

to Joppa to get a ship to go to Tarshish. This is almost the only instance in the Old Testament where we read of a man taking a boat from Israel.

God called Abraham and followed up the call with His promises to Isaac and Jacob and His continuing blessing upon Israel, in order that through Israel He might keep alive the knowledge of the one true God and might prepare the way for the coming into the world of the Saviour who would bring light to all nations. The revelation of God in the Old Testament is mostly confined to the people of Israel, and, except for a few incidents in Egypt or in Mesopotamia, almost all of the events depicted occur in the land of Israel. Yet here we have a note rarely struck in the Old Testament: "They shall cry aloud from the sea." The suggestion is clear that at some time beyond the coming exile there will be an occasion when those who are true to God will praise Him not only in the land of Israel, but in regions from which at Isaiah's time His praise had rarely ascended.

This suggestion is barely touched upon in verse 14, but when we look at 15, and at the beginning of 16, we find it clearly repeated and emphasized. Verse 15 reads, "Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea." Verse 16 begins with the words, "From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous." Here the word "righteous" is in the singular and refers, of course, to the righteous God. Thus the succeeding verses bring out very clearly the fact that we are not reading something into verse 14 when we suggest that it is promising not merely that the knowledge of God will not die with the exile and that a remnant of grace will continue in the land of Israel. Going far beyond this, the praise of God is to be extended into other parts of the world so that even in the islands of the sea there will be those who will be giving praise to the Lord God of Israel.