

54.1-17; 55.7; 57.21; 59.9-14; 60.1-22; 63.7,16!,17,19; 64.4,8,9,11,12; 65.9; 66.5,10,20,22. In v.9 and context the prophet seems not to be calling attention to the destruction per se which came to Sodom and Gomorrah, but to the total apostasy which made destruction inevitable. Hence the meaning of the verse would be: God has left us (the nation) a godly remnant; if it were not so, we would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah where the apostasy was total and complete. This paraphrase assumes that the prophet has put himself with the whole nation, and this seems to be the most probable meaning of the expression.

The expression "Lord of Sabaoth" or "of Hosts" seems to be particularly apt in the context. The designation of the Lord thus would throw emphasis on His sovereignty and power. "The word hosts which is used in the title refers to the armies of the universe. ..To the...Hebrews, with their knowledge of the omnipotent reigning God, the regularity and order everywhere apparent suggested an army in vast, numerous, and varied divisions, acting under the command of one will. The Lord of hosts, he is the king who alone commands." (DBD: Hosts) This is stressed and illustrated by the LXX trans. of the word by PANTOKRATOR, Almighty. The word occurs at such significant places as Is. 6.3,5 and Zech. 4.6. The word is adopted in the NT in striking way: Sabaoth occurs twice, once in the quotation in Ro. 9.29 and in Ja. 5.4. And the Gr. trans. is adopted in every case of its occurrence except one, by John, and its use is confined to the Revelation. The passages are: 1.8; 4.8; 11.17; 15.3; 16.7,14; 19.6;15; 21.22. Each of these seems to seek to speak of God in the highest terms conceivable, with particular reference to His majesty and power. The remaining occurrence of the word is in 2 Cor. 6.18, where there is great emphasis on the sovereign command and promise of God who speaks. Thus in Isaiah's use of Sabaoth with the Highil there would seem to be an indication of God's sovereign power and grace: our rebellion is so terrible and universal that if the Lord of Hosts had not caused a remnant to remain to us, we would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah.