

Prophets -19-

is something which you have to do in any sort of bringing new ideas to people. You can't take a little child and start in and teach him how to build a locomotive right away. You have to give him certain basic principles and as you give them you can give suggestions of matters to which he will come later and you can prepare his mind for them and that isn't merely because he is a child but because he is dealing with a new type of material, with something with which he is unfamiliar. That is true with any of us. If you come too quickly into a subject you get lost but you get suggestions as you go into it and gradually those suggestions become clear.

Prophets -20-

We come on to the end of this chapter then where the Lord declares that He is going to overcome the powers that would hold His people back. My impression is that the last three verses refer specifically to the Babylonian captivity. Of course the stress on them is on God's power to deliver and it would be equally true if He can deliver from the Babylonian captivity He can deliver from the power of sin in the way in which He chooses to do so, and in fact He must or the deliverance from the Babylonian captivity is in itself an empty sham. Then c. 50, we begin with the question, the Lord says to the people, "What's this you're saying that the Lord has forsaken us? It is continuing the thought of the answer to the question raised in 49:14. But Zion says the Lord has forsaken me. God says, "Do you think the Lord has forsaken you?" He says, "Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, that I have put her away? Which of my creditors do you think I have sold you to?" The Lord says, "Do you think I was in such a situation I couldn't help myself and I had to let you go, there was nothing I could do about it?" He says, "Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away." In other words, he brings us right back to the root of the matter again. It is sin. That is the real problem in these chapters. It is not that God cannot deliver His people from Babylon but that there is no point in delivering from