

the Gospel; He gave them the Word of God, and the Word of God went forth from ~~Jerusa~~ Jerusalem, from Zion, and spread out through Judea, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. Do you think that's what verses 1 and 2 describe? Well, they could fit with that, couldn't they? They could fit with that very nicely. On the other hand, they would fit equally well with a time, after the return of Christ, when Christ would set up His throne there, and He would ~~rai~~ reign in Jerusalem, and people from all over this earth ~~would~~ would be anxious to come to Jerusalem to learn what His law was, and what His purposes ~~were~~ were for them. Verses 1 and 2 here don't show which of these three views are involved.

But the passage doesn't end there. We ~~go~~ go on and learn something more about it. Verse 3 says, "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off;" He will judge among people. He will rebuke strong nations/afar off. Is that what has happened as a result of the Gospel going forth? Well, you can take it figuratively to some extent, and say that it has, but it doesn't seem to fit near so well, as it fits an idea that this refers to a time when Christ reigns there and rebukes strong nations, ~~and~~ and judges among the people. But thus far you cannot decide. But then it goes on: "and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, ~~and~~ and their spears into pruninghooks/: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they ~~learn~~ learn war ~~any~~ any more."

Now it just so happened that just about the time when Jesus Christ was on this earth, the Roman empire was rounding out its conquests (conquest?) and the greater part of Europe, and a considerable part of Asia, was under the control of the Roman empire, so that what had been separate countries, which you couldn't pass from one another without a passport (passports in those days?), and without considerable difficulty, were now under the iron heel of Rome. And Rome established a condition where people ~~could~~ could travel freely and easily throughout that bit area,