

I was in New Mexico doing missionary work and a man there told me of a time when he was out in the desert. His wife was away. He had a little two room cabin and he was in the back. The little child was in the front room. He heard a sound as if something struck against something, then he heard the little child laugh. He heard again something struck, and he heard something strike twice as hard and then he heard the child laugh. He thought I wonder what is amusing him so much. So he stepped into the front room to see and the minute he glanced in he saw his little child on the inside of the screen door, and outside the screendoor was a big rattle snake! The rattle snake would spring and hit the screen, that would make the screen door slam shut and the child would laugh and hit the screen door with his hand, and the rattlesnake would strike it again and the door would slam shut. He was afraid of his life that it might open one time too wide, and the snake would ~~kill~~ kill the child or it might break the screen. He grabbed his gun in a hurry and put an end to that danger.

This is not a picture of a child that has no fear. It is a picture of a child that is in no danger. A picture of a situation of external peace and safety. Verse 9 makes that quite clear: They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." That would seem to picture a situation of universal freedom from external danger. It covers the whole world.

That seems to fit with the picture we have in Is.2 and Mic. 4. I don't see how we can get away from it. That there is to be such a period on earth. Whether that period is to be brought in by preaching the gospel which it could conceivably be, that all people will be won to Christ or at least such a large majority that they will have complete control of this world. If somebody wants to go amuk he'd be gotten out of the way so quickly that there would be no danger to walk anywhere. You'd have no fear.

Charles Dickens who did not like America at all, (because they stole his copyright) nevertheless he said when he was in America, a woman could walk day or night anywhere in the U.S. and not fear injury. It doesn't mean a man necessarily. But there was that sort of respect for womanhood then. A freedom from external danger which we certainly don't have today.

It seems to picture a situation which we were a lot nearer to in the U.S.A. when Charles Dickens came here 100 years ago than today, we had a more Christian civilization. But whether this situation is to be brought about by the preaching of the gospel or by the return of Christ, I would think that the statement about destroying the wicked one with the breath of his mouth points strongly in the latter direction, but taken as a whole aside from that, I don't think we could at this point be sure that ? But that there will be such a picture. And I don't think we could take the predictions as being satisfactorily interpreted by saying such a thing would