

v. 6-7-- When we do this, we are akin to Satan, as the serpent, and our lot is under a stone. Even as that, under Satan's influence, we will turn things around with trickery, and make motions of worship, our hearts being far away.

v. 8-9-- He's speaking of our covenant with Satan, listening to him merely by not listening to God.

v. 10-- We weren't happy in that situation even though we sometimes thought we were--finally we come to realize that, and feel there must be a better way.

v. 11-- Why didn't we come to Him sooner, He asks--why were we afraid?

v. 12--"I will declare thy righteousness and thy works, for they shall not profit thee." This is a very important statement for the Old Testament, because it foretells the coming of the New Covenant of Christ--our works are worthless in saving ourselves--it's only through Christ that we are saved.

v. 13-- When we come to our broken point--nothing we or our friends can do will save us--but "he that putteth his trust in Me shall possess the land..." Only in trusting in God can we gain salvation and strength and help in this world.

v. 14-- He refers to taking away the stumblingblock. He means the Baptism of the Spirit, which unveils our minds to Jesus, so we are saved by Him, and He isn't a stumblingblock for us, as He was to some of the Jews. (Ezek. 3:20, Rom. 11:9 & 1 Cor. 1:23)

v. 15-- God said, "I dwell in the high and holy place with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit..." He says again that He dwells with us--we dwell in the high and holy place with Him, if we humble ourselves to Him, and give our lives to Him. We are in heaven right now--we've already changed into the new creation that will inhabit heaven.

v. 16-- God has seen mankind, His beloved creations and children turn to evil and ignore His loving guidance, but He says He won't be angry forever, because He doesn't want mankind to die, as we would without the life of Christ.

v. 17--For Man's greediness and pride, He was angry and He let them go in their ways for a time, as He sometimes does with each of us individually, so that at length we see the error of our ways. His patience is so unbelievable!!

v. 18-- But He has mercy on us--He heals us of our evil ways through Christ, who also restores and comforts us.