

The latter half of the chapter is so different from the first part that it probably should have been designated as a separate chapter. Considered in relation to earlier portions of this Apocalypse these ten verses can readily be understood as unveiling a vital part of the divine plan.

We recall that chapter 24 began with a description of the situation in the land of Judah when God found it necessary to send the people into exile because of their sin; then it looked at the remnant of grace that would carry God's Word to the very ends of the earth in spite of persecution and suffering; finally, it described the upheavals that would precede the ultimate establishment of righteousness. In 25:6-9, the central theme of God's blessing to all nations was figuratively presented. It described the great banquet God would prepare at Calvary and its result in bringing salvation, opening the eyes of multitudes, and ultimately doing away with death. Since chapter 26 is still a part of the Isaiah Apocalypse it is quite reasonable to ask whether it may also have a long section dealing with the fate of God's true people. Careful students should not begin by simply assuming that such a vision would necessarily start with the exile as was done in chapter 24, but should also consider the possibility of a vista that would start at a point further along in the dealings of God with His people, whether physically descended from Abraham or not. An answer to this question should be determined by what the text contains. Rather definite indications for this determination are found in verses 13-14.

The passage begins with verse 12, which declares that it is God Himself who produces whatever peace His people have and whatever works they may accomplish. Although the Holy Spirit is not specifically named, the verse could quite naturally be interpreted as describing His work in the heart of the believer.

Although verses 13-14 are applicable to all believers, they would seem to have particular application to those from non Abrahamic backgrounds. These people may look back on their pagan ancestry and recognize that such gods as those of Greece and Rome, of Scandinavia or of Germany, had ruled over them, but that these false gods have now been laid aside and only the true God is their Lord. Verse 14 shows that