

the people, it is worthy of remark that as the Books of Kings and Chronicles contain only brief annals, we must not suppose that Isaiah exaggerates the wickedness of the ruling classes since so little is said on this point in these annals, for if we read Amos and Hosea who were contemporaries of Isaiah, we find the very same sins and the very same caustic denunciations.

3. The third part of Chapter v. extends from verse 26 inclusive, to the end of the Chapter, and contains a reference to the Assyrian invasion. Jehovah would lift up a banner around which nations from afar would rally. At his summons, they would speedily come as bees to a bee-master. He would protect them and make them the instrument for the chastisement of his people. Their movements would be rapid, their discipline perfect, and their might irresistible. All this points to the Assyrians. Orelli remarks that "the song struck up at first has passed into a sevenfold woe, and the woe into a thunder-storm of doom, which dies away in unrelieved horror."

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

1. In verse 14 why is the feminine singular suffix pronoun appended to several nouns? 2. What period in the nation's history, during the ministry of Isaiah, best meets the conditions of the Chapter taken as a whole? 3. In verse 25, some exegetes maintain that the judgment denounced is a future and not a past woe. They hold that the verb וַיִּשְׁמַע is a prophetic preterite. What can be said in favor of a reference to the past? 4. Does the threatening contained in the last part of the Chapter receive anything like a complete fulfilment in the Assyrian invasion? If not, may we extend it to the Babylonian captivity? Or, are we warranted in thinking with Delitzsch that the prediction is so general that the evils inflicted on the Jews by the great world-power in the form of Assyrians, Chaldaeans, Persians, Grecians and Romans, are here unfolding out of the misty future and presenting themselves to the prophetic eye of the seer? 5. What arguments have been pressed in favor of attaching vv. 25-30 to Chapter x. 4? See Skinner on Isaiah, p. 40. 6. Is it the duty of ministers now, as it was the duty of the prophets of old when occasion required, to denounce social evils which invoke judgment on a nation?