

France against Germany. Thus "with" can seem to have opposite meanings. Since the range of prepositions differs widely in various languages, they constitute one of the most difficult features in making any translation.

Thus we may reasonably question the usual translation of verse 17, and suggest that it is really the beginning of the second part of the chapter rather than the end of its first part.

Blessings for Egypt

The latter part of the chapter describes a turning of the Egyptian nation to God. God will smite Egypt but He will not destroy it. "He shall smite it and heal it and they shall return even to the Lord and he shall be entreated of them and shall heal them" (v. 22).

This part of the chapter may be subdivided into two sections. The first, consisting of verses 18 to 22, deals particularly with Egypt; the last three verses promise blessing to Assyria as well.

In verses 18 to 22 there is a wonderful picture of the spread of the knowledge of God in the land of Egypt. While some of its details may not be very clear, the central meaning of the passage is unmistakable. God will become known in the land of Egypt, and its people will worship and serve Him.

The five cities in verse 18 have caused interpreters much difficulty. What does it mean that "one shall be called, The city of destruction?" All sorts of suggestions have been made. Some take it as showing the fate of one of these cities; others consider it to be a proper name. This latter is the interpretation followed by Delitzsch. A very ingenious suggestion has been made by Calvin. He considers the city mentioned at the end of the verse to be in addition to the other five, rather than one of them, and regards the whole as comparative rather than specific. He would make it mean that out of every six cities in Egypt, five will turn to God and one will be destroyed.

Full interpretation of the details of verse 18 is difficult but this much is clear -- that it describes the spread of the knowledge of God to cities in Egypt. All through these five verses we have a wonderful prediction. God is not going to