

v. 10-- The gladness is taken away from us when we don't walk totally with the Lord. Anytime we let our "vines" wander along the ground of the world, we will lose that blissful Joy that comes with walking the high ground with Our Lord!

v. 11-13-- There has been a time when most of God's people were in this position. Although a remnant always stayed in the Spirit, most of the churches deviated drastically from their potential with the Lord, and He is mourning for us.

v. 14-- The word for "contemned" is to be light, worth-less--In this state, with our minds too close to earth, our glory is very light and worth less than it would if we were connected with Our Lord as we should be. And even the remnant who were with Him right along were relatively feeble because of their small numbers. The power of God is multipiled on earth through His people, and the more of us there are the greater His power on earth.

## Chapter 17

v. 1-4-- This refers to the calling of the Gentiles--the grafting of the "new branches" to the tree. (See Romans 11:17-24)

v. 5-- If you consider gathering ears of corn in your arms, you realize it is difficult to hold them all. It seems inevitably some fall. This is how it is when The Lord gathers His people. Some sift through His arms and fall to Satan's lies. The word for "gathereth" in the first sentence tends to mean more of a gathering as a harvest, from the stalk or vine. The second word for "gathereth" is from a different Hebrew word that denotes gathering from the ground. The Lord will keep trying to bring us back to Him. He will gather us again from the ground as we fall, or try to go our own way.

v. 6-- But there are some who cannot be saved. Some who will never understand the Truths of the Lord.

v. 7-8-- Those who have been chosen, who have had their eyes opened, don't value the things of this world, but look only to Him and we realize how weak we are of ourselves and the greatness of His Power in us!!

v. 9-- We are to be aware of His strength in us and not think we have any. The "forsaken bough" refers to verse 6 of this chapter. The grapes that are left and not shaken down and gathered up are the "uppermost branch"--Those who think themselves strong and righteous. These the Lord leaves in favor of those who turn to Him for strength (the lower branches) and the others will eventually see their weakness (desolation) as the birds, sun, weather (Satan's forces) begin to work on them.