

will be conspicuous. The 4th verse begins a beautiful and gracious statement of the Divine grace towards them and its great blessings.

"I will heal their backsliding;  
 I will love them freely;  
 For mine anger is turned away from them.  
 I will be as the dew to Israel;  
 He shall blossom as the lily,  
 And cast forth his roots as Lebanon.  
 His branches shall spread,  
 And his beauty shall be as the olive-tree,  
 And his smell as Lebanon.  
 They that dwell under his shadow shall return;  
 They shall revive as the grain,  
 And blossom as the vine:  
 The scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon."

The full realization of this gracious and blissful occurrence is still awaiting fulfilment. Israel's state in unbelief always has been, and still is one of terrible suffering. A radical change for the better is imminent, thanks to the immutable counsel of God. "For I, Jehovah, change not; therefore ye, o sons of Jacob, are not consumed" (Mal.3:6). "For the gifte and the calling of God are not repented of" (Romans 11:32).