

involved. Whether he is now rejoicing or sorrowing over conditions on earth is not a question. The fact is at any rate, whether he does now or not, that he certainly will ~~know~~ some time know exactly what has happened and will rejoice in that which is to be rejoiced over, and we are told here that he need not sorrow over God's actions because, although God casts aside the unworthy and those who neglected the great opportunities God has given, God is raising up for Jacob a great progeny of those who are his spiritual children.

Now we come to verse 24, the conclusion of the whole passage. Verse 24 is rather marked in contrast to verse 18. 18 told us what is to happen to the deaf and the blind, those who previously had no opportunity, those who were thought of as outside the pole. Verse 24 tells about those who err in spirit and murmur. They are ^{to} come to understand and receive instruction. There would seem here to be a blessed promise that God is not casting aside his people forever, that he is going to bring them back. Alexander sees here the restoration of Israel and there is much to be said for his position. Those described early in the chapter as erring in spirit, murmuring, and turning aside from the things of God, this race is also to come to understanding and to receive instruction and to be brought into the fold eventually.

Now the question is raised about this interpretation of this passage, does it involve ~~an~~ ^{the} assumption that we have necessarily a chronological process. In answer to that, we note that no such assumption is involved. It may be taken as logical rather than chronological. Verses 9 to 16 are merely a description of a condition, a condition which existed for a long time. Verse 17 is a logical answer to the condition, although it begins with a phrase which shows that there is a chronological relationship. "Is it not yet a very little while." Something is going to happen in the future which is God's answer to this condition. Verses 22 and 23 are the blessings in relation to this which has been given. Typically they show the true attitude of Jacob toward them. It is not that after this happens, Jacob does something. It is not chronological but logical. Verse 24