

Isaiah 3

a time it has seemed as if they would not. The Lord has called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. The "when thou wast refused" means the time in which you have been cast aside, surely. It is not to be connected with the phrase, "the wife of youth". He has called thee as a wife of youth. He has called thee when thou was refused, that is each of them relates to the calling rather than there being any relation between the two phrases in themselves. I think that all must agree to that. So that this one is called with great blessings before the Lord, this one who has been refused. It would not be at all impossible to take this verse as referring to the one who has been desolate, the one in v. 1, but there is also the possibility in view of the statement, "the reproach of thy widowhood" in v. 4 of taking it as that He is turning His attention now to the married wife and saying, the one who was temporarily cast out, and saying that she also is to receive blessing, and that certainly would fit with v. 7. For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with great mercies will I gather thee. She is forsaken for a small moment. It seems short in relationship, though it may be long, it seems short in relationship to the greatness of the blessing when she is regathered. Is this a promise here of the eventual receiving, grafting back of Israel into its own olive tree eventually after the period in which the wild olive branches have been in the forefront in the olive tree? Paul said, if the casting aside of them meant mercies to the Gentiles what shall the regathering of them mean but life from the dead. Is it here a reference to that which also is based upon the death of Christ, and the result of the mercy which He has secured? Is it also related to that? Then in v. 9 this is as the waters of Noah to me, What do the waters of Noah have to do with it? This is as the waters of Noah. Is this a description of a great period of suffering? Is somebody going to be drowned? Is this a specific literal statement here? Or is that it is a figure with one specific thing to be brought out, and what is the specific thing to be brought out in v. 9,

ter now sure and certain

destroyed with the rain coming down and little by little tearing down those

every year one ten-millionth of it disappears. The