

Verse 15 may be interpreted in either of two ways. Perhaps it describes widespread unemployment. Strong or weak, leaders or followers, none can find work to do. Surely economic depression and unemployment are the natural results of the condition already described. All sections of the population are facing trouble. Another interpretation of the verse might be suggested -- that there is nothing that anyone can do to remedy the sad condition. On either view, the verse portrays frustration and weakness.

In verse 16 we find the land filled with fear. One can hardly read this verse without recalling the words of President Roosevelt when he said, "We have nothing to fear but fear, nameless, unreasoning fear." Whether the statement was altogether true at that time might be questioned, but there is no doubt that unreasoning fear greatly increased the difficulties of the year 1933.

It would be only natural that the conditions described in verses 1 to 15 should produce a situation where people would become like women, shaking with fear. "Because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts which he shaketh over it." In times like those described here the feeling of something terrible impending is sometimes even worse than the miserable reality.

### **The Problem of Verse 17**

It is rather difficult to be sure whether verse 17 belongs with the first part of the chapter, and concludes the declaration of woe against Egypt, or whether it is really the beginning of the second part, which shows the turning of the nation to God.

It is sometimes hard to know exactly where the transition occurs from one division of a subject to another. This is particularly true in the book of Isaiah for he is rather fond of gradual transitions. A striking instance of this may be found at the end of chapter 8, where the King James Version puts the transition at one place and the American Standard Version at another. Here most commentators have taken verse 17 as the end of the first section.

Difficulty arises from the statement that "the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt." Does this depict a time