king, be placed immediately after a long declaration of God's judgment against Babylon? To this question, the destructive critic has a ready answer. He supposes that a section written by the true Isaiah has simply been added to a writing from a later hand describing Babylon. Thus the views of the critics reduce our present book largely to a haphazard jumble. To the Bible believing student such an explanation is not satisfactory. There must be some way in which the two passages reasonably and logically fit together.

3. Lack of specific Babylonian local color

Between Isaiah 41 and 49 there are a number of instances of definite Babylonian color. Thus there is the reference to the two-leaved gates in Isaiah 45:1, and the mention of the names of certain Babylonian gods in 46:1. Practically nothing of this type is found in chapters 13 and 14. While Babylon is mentioned several times, about the only instances of specific local color are the phrase in 13:19, "the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency," and the reference in 13:17 to the Medes as the people raised up against Babylon. Aside from these two verses the statements are of a general nature such as could apply to almost any nation.

4. Great Cosmic Occurrences

Chapter 13 begins with a picture of the Lord gathering nations "from the end of heaven" (v. 5). Verse 6 says that "the day of the LORD is at hand." Verse 9 reads: "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." Verse 10 continues with the words: "For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." In verse 13 we read: "Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger." It is highly questionable whether the actual conquest of the Babylonians by the Persians would properly fit these terms. Their use suggests that the predictions may actually deal with events