

may be called to the tense of the verb: it is present, and stands almost, if not entirely alone in the NT in reference to the fulfillment of prophecy. Elsewhere the uncompounded verb stands in the aorist of perfect, thus stressing the punctiliar action of precise completion or of the completed state. The present would nicely harmonize with the assumption of a continuing situation, and with the manifest evidence of a continuing situation all through the Christian centuries. This striking and precise use of the present tense would tend to confirm the opinion that the original prophecy of Is. was not a prediction in the precise technical sense, but the prediction of a continuing situation.

This notion of the hardening of the Jews as a whole may be a complement of the prophetic idea of the salvation of a remnant in all ages. Would also seem to be related to the idea of the rejection of Israel and may look forward to such a solution as Paul presents in Ro. 9-11. May suggest that it is a definite doctrine in the teachings of Is.

Exegesis of John 12.40

John, like the Synoptists, applies the saying of Is. to the unbelief of the Jews. The point of departure is similar to that of Mt. and closely related: in Mt. it is the dull response to the teaching of Jesus that calls forth His use of the citation from Is.: in John, it is the lack of perception in the face of the miracles of Jesus which points up the citation. In the Synoptics the citation is referred to probably the same situation in the earlier ministry of Jesus; in John, the scene which calls for the quotation is laid in the last week of the life of Jesus. The application of the OT statement in reference to the unbelief even in the face of the miracles of Jesus seems particularly apt in view of the over-all purpose of John as he states it in his closing words ch.20.31. The particular incidents about the life of Jesus which he had chosen to illustrate His life and bring about belief on the part of others were the miracles: it would then lie in the line of his general purpose to call attention to the fact that unbelief of Israel was so ob-