

The word that is rendered "liberal" in verses 5 and 8 in the King James Version simply means "generous" or "noble." In view of the various additional senses which the word "liberal" has taken on in recent years, it is perhaps better to follow the rendering of the American Standard Version which translates it as "noble."

Thus in this first section of chapter 32 (vv. 1-8) we see the declaration of the consummation of Christ's kingdom, when He shall reign over the whole earth in righteousness and His princes shall rule in judgment, and we also have a glimpse of the preceding period, when He, instead of putting an end to all danger and opposition, will be offering Himself as protection to all who put their trust in Him.

Rebuke to the Women

With verse 9 the prophet's attention reverts to the immediate situation. He delivers a stirring rebuke to those women who are taking an indifferent and careless attitude toward the Word of God. In days of prosperity when every thing is plentiful these women are failing to realize their dependence upon God and assuming that this period of abundance will continue forever. The prophet assures them that drought and famine are ahead, and that their joy will be turned into sorrow and lamentation.

In the King James Version, verse 12 does not seem very clear, but the rendering of the American Standard Version clears up all difficulty and is doubtless preferable.

With this passage we must compare Isaiah 3, with its rebuke against those women who are finding their pleasure in human adornment instead of in the will of God. Isaiah did not, of course, mean that women should not seek to be attractive. This is clearly God's will for them. What He criticizes is the attitude of making worldly adornment a final end in itself and a cause of pride and forgetfulness of God. Since the Judean women were doing that, they were to be told that their beauty would be turned into ugliness and that their men would be killed in battle in the midst of great calamities. After this Isaiah predicted the coming of a time when people would no longer find their great pleasure in worldly adornment, but instead would find their joy in the