

Can we doubt that as Isaiah penned these words the Lord gave him a glimpse of the extension of the knowledge of the true God in future times? Did he perhaps foresee the apostle Paul sailing westward to bring the message of salvation through God's Son to Greece and Rome, and perhaps even to Spain? Did he see missionaries bringing the message of salvation to Britain? Did he see the Word of God crossing the ocean, and great centers for its belief and promulgation being established in America? Did he see missionaries going still farther westward, carrying the message across the sea from America to the eastern shores of Asia? "They shall cry aloud from the sea."

As we have already noted, the next verse and a half clearly develop the hint contained in verse 14. What was previously a vision confined to the land of Israel now spreads out into large portions of the globe. The Word of God is to be widely extended. God's plan is not to be nullified by the fact that so much of Israel has fallen into sin. It is His purpose that there shall go forth from Israel a light to the nations, and this promise is indeed to be fulfilled.

As we look at the fuller development in verses 15-16a of the hint contained in verse 14, we again find a suggestion of something new. Verse 15 begins with the words: "Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires." An edition of the Bible that I used as a boy has a marginal note opposite the word "fires" which reads: "Or valleys." So far as I know the reading "valleys" is not contained in the text of any English version, though it is found in Portuguese and Spanish translations. I have no idea where it originated. The Hebrew word used generally refers to a fire, or its flame, and is similar to a word meaning "light." Not all English versions follow the KJV in rendering the word as "in the fires." The RSV says, "Therefore in the east give glory to the LORD." One Hebrew dictionary calls the plural of a separate word, translating it "Region of light, - east" and giving