

Isaiah 2

prayer and saying, "Oh, certainly I am ready to take you back and give you every blessing," and yet it is followed with rebuke. It is followed with menace. It is not followed with a glorious answer. It is not followed with the reception of the prodigal son, saying to the prodigal son, "Oh, come right back and receive the Father's forgiveness and the Father's mercy." Is that the way the next passage starts? It starts immediately in 65.

"I am sought of them that asked not for me. I am found of them that sought me not." The prayer says, "We are thine. Thou never bearest rule over them. They were not called by thy name." The Lord answers, "I am sought of them that sought me not." I said, "Behold me, behold me" unto a nation that was not called by my name. I've spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; a people that provokes me to anger continually to my face; that sacrifices in gardens, that remain among the graves and eat swine's flesh and say, 'Stand by thyself, for I am holier than thou.' These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day. Your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together," saith the Lord. "Therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom." What a strange thing. Such a wonderful prayer for mercy, a prayer based upon the fact that they are God's people whom God loved.

Isaiah 3

And yet the wonderful prayer for mercy is followed by denunciation and menace of the strongest possible terms. Look at Verse 11. But you are they that forsake the Lord, that forget my holy mountain. Therefore will I number you to the sword and you shall all bow down to the slaughter. 13. Thus saith the Lord, "My servants shall eat but you shall be hungry. My servants shall drink but you shall be thirsty. My servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed. My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you shall cry for sorrow of heart, and howl for vexation of spirit, and you shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen, for the Lord God shall slay thee, and