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48:18
Yesterday we were speaking about Is. ~~48~~ 48 and we want to see what there is in the rest of the chapter. We spent a good bit of our time yesterday talking about the things that are important in relation to the Scripture as a whole and which have a definite relevance to this chapter though no more to this chapter than to a good many others. I was thinking it might be a good idea if you were to go through this whole section sometimes from Chapter 40 through, say, Chapter 51, and note all the evidences you find of the feelings of God--the emotions of God, the expressions which seem to show emotion or feeling on the part of God and to see what you could tell about the divine spirit and attitude and personality from them. I think it would be very interesting; in fact to go through the whole Bible that way would be very valuable, but I think it would be particularly so in these chapters which have a good bit more of that than most sections of the Bible have. Now in Chapter 48 here we look at this expression on the Lord's part of great regret that the people had not hearkened to his commands. "Oh, that thou hadst hearkened to my commands!" The real yearning of God over His people, the yearning of God over those whom He has saved, His ~~yearning~~ that people would turn away from sin and would follow Him is a real factor in the Bible; it is shown in the character of Christ. Of course we believe that Christ is God; we also believe in a God who is Christ-like, because Christ does show us the character of God; and it's not just a cold character; it's a character that is warm with emotion and is filled with feeling for His people and sympathy for them. Well, now we have this then - statement what might have been if only they had been true to the Lord. We noticed another question that was raised about the matter of hypothetical statements: we find back in Jeremiah the statement that if you will turn to the Lord with your whole heart you will not be removed. They are promised there will be no exile if they turn to the Lord with their whole heart. Well, you might say, "Well, suppose they had turned; what would have happened." That would the future of the world be like? ~~Well~~ Well, it would be much different than it was, of course. But as to just how it would be - $8\frac{1}{2}$ - we can't tell. We can go as