

only enviable one, for he glorified God in this sorrowful world. May we too, like him, be found in the path of separation from evil. There we shall taste all that the trees of God yield. He who has enjoyed these things exclaims: "Should I leave them?"

When Jotham had shown the people their folly, and foretold their judgment, he ran away and fled (ver. 21). He left the congregation of Israel, abandoning it to the chastisement which was already at the door. He went to Beer and dwelt there: "That is the well whereof Jehovah spake unto Moses, 'Gather the people together, and I will give them water,'" and which Israel celebrated in a song (Num. xxi. 16-18). Thus it is, that the faithful witnesses, in the midst of Christendom already ripe for judgment, withdraw to Beer, the true gathering point, where is the fountain of living water (c. f. Jer. ii. 13), the place also of songs and praises.

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*Tola and Jair.*

(Chap. x. 1-5.)

The beginning of this chapter gives us a brief sketch of the history of two judges in Israel—Tola and Jair—both eminent men. The first was renowned for his descent, his ancestors being mentioned in Genesis amongst the sons of Israel who went down into Egypt—namely, Tola and Puah among the sons of Issachar (Gen. xlvii. 13; 1 Chron. viii. 1). The second was conspicuous for