

to prophetic study and I may say a word about it later. But for the moment, Egypt and Tyre and Babylon -- they get the large amount of things. And I mentioned here that the Major Prophets all commented on it -- commented against the background of the conflict and views. Israel and Egypt in the Old Testament days had a strange relationship. You remember what it was maybe. The Jews were brought out of Egypt and after that time -- after the Exodus the next three^{or four hundred} years there was a big period of hostility -- hostility between the Jews and Egyptians down to the time of Solomon. Now Solomon gained a measure of peace by trade relations with them. But right after Solomon's death, his son was back at war with Egypt. And war continued with Egypt basically for Israel from about 920 (I don't mean they had armies all the time. I mean they fought like they fought today) -- from^{about} 920 down to about 730 there was a continuing period of hostility between Egypt and Israel, not necessarily a big marching army, and nasty notes in the newspaper, and reports at the U. N., and all sorts of things like that. Now after 730 a different circumstance came to pass. After 730 the Jews began to look to Egypt to supply the military power to defend them against Assyria and later Babylonia. And so you have a long section in Isaiah and he warns the Children of Israel after chapter 30, Don't lean on Egypt. He says, If you lean on Egypt, it's like leaning on a sharp stick. It will go through your hand when you press down on it. So the history of the relationships of Israel and Egypt have been hostility down to about 730, and then suddenly they turned to an area of friendship, well, military friendship. Now, in the days of Josiah it swung back. That is after 630. In the days of Josiah it swung back to hostility again. Josiah decided he would knock the Egyptians, but he died in the process. But most of the Jews right down to the coming of Nebuchadnezzar looked to Egypt as a military force to give them help in the conflict of their independence. Most of the Jews did. And one of the big temptations in Jeremiah's day was Israel looking to Egypt to give it help -- one of the giant temptations. So, most of these prophecies -- Jeremiah and Ezekiel -- are strikingly contemporary, one in Babylon, one in Palestine. And Isaiah, of course, is a little earlier, but Isaiah is at the start of the troubles in this period. So they worked against that particular background.