

Prophets -19-

is of the servant of God and the servant of God must do this but Zion says, "How can I do anything? The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me," and God says, "No. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will not I forget thee." He says, "No. There's deliverance. There is comfort in this verse, promise of deliverance from Babylon, promise of deliverance from that which is of far more importance than the Babylonian trouble, the cause of the Babylonian trouble, deliverance from the power and the guilt of sin." Behold I have graven then upon the palms of my hands; they walls are continually before me. Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee. And so Zion is told, "No. You do not feel that way. Israel should not feel that way, that Israel is forsaken, that Israel's career is over, that Israel can never accomplish the work the Lord has called her to. Israel is going to accomplish the great work." Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: all these gather themselves together, and come to thee. These from the north and from the west and from the land of China. They're coming to Jacob. They're coming to the Israel of God. As I live, saith the Lord, thou shalt clothe yourselves with them all. Your waste and desolate places shall even be too narrow by reason of inhabitants. There shall be a tremendous extension, enlargement of Zion, as we read in Chapter 29, that the--Jacob will not now mourn when he sees his children, the work of my hands, the new creation of God, the new members of the olive tree, the new branches which are grafted in to the olive tree of divine blessing and divine revelation. Yes? (Student) Well there are Old Testament promises which refer to the Jews and ^{are} ~~the~~ Old Testament promises which refer to the church. This particular one doubtless refers to the church rather than to the Jews. He is at this moment saying, "The work for which Zion has been called is to be fulfilled and all these people are to come in and there will be all these new branches grafted in and of course the church includes both Jews and Gentiles, but it comes to be predominantly Gentile. And so his attention in some cases is upon Israel as a nation and in other cases