

Yes, and a third way to do it, is to start with 41 and go through and see how these dominant themes, and how these vital emotions are of value in carrying forward until you find them leading up to Christ, and when you get up to 55, you have Christ clearly presented before you. Then come back to 40 and see how 40 exactly relates to 55. You see then how 40 is general, 41 on is specific. Well now, as between these three, I think that for our present purpose it is better to take the second. That is, that we look at 40 and see how it can relate to the emotion connected with the exile. But recognizing the fact that it is given in a generalizing way, which does not specifically tie with the exile, but which has a closer relation to the fulfillment which would end with the fulfillment in Christ, then it does with the relationship of these emotions directly to Him.

Now let us see it then in relation to the exile. Here are people in exile. They've been there 50 years or more. They are there, and it looks as if they will always be there, subject to Babylon. No hope of deliverance, under these heathen gods. Jerusalem is destroyed. The temple is destroyed. What is there ~~to~~ to show that God even exists? And in that situation God says, "Comfort my people, comfort my people, says your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned." You see, we start with general comfort; then we went on to specific deliverance. Her warfare is accomplished, her iniquity is pardoned." God has punished her twice as much as her sin deserved. That isn't what He means at all. ~~He~~ "She has received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins." The equivalent. The equivalent. The proper recompense for her sins. The double for her sins. It means here the equivalent. It doesn't mean, a double penalty for her sins. What she has received from God's hand, the equivalent, the recompense, the time of the exile is completed. They are to be delivered. How will they get home? How will they get back clear across the wilderness, from exile? "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Make a way to get home from exile. Clear out the difficulty. "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain."