

deal in justice and punish sin, but He has a heart that is overflowing with sympathy for the erring human. Jesus Christ wept over Jerusalem and longed to gather the people of Jerusalem as a hen gathers her chickens under her wing. This aspect of the character of the Lord Jesus Christ well illustrates the picture of God contained both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. It is brought out vividly here in the sympathy of the prophet and of the prophet's God for the people of Moab.

The destruction which comes to Moab naturally leads to desolation and famine. This is touched upon in verses 1 and 6 of chapter 15 and particularly stressed in verses 7, 8, 9 and 10 of chapter 16. As usual, the suffering which comes from war is followed by famine and desolation.

Another note that is much stressed in these chapters is the plight of the refugees. This is brought out in verse 5 of chapter 15 where we see the Moabites fleeing as they try to escape from the destruction. It is possibly involved in verses 7 and 9 of chapter 15, and it is quite definite in verses 2 and 8 of chapter 16 (perhaps also in verses 3 and 4).

The Problems of the Section

We have thus noticed the common features of these two chapters and yet are far from interpreting the whole passage. There is much more to the burden of Moab. From the motifs already noticed we can get a general picture of the content of the section, and yet we find that certain of its verses remain obscure. These involve some rather difficult problems and commentators have advanced a number of theories in the attempt to explain them, particularly in chapter 16. Some of these interpretations have much to be said in their favor. Others have hardly anything to commend them. The lack of proper historical sense has led many commentators astray. If we interpret the passage in the light of the situation of the time of Isaiah we find that most of its difficulties disappear.

There is little to give difficulty to the reader until he comes to the last verse of chapter 15. There the question immediately arises about the word "lions." Does this refer to actual lions or is it used figuratively? Both interpretations