

is the Author of this Book. Through many different writers He spoke His Word. He led them as they thought and meditated. He revealed His ideas to them. His Holy Spirit guided them as they wrote down the message which was needed for their day, and for ours.

As we look through the Bible, we gain from it a picture of this great directing Mind--a God of justice, but a God of mercy; a God who desires the well-being of all creatures in His universe; but One who maintains such standards that He must inevitably punish defiance against His laws.

We do not read the Bible very long before we see that there are two attitudes which God may take toward us. If we are in rebellion against His righteousness--if we harbor sin in our hearts--then He is a consuming fire, and His Word shows how futile it is for us to attempt to fight against Him. If we are in the relation to Him which children bear toward a father, He is the source of all comfort and joy.

It is a wonderful privilege to have God as our Father. Isaiah 63:9 gives a beautiful picture of His relation toward His own: "In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old." The man who truly knows and trusts God has a factor in all his life that means joy in the midst of trouble, and satisfaction in the midst of chaos. Though the storms may beat around him, he need not fear, for the Director of all the universe is his friend.

The next verse in Isaiah 63 shows the other side of the picture: "But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them."

It is useless to try to fight against God. Only misery can result. Man in a state of rebellion against God is hopelessly ruined. Only by uncondi-