

So these declarations in v.12 herwere literally fulfilled there in Jerusalem Zion, the section where David's palace was, it was plowed like a field instead of being a place of great wonderful palace. Jerusalem became just a big heap of ruins when the Babylonians conquered it a little over 100 yrs. after both Isa. and Micah spoke.

"And the mountain of the house" --that is the hill on which the tempæ was, he said that would become just like a high place in a forest. For many years Palestine was a desolation until the Israelites came back after the exile and rebuilt much of it.

But now after he had given this terrible denunciation and told of these awful things that are ahead in v.12, then he goes on in the next. verse. These ch. divisions in the Bible are often just interruptions to the thought. They are very handy to finding places but they were not originally in the Bible. We should not let them keep us from seeing the connection between two particular verses. The next verse Micah turns his attention away from the nation as a whole and looks to the godly people who tend to give way to despair as they think of this awful thing coming upon Jerusalem, and he says to them, "However, later on in the last days...." "Later on" I think is a good way to express in English the thought of the Heb. "in the last days". Sometimes later on it is going to come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountain. And it shall be exalted above the hills and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come and say, Come let us go up unto the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us his ways and we will walk in His paths. For the law shall go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

You notice he speaks of these same three places that he spoke of in v.12. Verse 12 said Jerusalem would become heaps. Verse 2 ends with the words "the word of the Lord will go forth from Jerusalem." Verse 12 said, Zion for your sakes will be plowed as a field. Verse 2 here says, The law will go forth from Zion. Verse 12 said, the Mountain of the house will be like a high place of a forest. And v 1 of ch. 4 says, Afterward in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established at the head of the mountains and exalted above the hills and people will flow unto it. You have these same three places mentioned which were mentioned as suffering degradation and suffering because of the sin of the people. These three are to be exalted and they are the centers from which the law of the Lord is to go forth throughout the world. And many nations will say, Come let us go up there and here the word of the Lord and people will flow right to this looking for the wisdom and direction they can get there.

Well now is it logical to think that when you tell about the degradation of three places, that's literal, that's physical. Then when you tell about their exaltation this is just a spiritual thing, just a figurative thing? Is it not much more reasonable to think that he can be referring to the same three places of which he uses the same three terms here in these verses for exaltation as he does for their overthrow. So we are talking here about this earth, and we are talking about a specific part of it-- i.e. about Jerusalem and its vicinity. We are seeing that this part which was so degraded for its sin, is going to be greatly exalted.

Now when is this going to come? Well, it doesn't tell us does it? Not thus far in these two verses. It says in the latter days this is going to come to pass. It's a long ways after Micah's time. Hut Jesus when he came - it was a long time after Micah's time. Do you think this was a description of what happened when Jesus Christ had his disciples in Jerusalem and he gave them the law -- the word of God and taught them the Gospel.