

to my chosen, for the Lord will slay you and call His servants by another name, and then these with this other name will go out across the seas over to Europe, and clear over to America, and cross still further to China, down to South America, and in all these lands you'll find people swearing by the God of truth. So that the first half fits very nicely, with this note of universality here. It seems to me that the universality is there. But not universality it seems to me in the sense of a complete - universal without exception, but universal in the sense of being widespread. I don't mean it couldn't prove the other but it doesn't mean it necessarily. It seems to me that the widespreadness of this is certainly universality in that sense. And that fits exactly with the verse before, and describes this present age, with the wide outreach of the gospel. But the last half of the verse, how does that fit with it? It would be interesting to see what some commentators say about it, but personally, I feel that it would be much more sensible to say that whoever put these verse divisions in, didn't put them in correctly, and that the because the former troubles are forgotten, would be better to go with the next verse, and to say that God is going to call His servants by another name, and ~~that~~ that the blessings of use of God's name is going to spread over the world. Stop. And then say, when the former troubles have been forgotten, and when they are hid from my eyes, for behold I create new heavens and new earths and the former shall not be remembered nor come to mind. There's all this in the past, that God is going to punish. He is going to give His terrible punishment, described in these verses to the people of Israel, during this long time when He turns to the Gentiles, but the time is coming when He will forget the former troubles, and He will hide them from His eyes. He will return His favor, to the people of Israel, and will create ~~the~~ new heavens and new earths. That is, there is no question about it, but that a major shift in the chapter occurs at just about this place. My Bible has a paragraph mark at the beginning of verse 17. My inclination is to think that the paragraph mark should come instead before the last third of verse 16. And that that would be introductory to what follows rather than going to what precedes. And that He has up to 16b, He has been answering the prayer in a negative sense, saying you people have this Pharaisaic attitude. You are following your own way and not God's way, and God is going to bring terrible punishment, to you, and turn His mercy to the Gentiles. But the time is going to come when these former troubles will be forgotten, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup>