

This is not so logical a place for the break in our action but what is behind us is the great deliverance which is, I think, contingent on national repentance. This, in turn, seems to hinge on the frightful state of the nation that calls it to think of God. Apparently this comes as the nation is surrounded by foes. The open fountain, symbolical of cleansing, will remind us of Isaiah 55:1 ff, among other things. Therefore 12:1-8 shows deliverance while 12:9-13:1 shows the base on which this rests. The remainder of 13 will discuss wider aspects.

The wise student will see that the power of God is behind all of this in ways that we can neither fully predict nor limit.

4. More detailed study of 13:2-9

a. Note on the overall character:

It is one of the hardest passages in the Old Testament due to the nature of the action described and the changes in address. Vss 2-6 comprise a narrative section in which the subjects and objects are not overly clear while vss 7-9 represent the side address of the Lord against the parties involved in the catastrophic setting.

b. Verse by verse discussion

13:2...

"in that day" continues our narrative and maintains the sequence of the previous sections

"Lord of Hosts" occurs for the first time, I think, since 10:3 in a parallel context.

"the names of the idols"...interesting concept. Perhaps the idols are already gone and only the memory or reputation of them remains. "Name", of course, has a much deeper idea than just the nominal representation.

וַיִּסַּח רוּחַ חַטָּאִים "the profane and the unclean spirit"...this may be an intentional contrast with the holy Spirit. That prophet is associated with it suggests a spokesman who is also not holy. Note that three evil things are swept from the land.

13:3...

כִּי is certainly used temporally and suggests the reality of the fulfillment of the protasis.

כִּי יִנְבֵּא אִישׁ אִשְׁמָר "yet prophesy"...shall prophesy again or shall continue to prophesy. The reason behind this is that the "prophet" has been swept from the land...anyone now prophesying is obviously "beyond the will of God." Anyone claiming