

about 730 to 570 B. C. Consequently, he is saying it will not be the confidence of the House of Israel any more. About the only time when Egypt was the confidence of the House of Israel, was that period of time from about 730 to about 570. That is a long period of time. Even in them they fought back and forth occasionally, but basically during that time there was a strong pro-Egyptian party in Israel and the Jews were constantly trying to get help from Israel for themselves. A little later in its history -- a little later in its history -- in the days of the Ptolomies -- there were times when Egypt was a consternation to Israel -- just times -- like when the Selukadite (?) kings were oppressing the Jews very much, then the Jews would look to the Ptolomies for help. But usually whatever help they got out of the Ptolomies, they got grief too. ~~Yeah~~ that is back in the 300's ^{300's-200's} B. C. So the writer says, referring to a historic circumstance ~~which brings their iniquity to remembrance --~~ will not be the confidence of the House of Israel/when they shall look after them, they shall know that I am the Lord God. They won't do any good to Israel, he said, but they shall know something about Me. Now, in verse 17, we are given the date when this prophecy is given and then Nebuchadnezzar shows up in 18 through 20. He had no wages for his army for Tyre. Now, this was written by Ezekiel close to the time of Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Tyre. The fact of the matter is that Nebuchadnezzar -- are you familiar with that account? -- he erected big ramparts around the city. He besieged it. He threw the stones at the city and the Tyrians moved most of their junk off on the fortress out in the sea, and when Nebuchadnezzar's men ran over the city of Tyre, there was precious little ^{there} for them to steal. Well, ~~an~~ an army, you see, lived not on promised pay so much as it did on what it could steal from the citizenry, or (steal is the wrong word) on what it could get by gleaning, and the general thrust is that Nebuchadnezzar got rather little, and so, the writer says, he got very little for his service of Tyre. He says, I'll let him sack the land of Egypt. He will spoil that. So, in the strength of ~~these~~ these verses, it almost seems that the first 8 or 10 verses of the chapter have to do with Nebuchadnezzar's times. And so, in that passage, you see, the thing I am questioning about is the forty year period, and things related to it. It looks to me that in that section you clearly have an example on the prediction, the time for the fulfillment of which seems to be past, and the apparent realization of the fulfillment is not known. Check. It looks to