

His blood, and those who are really following their own sinful desires. The phrase, "for I know their works and their thoughts," forms a reasonable conclusion to the declarations of judgment in verse 17 and has little relevance to what follows in verse 18. The period should not come at the end of verse 17 but after this phrase in verse 18.

It should not be thought that it is false to the Word of God to recognize sentence endings as sometimes different from the ends of verses. The verse divisions were put in long after the Bible was written and are in no sense inspired. Occasionally, as here, the end of one sentence and the beginning of another are joined in one verse. Sometimes we even find the ending of one paragraph and the beginning of the next combined into a single verse, as in Psalm 19:4. Verse divisions, like chapter divisions, are extremely convenient for finding places in the Bible but are by no means to be taken as a guide in working out the thought of a passage. From this viewpoint they are often a hindrance. The rest of verse 18 presents a thought which is touched upon again in verse 20 and stressed in verse 23. The time is coming when all nations shall go up to Jerusalem at frequent intervals to worship the Lord and to see His glory. "From one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD." This corresponds with the pictures in Isaiah 2 and elsewhere of people coming from all the parts of the earth to Jerusalem, which is to be the center of God's government and of His worship during that great time of blessing. Great increase in transportation facilities is promised in order that representatives of all nations shall come up to Jerusalem.

Verse 19 promises a time of great Jewish missionary activity, taking the news of God's glory to all the nations. This would seem to follow the outpouring of God's wrath upon His enemies, and to precede the coming of the nations to Jerusalem. Verse 21 tells of the selection of new priests and Levites. God's services will continue, though their exact form is not stated.

Verse 22 points to the lasting quality of the new heavens and the new earth which God will establish, a sign of the continuation of the nation He selected. Surely this indicates the permanence of God's blessing upon Israel. Many of its