

King. The condition here described cannot be connected with any period of earth's history other than that of the millennial kingdom of Christ.

Verse 15 presents special consolation to the followers of Isaiah who look forward with sadness to the devastation of the exile. For a time Jerusalem is to be deserted and alone, but later she is to become "an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations."

A peculiar figure is used in verse 16: "Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings." Delitzsch well comments on this verse: "We can by no means think of enrichment by plunder (as Hitzig does); the sucking is that of a child, not a vampire. One would have expected to read 'queens' instead of 'kings'; but by intentional employment of the latter term ... the literal and natural interpretation of the statement is shown to be impossible" (Commentary on Isaiah, Vol. 2, p. 391). The meaning of the verse is clear: the nations and their leaders are freely to give their vital substance for the welfare of Christ's Kingdom.

The latter part of this verse again stresses a thought that needs constant re-emphasis. Study of each of the many aspects of the progress of God's plan must always lead to greater and greater assurance "that I the LORD am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

It is hard to understand why the verses should have been divided in such a way that verse 17 would contain not only the statement about the precious metals which are to be brought to God's city, but also a sentence which is properly a part of the next section.

#### **4. External Peace and Safety, verses 17c-18.**

"I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise."

This section places strong emphasis upon the external peace and security which is so prominently stressed in Isaiah 2, Micah 4, and Isaiah 11 as an outstanding feature of the millennial reign of Christ. No such freedom from violence and