

God. They're taking an attitude towards people that - stay by yourself. Don't come near me. I'm holier than you. This is a denunciation of Pharisaicism such as we don't often find in the Old Testament. It is very specific and very pronounced, isn't it? It fits right in with the denunciation of the Pharisees in the New Testament. Exactly. Isaiah 73.

- interesting verse. For that reason. It certainly fits with the New Testament. It is very interesting too in connection with the prayer isn't it? Doesn't it fit with the prayer before it? Even though the prayer has got a confession of sin. All of our sins are as filthy rags. Yet it does lay that position. We are God's people. We are the people of His holiness. He's got to do this for us. We are thine. Thou never barest rule over them. Stand by thyself. I'm holier than thou. It certainly fits in as an answer to the prayer. Perhaps a summary of the prayer. This is your attitude. But what's God's attitude? These are as smoke in my nose. The fire that burns every day. I don't think, the fire that burns all the day would mean anything. What would it mean? The fire that burns all the day. It shall continue. I wouldn't know that it is denunciation that is there, but when He says, these are a smoke in my nose, that certainly gives us the impression, of something disagreeable, doesn't it? Something unpleasant. That's an interesting phrase. These are as smoke in my nose. The fire that burneth all the day. But surely the fire that burneth all the day, simply means a continuance of smoke in my nose. I don't see what else it would mean. They are a smoke in my nose. A fire that burns all the day. Quite a figurative speech. Then He says, "Behold, it is written before me. I will not keep silence. I will recompense in their bosom, your iniquities, and the iniquities of your Father, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills. Therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom. Again the thing they are criticized for is not following the ceremonial law. They burned incense upon the mountains. Blasphemed me upon the hill. They followed their way instead of His way. They've been rebellious against Him. "Therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom."

Verse 1 of course is God's mercy to the people outside. It is rebuke though. Mercy entering a rebuke passage, because it is mercy to the people on the outside, given as a rebuke to those who asked for mercy for themselves also. But then from verse