

(Question--Mr. Sit) A very good question. Isaiah in the early days of his ministry probably had free opportunity to speak without hindrance. It is assumed by most interpreters of Isaiah that he was a man of noble blood and a man of background that would more or less give him an entree in all circles of the government. It is probably in his early messages he ~~was~~ was in no sense an official but that he had full opportunity to be. Now that is purely conjecture but a reasonable conjecture. This is definite, that in the reign of Ahaz, Isaiah did not have free access. In the reign of Ahaz we find it necessary for Isaiah to use very expedience to get a hearing. He went out when Ahaz was on an inspection tour and Isaiah went and approached him in front of the mass of the people in Isaiah 7 because evidently he would not get a hearing otherwise. He went to seize and opportunity when the people were there and Ahaz wouldn't dare to do anything to him. Then we find him in 28 speaking to the nobles and evidently using the expedient of getting a hearing by very tactfully seeming to agree with them for a while ~~but~~ until they would be ready to listen to him and then turn their attention around to the things they didn't agree with. So that in the reign of Ahaz Isaiah hardly had much hearing, except from the mass of the Godly and these probably were a substantial group, who were following him and tremendously interested in what he had to say. In the reign of Hezekiah Isaiah was doubtless losing much attention by the whole nation except for those who were opposed to him but probably didn't say much about him because the whole control was in the <sup>60-14</sup> Then in the reign of Menassah if he continued into the reign of Menassah, he was doubtless giving his messages to a little group which was listening and which was receiving him with much attention and probably others heard him occasionally but probably generally paid little attention.

In chapter 40 to 56:9 it is doubtless this little group which he is talking to entirely. He is speaking to them as representing the nation as a whole. They are people who want to serve the Lord but they are people who as Israelites partake