

out of Jacob which will receive rich blessing at His hand and will truly inherit the promises that He has given.

### **Renewed Prediction of Punishment**

Verses 11 and 12 again place great stress on God's punishment of His rebellious people. In verse 11 they are criticized for their idolatry. The words which the King James Version renders "that troop" and "that number" are better translated in the American Standard Version as "Fortune" and "Destiny" and probably indicate idols that were being worshipped. Verse 12 is a terrible description of suffering and destruction to come to those who, though called of God, have refused to answer and have been rebellious against Him.

It is sad to read these verses after hearing the wonderful promises from Isaiah 40-56 and seeing the way in which God was bringing His people back from Babylon, giving them marvelous blessing, and promising to send His Son for redemption from sin. It is indeed sad to learn that there is still a long period of suffering and misery ahead for them. Verses 11 and 12 make it very clear that the time of Jacob's trouble is not over. Severe troubles await the natural descendants of Jacob during the long centuries between Isaiah's day and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses 13-15 are made up of a series of contrasts between the happy future of the true servants of God and the miserable fate of those who are here addressed in the second person. Quite evidently these latter represent the greater part of those who had made the prayer in the previous chapter, and are the same, of course, as those who were addressed in the second person in verses 11 and 12. God's true servants, who are following Him and who are redeemed through the Lord Jesus Christ, are given general promises of great material blessings and of superlative joy and happiness, but for those who are rebellious against Him there will be misery and trouble. Thus the great happiness to come to God's true followers, whether Jew or Gentile, is here contrasted with the fate of those who, despite their ancestral relation to Him, continue in rebellion.