

very temple.

How appropriate verse 22, a description of that which happened under Hezekiah, the son of Ahab, the good king, that these graven images were cast out as unclean things. The king turned back to God.

Verse 20 describes the misery of the scene in which the cry was ~~given~~^{sent} up to God. Bread - adversity; water - affliction, that is what God has given them. And yet they are not in as bad a condition as under Ahab when it was necessary to go out to the outside of the city to see Ahab to try to force Ahab to listen to him. Under Hezekiah the teacher, the prophet of God has access directly to the king and to the people. Teachers were not hidden any more/ ~~They~~^{but their eyes} saw the teachers as described in verse 20.

Verse 21 tells us that when they turn aside to the right hand or to the left, they will hear a voice behind them saying: This is the way, walk ye in it. When Hezekiah did wrong, God told him he had done wrong and showed him how he might turn back to the way which God would have him go. It was necessary to bring strong rebuke to Ahab; Hezekiah was quite different, for he was looking for God's direction.

In verses 23 to 26 we see something of the joy of the people as the seige comes to an end. The previous~~ly~~ verses have described the seige. They are promised that they are not to be taken into exile. God will allow them to continue to dwell there; he will be gracious to them when they cry to ~~him~~. Their teachers are with them through the seige. God is leading them. They have defiled the idols and cast away these things which Ahab previously introduced. Now the seige comes to an end and they are able to go out and sow the ground. God will send the rain. The cattle will feed in large pastures, not cramped in into the city expecting seige at any moment. They'll go out and establish their farms as in previous days. All this is to happen, verse 25 tells us, in the days of the great slaughter when the towers fall -- a vivid picture ~~which~~ of the time when the Assyrian army has come to an end, its great bulwarks have been shattered,