

Now in previous class hours you have prepared the Hebrew of Isaiah 13 and 14 and as I mention I will not expect you to do 15 and 16. I think that for the time for preparation that that is comparatively little. It leaves you a good deal of time for studying out the context and determining the true meaning of the passages. Now we looked last time at No. 17 and what did we notice was the theme of chapter 17, Mr. Ludlam? The chapter starts with Damascus but it doesn't seem to stick to it very well, does it? Would you say he takes the text and then departs from it? (Student) Damascus is not the text then, we'll say. It is the starting point, and so we mustn't be--here we have an important matter of interpretation, the burden of Damascus. Since that is the title and the text we naturally suppose that everything that follows will be dealing with Damascus, but when, as a matter of fact, we find that Damascus is not the theme of this chapter, but merely the starting point, we find it necessary to revise our explanation of the first sentence. It is evidently not a title; it is a general beginning word, as you might say. It is perhaps the burden that is suggested by Damascus, rather than the burden that is about Damascus. It is the message that starts with the word about Damascus, rather than a discussion of Damascus or God's rebuke against Damascus. That is involved but it is a comparative incidental feature of the whole, you would think, wouldn't you, Mr. Ludlam? We start with Damascus here but we don't continue with Damascus very long. Now, of course, you might say the first three verses are the burden and from there on it's dealing with other things, but that would certainly be pretty short for a title like this which is used elsewhere for long passages, and even the first three verses aren't principally dealing with Damascus, are they? We start in with Damascus in v. 1 very definitely and v. 2 continues with it, but in 3 we get right into Ephraim and the remnant of Syria perhaps would mean that which is subject to