

And what was it that made him realize this hopeless condition? His condition was not really different from what it was before. He had been a God fearing man, and had prophesied against the wickedness of the people, as the previous chapters show, and yet no such words as these had passed his lips before. His cry now is, "Woe is me!" Why had he never uttered such a cry of distress? His own mouth furnishes the answer in these words, "FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE KING, THE LORD OF HOSTS." Here, then, is the secret. The light was let in on his state. He was in the very presence of Jehovah, and manifested in the light of His presence. He could say, what he never could have said before, "Mine eyes have seen the King;" and the effect was to make him feel his utter unfitness for that holy presence.

So, too, had it been with another of more ancient day--one of whom the Lord said, "There is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil." This remarkable man, when fully tested, cursed the day in which he was born, and in justifying himself condemned God, yet when brought into God's presence, he had to say, "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth Thee; wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job. i. 8; xlii. 5, 6).

Solemn indeed, it is, when God thus takes us in hand, in order to show us what we are in His presence. "God is light," and the light searches us.