

is being attracted to you or being attracted to your Saviour. You must think whether your object is being accomplished or whether some subsidiary purpose that is of far less importance is what is being done. Oh if a group just this size, just the size of the group that we have in this room, were to go out devoting all their effort to making Christ known and putting Him first and reaching people for Him, and not letting all sorts of little personal things, and personal objectives take your attention away from your principle object in life, this country could be turned upside down. It is amazing what could be accomplished. But I don't think there has been a group in history the size of this group that has not had some in it whose personal objectives and desires have not become so primary, and tho they have done something for the Lord it has been comparatively minor, and has not had a majority of it find that their personal objective were sufficiently important in their life activity to cause that the making Christ known and helping people to grow in grace for him was accomplished only a fraction of what they could have accomplished. And so here is a most interesting expedition which could have been described in several chapters, but we are only given these very few verses about it because there is so much that is so vital to the purpose that needs more space later on and that would not have the emphasis it should if this were not quite briefly described. But we notice that it says they went for 40 days. Now this number 40 in the Heb. Bible is a round number. 40 is definitely a round number. If it said they went for 38 days I would say they came back 38 days after they started. If it said they went 41 days, I'd say they came back 41 days after they started. But the number 40 in the Heb. is a round number. It's not in our English today. We don't say, I'll see you in 40 days. We don't say 40 days ago something happened. We are more apt to refer to a month or 6 weeks. But 40 is a general, round number in the Scripture. I would say anywhere between 35 days and 45 days is involved in it. It's a general round figure in the Scripture often used in that way. And that is important in understanding a good many passages in Scripture -- to recognise that about the number 40.