

Prophets -22-

in "The Bible Today", published in New York City, dealing with c. 51 which goes into some of these problems rather at length which you might find of (student) interest. / No I don't recall. But I think perhaps for our present course in view of our shortness of time it would be better that we simply go on to 52 simply mentioning that many of our previous thoughts are again stressed in this chapter 51. There is assurance of God's deliverance of Israel; there is recognition toward the end of the chapter of the terrible condition of Israel who was drunk in the dregs of the cup of trembling. God is going to deliver them. Wonderful blessings are ahead for them and yet all the time in the background is the thought, "What good are these blessings unless the sin problem is dealt with?" Now in c. 52 we begin with assurance of deliverance

of Zion again. Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise. Comfort, assurance of delivery. For thus saith the Lord, You have sold your selves for nought; you have sold yourselves into sin. You got nothing worthwhile for it. You will be redeemed without money. You can't redeem yourselves. You couldn't pay enough to win salvation from/sin that has put you in there. <sup>the</sup> God is going <sup>give</sup> to you the deliverance. For thus saith the Lord. My people went into Egypt to sojourn there. The Assyrian oppressed them without any cause on his part. He was simply an aggressor and he was anxious to eat up as many nations as he could and conquer more and more territory, just like some forces in the world today. What have I here, saith the Lord, that my people is taken away for nought? The Lord says, "It looks as if God is weak and worthless. His people are taken away, his name every day is blasphemed. The Lord says "The people shall know that I am He that speaketh. Behold it is I." Then in v. 7, this beautiful declaration, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings." Wonder glory is coming. Why? Because God is bringing deliverance. Deliverance from what? Deliverance from Babylonian exile? Deliverance from sin that caused the Babylonian exile? Or is it stressing the whole process of God's