

people saying, "Where is he that brought them up out of the sea?" In this translation the beginning of the verse sounds as if it meant that after the people had rebelled against God, God remembered the days of old and asked the question that follows. This idea is quite at variance with the context. Besides, God would hardly be thought of as asking where He Himself was. The word "and" is not in the original (and this is indicated by italics in the Authorized Version). Many commentators feel that, in line with the entire context, "his people" should be taken as the subject of the verb "remembered," rather than to insert the word "he." Thus the first part of the verse would read: Then his people remembered the days of old, the days of Moses, saying, "Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock."

Such expressions of longing for the glorious treatment received in the days of Moses continue through verse 14. In verse 12 and verse 14 it is said that by these actions God made Himself an everlasting or glorious name. Desire to exalt the name of God is praiseworthy, but it cannot be made an excuse for avoiding the duty of penitently seeking His will and turning away from sin.

Verse 15 contains an impassioned plea to God to give material help to His people. Similar pleas are found in verse 17, and in 64:1, 9 and 12. It is the recurring refrain and purpose of the entire passage.

However, this plea is not grounded upon a desire to turn aside from all that is contrary to God's will, nor upon a plea that He should give strength and wisdom to serve Him aright. The idea seems to be that the people whom God has chosen have an undeniable claim upon Him. They feel that since He is their Father He is obligated to help them. While it is true that the one who has been born of God can never be lost, it is equally true and vital that such a one is bound to inquire what is wrong in himself when God withdraws His blessing and to pray that God will cleanse and change him, lest a worse chastening be necessary.

In verse 17 the goodness of God is questioned, and He is blamed for their plight. They ask why He has made them err from His ways and hardened their heart from His fear. In the face of a similar charge Paul said, "Nay, but, O man, who