

Isaiah says that is the way the Lord is going to deal. The Lord is going to bring his punishment upon the ungodly but He is going to regulate the way that it affects those who look to Him for help.

In other words God has a great purpose in all that He performs ~~to~~ to turn the wicked to repentance, to lead them to see their need of the truth and they have many calamities in this life. Many of them who do not trust in the Lord though there are others who find that things go comparatively well in this life. But when it comes to those who knows the Lord he is dealing with them as the farmer deals with his field. We know that He will not send anything into the life of one who believes in the Lord who trusts Him and who follows Him except as He has a good purpose in it for our good and blessing.

So we find that all the things the Lord brings into our lives God has a purpose. He may choose wonderfully to deliver us from difficulty and trouble. On the other hand he may permit us to go through difficulty and trouble and suffering because it is His purpose to mould us and to prepare us to live with Him for all eternity. So whatever the Lord sends we should learn to rejoice in it because we know that if we know Him, if we have been saved through the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that He is working in it for our good and He would not allow it to touch us except He had a good purpose for us individually.

Incidentally even from a human viewpoint, the one who can rejoice in tribulation, the one who can say what the Lord sends I receive with joy, instead of saying Isn't this awful. Look at this difficulty and trouble. It has an effect psychologically, and even from the human viewpoint if we learn to trust the Lord and to know that His will is best we find that the troubles we have to face are not half as ~~xx~~ bad in their effect upon us, as they are upon those who do not take that attitude.

That is the wonderful thought of ch. 28. Then he goes ahead in ch. 29 to point out that as a result of what Ahaz has done there are going to be terrible troubles for Jerusalem in the days ahead. There are going to be these awful troubles which we already read about in ch. 27 but which were described in ch. 36-37 when the Assyrian force is going to come with great power after they have digested Ephraim and Damascus, they are going to come with great power against the Land of Judah. There are going to be those troubles but God is going to deliver them out of them.

So in these next chs. we look forward to that also and see how that is going to work. But in ch. 28 ~~==~~ in ch. 7-8 we had the theme that God is going to replace the wicked king Ahaz as a ~~==~~ by a true representative of the house of David, the Lord Jesus Christ. A virgin will conceive and bring forth and there will come this One. It's a rebuke to Ahaz. Some people say it is blessing to Ahaz. Well Isaiah is not trying to bless Ahaz. He is rebuking Ahaz, but he is telling him of God's blessing of his people who will put their trust in Him and God's provision.

In ch. 29 he looks at the same thing from the viewpoint of the nobles. He shows that Israel as a whole is disloyal to Him and untrue to Him but he shows him as raising up a new people, a people gathered many from Israel but many from other nations all over the world and becoming a people that replace Israel as being the people representing God in the world.