

Rapture April 18, 1949

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Again it is a bit hard to know whether we should continue right now at the beginning with the rapture or should go into Isaiah a little first. I especially hate to have our two visitors from a distance miss the part on the rapture. If they are not coming I think we should go right ahead and ignore them, but if there is a chance of their being here late I'd feel less badly about their missing the Isaiah part that that because I think they are particularly interested in that, though the two eventually fit together and are closely related, of course. Let's look into the Isaiah passage a few minutes now, then. We haven't looked at this for some time. We, in this class, are dealing with these matters from a Seminar viewpoint. In the other class I am trying to make it lecture. It's a little hard because it is necessary to do some lecturing here and then in the other class we get some discussion also and also I would like before I dealt with this part on the Isaiah apocalypse, if possible, to deal with it in discussion before I spent a great deal of time lecturing on it. As we noticed, I think, two months ago, the Isaiah apocalypse consists of the chapters from 24 to 27. It has been called the Isaiah apocalypse because of the fact that it seems quite different from immediately precedes. You are talking about specific countries before. Here you do not have any direct names of foreign countries dealt with and very few specific references to Israel. Immediately following 28 on you are very specifically dealing with immediate situations in Israel. Such does not seem to be the case here. The four chapters have much in common. They are in a rather exalted poetic style and seem to be discussing events in a time of great catastrophe and upheaval. Many of the expressions in them seem to imply events of tremendous cosmic importance, great upheavals in the universe or changes in the world of man such as the appearance of a great and widespread resurrection of mankind, referred to in various cases here, and complete overcoming of great forces of evil referred to in various cases, so that the four chapters have for many years, perhaps centuries, been described by that title of the Isaiah apocalypse, a section