

Isaiah 3

argument to interpret them this way or that way. I'd better say it this way. There is no positive, clear proof of contrition. It is capable, susceptible of being taken either of the two ways. I think it inclines toward the way that it doesn't have contrition, but I think the way God answers it is the thing that must be decisive. ^{He} that/ doesn't answer it with saying, "Oh, I am glad you recognize you are a sinner; you recognize forgiveness. Here is salvation for you. Receive it and God will rebuild your cities and give you a blessing. Mr.--- (Student) The point that Mr. Sit raised about, "Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: O Lord, thou art our father"; that verse taken alone could certainly very well be said of a person, a Gentile could say it. "God, you are our father even though Abraham doesn't know it, or Israel." It could very well, taken alone, be considered that way, but when you find in the passage preceding and following so many references to the fact that -- "We are your people, God. We are yours. You never bore rule over them. They weren't called by your name. Return for thy servants' sake, the tribes of thine inheritance," the whole stress is, "We are the people of God. We are the Israelites," and it would seem therefore that you must interpret Verse 16 in line with the rest of it, meaning not, "We are people who don't actually have Abraham for our father," but it is God's mercy to Abraham which must come to us. Mr.--- (Student). Very good. Verse 8. Thus says the Lord, "As the new wine is found in the cluster," (Student) Yes. There is nothing we can do about it. It is just in your hands; therefore you can't blame us. The very same words can be taken in an entirely different way. You are the potter. Oh, do give me a renewed heart. Renew a right spirit within me. But there is nothing of that in the passage, and the following denunciation would be very strange as an answer to a real prayer of contrition.

. Mr.---? (Student)

I would say that at first sight there are phrases here which suggest true

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