

"From the west" is also a statement of exactly what it means. That's the way they used it in that day. So here we see the truth of God going out to the sea. Here after this long passage of 12 vv. of God's judgment on sin, God's turning away from those who have turned away from him, then we find there is still the gleaning of grapes but they don't cower quietly in submission trying to escape being destroyed but they proclaim the message. They shout aloud, they praise God, they even do it from the west.

There's the great ocean spreading out. Did God give Isaiah a view of the way the Gospel was spread and would not be shut in there in Palestine?? Even the God poured out His judgment on His people they would go to the West. They would carry the message. Did he perhaps have a vision of Paul's journies? See him going on to Greece? See him going on to Rome! Perhaps going on to Spain. Did he get a glimpse perhaps of the Gospel being carried across the ocean to America? Did he have a glimpse of it being carried across from America over to China? Did he see it going westward this way as the message was proclaimed?

No matter how much the forces of evil close us in, God does not want us to get so tied up with the things of this world or so fearful for our own existence that we keep quiet. He does not commission a few ministers and a few evangelists to go out and preach the Gospel of salvation only. He commissions every Christian to proclaim it, to cry aloud that Jesus Christ died that you may be saved. This is the Gospel He proclaimed to Abraham. Jesus said, Abraham saw my day and was glad. He wants us everyone to proclaim this message.

So we find the message being carried on and on after all this terrible picture of gloom and destruction that preceded it. We find in v. 15 that this thought is continued further. The KJV says "Wherefore glorify the Lord in the fires, even the name of the Lord God of Israel in the coastland of the sea." A wonderful picture of the Word of God going on westward, going on and on and on glorifying the Lord. What He calls everyone of us to do, not merely in set messages, not merely in set proclamations, but to go out carrying this message and give out the Word of truth to be His instruments, His ambassadors to proclaim the Gospel and to carry the message to the very ends of the earth.

This v. is translated a bit differently in the NIV. NIV says, "Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord; exalt the name of the Lord the God of Israel in the islands of the sea." Sounds exactly like the KJV doesn't it, except for one thing. KJV starts "glorify the Lord in the fire." NIV says, "Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord." This Hebrew word they translate "east" here in the next 6 chs. occurs 3 more times and in every one of them they translate it in the NIV "fire". Why do they translate it "east" here? There is no other place where this word is ever translated "east" that I know of. It is always translated "fire" but here they translate it "east". Why would they translate it "east"? Some commentator (I don't know who it was) but sometime ago some commentator said, Verse 14 says they will cry aloud from the sea and sea there stands for west, therefore when it says glorify the Lord in the fire, it must mean east! Fire must stand for east.