

when the event there described occurs, and perhaps much longer.

The fact that verse 15 does not necessarily mean an end to the condition described in verse 14 is quite important, because it is apparent that the verse is a description of the events centering around Pentecost. The first part of the verse -- "until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high" -- can be readily interpreted as describing the events on the day of Pentecost; the last part of the verse seems hardly to refer to any other event than that which occurred near the beginning of the spread of the Gospel, after the crucifixion of Christ. The last half of this verse is strikingly similar to Isaiah 29:17. It is better rendered in the American Standard Version than in the King James Version. The Hebrew word used here, which the King James Version translates "be" is better rendered in the American Standard Version as "become." The American Standard Version renders the last verb of the verse as "esteemed," and the King James Version renders it "counted." There is little difference in the meaning of these two English words in the context, but since the word "esteemed" is used for the identical Hebrew word in Isaiah 29:17, it is good to use it here also, so as to bring out the fact that the last half of Isaiah 29:17 and the last portion of this verse are identical. In Isaiah 29 we learned that Lebanon will be turned into a fruitful field and the fruitful field esteemed as a forest. Here we find that the wilderness will become a fruitful field and the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest. Very evidently the same event is indicated. In our discussion of that passage, we noticed that it was a description of the overturning which God predicted that He would bring when his Spirit would depart from the leaders of Israel and the apostles would turn to the Gentiles. In Romans 11 Paul would describe it as the cutting out of some of the natural branches and the grafting in of wild branches in their place. It is a complete overturning of the previous situation with regard to the Jews and the Gentiles. In Isaiah 29:17 the figurative expression, "the forest of Lebanon," which is often used as a figure for the great heathen powers, represented the Gentiles. Here "wilderness" is used similarly. Chapter 29 ended with a hint of the grafting in again of the natural branches into the olive tree. There is a similar