

Prophets -21-

(Student) Yes. Simply that it doesn't seem particularly to fit the life of Isaiah. If it was--Isaiah did suffer persecution according to the Jewish tradition at the latter part of his life, at the end of his life, but not in the greater part of his life. The king tried to avoid him in the days of Ahaz but he never actually, he was actually a great power among the people and tried to avoid any open break. There was no persecution. Hezekiah did him a great favor and the Bible doesn't mention his having even lived under Manasseh. It's Jewish tradition that he did and extremely likely but it would be only in the latter part of his life and of course that may be the very part in which this was written. There is much reason to think that it was, but there is not much reason in to the context to suggest the prophet describing such things about himself. What is he drawing from? What is the connection? If Isaiah is here departing from his message to the exile and to the people who realize that they must go into exile, <sup>if</sup> he departed from that to deal with himself, what is the purpose of it? There is nothing to suggest--now if this was in Jeremiah, you could say right away, "This fits perfectly." Jeremiah went through exactly such an experience. It would fit exactly, but it doesn't here. Mr.---? (Student) Well, I Peter says that the prophets were wondering about many things that were revealed, trying fully to understand it. Just how much he understood it is hard to say. He probably understood a great deal of it but there doubtless are elements of it which become clearer as the time draws nearer. I think he undoubtedly understood that the servant was an individual out of Israel who had to perform the work, and I don't see how he could help understanding that the servant was actually God, because it is made so clear. Mr.---? (Student) In the first part of his life, nor in the second period of his life. (Student) Yes. If he was, he didn't write this afterwards. A pretty sharp rebuke! Not at all. I didn't mean it that way in the least, but it wouldn't give background for this. This, of course, his being sawn asunder, came at the end of a long period of persecution which he voluntarily underwent which is possible. We have no evidence against it. It is entirely possible.