

of God's message to the people through ~~by~~ the prophets speaks as God's representative, but they contain many passages which are God speaking in His own person, directly without any thought of the prophet as an intermediary, either to the prophet or to the people, and there are a sizable number to the prophets, like these first three verses here which are very clearly not/<sup>God</sup>speaking to the prophet but the prophet speaking to God. And so here the prophet has raised the question, here is all this wickedness in our people here, what is the answer. ¶ Well, God gives the answer in verse five following-God says "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you." In other words, you say, It can't happen here. No, we are God's people here. We can't have something like <sup>explicit</sup>this happen<sup>ed</sup> to Syria up to the north. We can't have a terrible devastation like Assyrians have brought upon the people of Elam and some of these nations round. That can't happen here. Everything has gone on for centuries. We've never had any devastation, any great difficulty here. We don't have to worry about anything like that. God says, It can happen here. God says If you are going to sin, If you turn away from God! If you don't ~~put~~ put God first, <sup>He</sup> is going to punish you. It is inevitable, it is certainly coming. And so he says: I will work a work in your day which you will not believe ~~thought~~ it be told you, for lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hated nation, which shall march through the <sup>a</sup>breadth of the land to possess the dwelling places that are not there. ¶ Now, Habakkuk comes right after the book of Nahum, and in the book of Nahum God has pointed out the destruction of the Assyrians, that great terrible nation that had destroyed the northern ~~kingee~~ kingdom of Israel and that kingdom which had done such slaughter and such cruelty all around them. Nahum showed how God had punished this nation, this nation was God's instrument to punish sin and wickedness. Nevertheless,