

Preface

THE PURPOSE of this treatment of Isaiah 40:1-56:8 is to examine its great themes and to study their interrelations. It is hoped that the work will be useful to ministers and to other Bible students, whether they have knowledge of the original languages or not.

The book is not intended to be a commentary on this section of Isaiah. There are a number of good commentaries, written from various viewpoints, that contain helpful discussions of particular words and phrases. The main purpose of this writing is to open up the treasures of this section of the book by showing the interrelation of the thoughts and the general progress of the ideas presented.

Of course, such a treatment could not properly be written without careful examination and detailed study of each verse in the original Hebrew. Results of such study will be presented wherever it seems vital to the purpose of the discussion.

Since the book is not a commentary, one will not always find the author's interpretation of a passage immediately after its translation. In this section of Isaiah the passages are often closely related, and the material that precedes a portion of the translation may well be vital to its understanding.

Minor questions of detailed interpretation will be skipped. Discussions of points where the precise meaning of a word or phrase needs to be considered from a technical viewpoint will be included wherever: (1) the exact understanding of the original is vital to following the argument as a whole, or (2) the correct understanding of the passage requires an interpretation of the original that differs in an important respect from the