

a millennial period, which has never yet come, so it certainly seems reasonable to think the first four is also a looking forward and it is not impossible that verse 4 is being fulfilled today. If the present return to Palestine is that which is to happen in the last days prior to the Millennium. If that is coming soon then it can very well be the Jews, now in going back to take a great deal of ruined country there and making it blossom like the rose, as they are doing with irrigation and ^{with} hard work could be the fulfillment of this verse. The difficulty ~~is~~ with having to be returned from exile when this happens is that the next few verses don't seem to fit. "For they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations." It seems to me it is an isolated verse in these three chapters. I don't know of any parallel.

But then he continues. How about verse 5? Is that also isolated in these verses? In these chapters? Or is there anything similar? "Strangers shall ~~firm~~ stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers." Have you seen anything parallel to that? Where? In chapter 60, we had quite a bit about the strength of the Gentiles coming to them, didn't we. And that the Gentiles will no longer make them serve them, serve the Gentiles but instead will be available to work them. And so this is a continuance of what we had in 60. The picture of this day of wonderful prosperity which is predicted. "But ye shall be named the priests of the Lord. Men shall call you the ministers of our God. Ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves." The last half of it is again parallel to verse 16 and other verses in chapter 60. "Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and thou shalt suck the breast of kings." Verse 17. "For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver." It's a picture of them receiving the values, the force, the wealth of the Gentiles, being turned over to them. So that this is the last half of it is parallel with c in 60. But the first part of it, ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord. Men shall call you the ministers of our God, is a stress on the relationship to God, which we had only suggested somewhat before. Now it is much more stressed as you go on. "For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion; therefore in their land they shall possess the double; everlasting joy shall be