

Isaiah 3

call his servants by another name." What a strange thing! Wonderful prayer to God for mercy. They are His people. How can He forget them? Why does He not do again the wondrous work He did of old? And then immediately followed by denunciation. "You are the people that forsake the Lord. I am sought of a nation that sought me not. I say, 'Behold me' to a nation that was not called by my name. I will number you to the sword. My servants will eat but you will be hungry. My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you will cry for sorrow of heart and you will leave your name for a curse unto my chosen; and the Lord will call His servants by another name." What a strange answer to the prayer! And when you note the answer to the prayer are you justified in saying as Delitzsch did, "Such a prayer God must answer with mercy but before He does it He stops for a minute for denunciation and then He comes into this wonderful passage of mercy." He does. The last half of the chapter is wonderful mercy and blessing which He is giving, but before that comes this denunciation. Why does the denunciation come first? Is there a reason for it? Is ^{there} a relationship between the prayer and that which follows. Ellicot similarly speaks. He says of 64:12 in his commentary, "The final appeal to the fatherly compassion of Jehovah reminds us of the scene when Joseph could not refrain (Genesis 45:1) and natural tenderness would find a vent. Could the God of Israel look on the scene of desolation and not be moved to pity? And yet, makes this statement. 64:12. Could the God of Israel look on this scene of desolation and not be moved to pity? And in his discussion of the very next verse he says, "Is this the answer to the previous prayer?" Most commentators say "Yes" but there is at least an apparent absence of continual speaker. A more probable view is that it was written after an interval more or less considerable, and that the prophet utters what has been revealed to him as explaining why the plaintiff appeal of Chapter 64:12 does not meet at once with the answer that might have been looked for. He says it isn't the answer but it explains why they don't give the answer they might want. Well, now