutity and he said how could you imagine that God would turn aside from his own children who had been born again into his family? That one could ever be saved and then lost again, why he said how ridiculous! Can you imagine me turning against my little child, he said. No matter what my children would do, I naturally would still support them and stand ~~th~~ by them. It's an argument from human observation , human experience, and it just happened that the next day I picked up a volume of Bret~~e~~ Harte. I wonder if many of you have read Bret Harte's stories of the west, a hundred years ago, written in San Francisco and that area, very famous, and some of them are reprinted nowadays, but unfortunately, some of the best, very best, are seldom reprinted. And this one was beautifully told, it was told about a man going