

for noncompliance with the covenant are rehearsed. It is grim reading and the captstone is the threat that Israel will be taken captive to a strange land--and be treated very harshly. The Egyptian experience was one of the most painful in the nation's history and the possibility of a similar experience was terrifying. Yet all hinged on one thing: compliance with the instruction of God. Not perfection, understand, for God had provided means for dealing with failure. But yieldedness to Him was an absolute must and a great challenge to the national pride. Our passage takes this up in some detail and we divide it like this:

28:48-52....the conquering nation
53-57....the anguish of defeat
58-68....the cost of disobedience.

II: Discussion

28:48-52...defeat before the foes

48 --they would wear a yoke of iron
--be in hunger and thirst and
--in want of all things.
49-50--the attacks would be brutal
51-52--the defeat would devastate the land

28:53-57...the pain of the siege

53 --famine
54-55--oppression
56-57--betrayal

28:58....."if" you will not

28:59....."then" the Lord will take these contrary acts against
His people

59-61--an assortment of plagues
62 --the remnant will be few
63 --a change in Divine interest
64 --a scattering of the nation will occur
65 --the people will face distress among foreign nations
66 --there will be fear for life
67 --time will be fearsome
68 --and a bondage will be resumed that will make past
trials seem, small.

III. Conclusion

So the covenant is given. It is based on the love and law of God. The destiny of the nation is determined by the use or abuse of the covenant. The rewards for obedience and the punishment for