

under the figure of a city.

We note further that this people which is here represented as complaining is not the entire nation of Israel. In earlier portions of Isaiah the prophet has often addressed the entire people of Israel, and declared to them God's rebuke for their sin and His declaration of the inevitable punishment. Very frequently such passages were followed immediately by verses in which the prophet's attention was turned away from the nation as a whole, and directed instead to the little group of the godly who were trying to follow God and to do His will. The mass of the people ~~are not in a position~~ ^{have no right} to complain that the Lord has forsaken them. They know only too well that they are suffering the just deserts of their deeds. The little group of the godly recognizes that it as part of the nation is implicated in the sin into which the nation has fallen, and deserves punishment; it tends to give way to despair as it sees the terrible fate which is ahead for the nation. From Isaiah forty on it is this portion of the people which is primarily in mind. Their punishment is not so much a matter of penalty as one of purification and cleansing in order to make them fit to carry on the work that God desires them to do. Zion here represents the godly portion of Israel at that time, and may be used as a figure to represent the true people of God at any time.

It is interesting that occasionally in the New Testament we find a contrast between the Jerusalem that now is and the Jerusalem that is above. The one represents the great mass of people who profess the name of God, and the other stands for those who are really His own. Thus, in Galatians 4:26 we read, "For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." Thus, we have a contrast between two Jerusalems, each of which represents an attitude towards God's work. Again in Hebrews 12:22, we read, "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." Thus, we see that Zion, or the heavenly Jerusalem, is used in the New Testament to represent the true people of God in all ages regardless of