

place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes and wept before Me ; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord, Behold, therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace ; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place." Such is the grace of our God ! The bruised reed He will not break. He giveth grace to the humble, "Blessed is the man that maketh the Lord his trust !" Josiah might use the language of the Psalmist, "He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings, and He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God."

Painful, indeed, is the contrast in turning to the history of Josiah's son. Of him it may be said, "Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength, that trusted in the abundance of his riches and strengthened himself in his wickedness." The 36th chap. of Jeremiah opens with the goodness of God towards His poor rebellious people. He presses upon their attention the solemn condition they were in, causes a roll to be written containing all the words Jeremiah had spoken against Israel, saying, "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them ; that they may return every man from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."