

The theme of prediction as an important evidence of the power of

God is no longer stressed as often as before. ^{although} It is quite prominent in ^{48:3,5,7 and} ~~verses 3, 5, 7, and 14-16 of Chapter 48,~~ and remains constantly in the

background of ^{the} thought, since specific predictions are very prominent in Parts II and III. ~~In the chapter 48, for instance . . .~~

Thus we see that three of the great themes of ~~the~~ Part I have been relegated to a subordinate place, particularly after chapter 48, although still important as background to what follows.

During the course of our discussion of Part I, we noticed the emergence of two new themes, in addition to the four main ones. The first of these is the fact that sin and unbelief were the real cause of the exile. This was introduced very tactfully and never dwelt upon at great length in Part I. It was as if it was felt necessary to use every possible means to introduce this idea into the consciousness of the hearers, while still being extremely careful not to arouse their antagonism to the point where they would cease of the complete overthrow of Babylon, to read. After the extensive prediction in chapter 47, ^{is} this caution seems no longer to be quite so necessary. In the first section of chapter 48 (verses 1 to 11), rebuke of the people for their sin is more stressed than in any passage of similar length in the whole of Part I. This is the emphasis with which Part II starts, and rightly so, since the ultimate purpose of the Book of Comfort is to deal with the problem of sin and the ^{divine} answer to this vital problem. In the latter part of chapter 48 ~~is~~ (verses 17 to 19), this theme ^{is} again strongly in view, though no more so than in a number of places in Part I.