

with God that one can be a channel through which God's grace can flow and whose petitions can properly be answered.

In times of personal or national distress all sorts of people rush to pray. There may seem to be results from the prayers of the ungodly, but they are not lasting, nor can it be proved that these results really come from their prayers. Prayer that is not in the spirit is of no avail. The prayer that is merely seeking help for oneself, or is merely seeking to avoid the results of one's own misdeeds, accomplishes nothing.

We cannot expect to wait until the day of adversity and then be able to approach God. When things are going right we should prepare for difficulties ahead. We should learn to know God so intimately that we will have no difficulty in coming into His presence in the day of emergency. Sometimes, of course, God sends distress and trouble as a means of bringing people to Himself; yet this is the exception rather than the rule. In general, people are not brought to the knowledge of God through adversity. Adversity makes them seek Him, but if they do so only for their own selfish purposes it usually avails them nothing.

Now we come to two extremely interesting verses. Verses 13-14 are quite different from what has preceded. They were evidently written much later than the previous 21 verses, for verse 13 says that the previous passage was written at an earlier time. Since it is evident that verses 1-5 come from the time of Sennacherib's invasion, verses 13 and 14 must have been written considerably later. Three years after the giving of these new verses God will bring desolation upon Moab.

It might be possible to interpret this statement as meaning that all the predictions of the previous passage would be fulfilled within three years after the giving of these last two verses. The prediction has previously been given; now a time element has been added. This is done, of course, so that it will be abundantly clear that it is God who is working. One may try to deny the divine activity by saying that trouble comes eventually to every nation. God prevents this evasion by definitely pointing to the time of fulfillment, thus making it harder for people to say that the events are simply due to natural causes. Here is one further evidence that God has