

not to disturb its fun, he stepped to the door and peered in. As he did so his blood almost froze with horror. In front of the house there was a very large rattlesnake facing the unlatched screen door. The little child would smile and hit the screen with its hand. The screen door would fly open toward the snake. Then the snake would spring against it.

The door would shut with a bang, and the child would laugh with glee. The child was having a very good time, but the father did not desire it to continue. If the screen door should fly completely open before the serpent should spring, or if the screen should break, the snake would get through to the child and kill it. The father immediately grabbed his gun, ran out the back door and around the house, and shot the snake.

The little child was not afraid of the snake, but it was in terrible danger. That situation was in no sense a fulfillment of this verse. This verse means that when our Lord establishes His kingdom there will be no longer any reason why a child should fear a serpent. There will be a complete removal of all external danger. The passage is a marvelous picture of the conditions that Christ will establish on this earth. The violence and cruelty that has existed all through the ages will be ended. The terrible results of sin will no longer be able to plague the inhabitants of the earth.

Verse 9, which concludes this passage, summarizes the thought of verses 6 to 8: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

This clear statement shows that when our Lord establishes His kingdom no one will need to be afraid of violence. The new conditions will be universal. Just as every square inch of the sea is covered with water, every part of this world will be controlled by the power of Christ, and violence and danger will be entirely at an end.