

not the end. There is something grander on, God has a wonderful plan ~~by~~ <sup>beyond</sup>. And so he goes on with verse 13, this isn't the end, "When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done." There will still be left those who are true to God. There is still a continuation of God's testimony. It is not a whole land devoted to the Lord. It is not a whole great section of the world following him truly. It is individuals like the gleaning grapes, like the shaking of an olive tree, but there are these individuals. God's work is not done. There are to be those who are true to God, and what do these people do, they ~~look~~ lift up their voice. They sing for the majesty of the Lord, they cry aloud from the sea. Wherefore glorify ye the Lord in the fires, even the name of the Lord God of Israel in the isles of the sea. From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs. I think, surely, in this case, it means the ~~the~~ whole world. Not the uttermost part of the land here. The vision is going out and extending some. The uttermost part of the earth we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. He is extending his vision now, and he is showing that the ~~people~~ <sup>2</sup> and goes into exile, God's testimony is going out. Many commentators take vs. 15, "Glorify ye the Lord in the fires, even the name of the Lord God of Israel in the isles of the sea", as showing the two sides. The isles of the sea are to the west of Palestine so that the fires must indicate the sunrise in the east and God's glory is to the east and to the west. Personally I think that is reading *into Scripture*, I don't think the fires mean the east at all, but I do think, the fires, is a very natural figure to use for persecution. A figure they use for difficulties, for trouble. In the midst of troubles glorify the Lord. We think of the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace in Babylon, we think of Daniel in the Lion's den, we think of the Israelites fighting against the Maccabees or under the Maccabees against the Syrian