

of the last days refer specifically to the very same three places that were mentioned in the terrible picture of doom in 3:12. First we are told that God will pour out His wrath upon Jerusalem, degrading Zion, which was the site of David's palace, to the condition of a plowed field, and making the temple hill like the high places of a wilderness (3:12). Then it is stated that later on He will cleanse these very same places, and will make them the capital of a world in which Jesus Christ will rule. The picture deals with earth, not with Heaven.

2. The Exaltation of God's Righteousness - 4:1-2

The second characteristic of this wonderful Millennial Kingdom may be entitled, "The Exaltation of God's Righteousness".

I am glad that the passage starts with the words, "But in the last days it shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains." Jerusalem, the center of God's authority, the place from which His revelation has gone forth, is to take its place ahead of Mount Olympus, the source of the wonderful Greek culture. It is to take its place ahead of the seven hills of Rome, from which the principles of human government have been so largely derived. It is to take its place at the head of the mountains. "It shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow unto it."

It is wonderful to know that there is going to be a time of peace and happiness upon this earth. It is wonderful to know that there will be a time when there will be no more curse, a time when physical suffering will have disappeared, a time when we will not be subject to any of the miseries of this present age. All this is wonderful! But to the one who knows Jesus Christ -- to the one who loves God -- it is still more wonderful to know that there is going to be a time when God's righteousness will be exalted and triumphant throughout the world.