

to intervene and to prove His supremacy and His power. The three-fold repetition of the word "now" in this verse is very striking.

Verse 11 vividly pictures the utter defeat of the Assyrian boaster's plans. It reminds us of the description in Isaiah 29:8, where the Assyrian king is dreaming of a great feast and then waking up to find that he is still hungry, since his dream of success was only a vision of the night. In verse 12 we see the melting away of his hosts. His people are but as the burning of lime; they disappear like thorns cut down and burned.

After God has declared in verses 10-12 what He is going to do, He then considers the thing as accomplished and in verse 13 He calls upon everyone, whether far or near, to see what He has done and to acknowledge His might. The results of the miraculous interposition by God's supernatural power are vividly described in verse 14. "The sinners in Zion are afraid: fearfulness has surprised the hypocrites." All these men who were going through the forms of religious life without meaning any of it are now filled with terror at seeing the reality of the power of God. It has become apparent that He is like a devouring fire, and they wonder who among them can endure in His presence. The answer is contained in verse 15. God cannot look upon iniquity.

A King in His Beauty

In verse 17, the prophet addresses the terrified people of Jerusalem and assures them that a different day for them is coming. Hezekiah, during the invasion, appeared to them as a man who was doomed. In imagination they could already see him carried in disgrace before the Assyrian king; possibly his eyes would be put out, as was done to many other captured kings. As he worked night and day, endeavoring to strengthen the fortifications and to encourage the people, he appeared like a man under a sentence of death. The prophet declared that he will not always seem like this. When God has performed His great work and Sennacherib's army has been destroyed, the people will again see Hezekiah as one reigning in glory. They will see a king in the beauty of his regal splendor. They the first part of this verse undoubtedly