

Survey of Isa. 7-12; 28 - 35

June 15, 1972

in the distant future and had no particular interest in their own day. Neither of these approaches gives a g real understanding of the prophets. The fact is of course that God was using them to give us information about events 2 or 3,000 yrs after their time. He was using them to give us information about grt. truths that we need to know about but He didn't have them quite like a text book of theology or a text book of eschatology. He did not have them set things out in order that people 1000 yrs. later could read it and have the answer to the particular problems in these areas . He sent them to talk to people of their own times, to deal with situations in their own time. And as they did so to give the people what they needed then and at the same time to give what would be of great interest to people later on.

The prophets probably said a great deal more than we have in the Bible. They were dealing with the problems and situations of their day. But God cause that those parts of what they gave that He desired should be of great importance for future ages should be written down and kept from error by the Holy Spirit in order that they should be a guide to his people in all times. Therefore, we should not say of any part of the prophets, This is simply dealing with the problems of his own day. All of it is of great importance to us, or God would not have caused it to be preserved. in the prophetic books. Some of it is of much more importance to us than others. And some passages which are of great importance today may have had little meaning 200 yrs. ago. And some which had grt. importance 200 yrs. ago may be difficult for us to relate today, because God put in this Bible what wh was needed for His people though all the future ages. But if we are going to understand the prophets it is important that we see their relation to their own day, and that we understand how the immediate occasion of giving of their messages was to day with particular problems then, and in the course of that to give material that would give timeless truths and that would give great predictions about the future.

And so as I have said here on the first line of this page, The great <sup>importance</sup> ~~importance~~ of rebuke and of encouragement in the prophetic wrirings -- those are two of the