

or "abide" to that of "dwell" is approximately the same in both. It might be a more accurate representation of the original to say, "then judgment shall take up its dwelling in the wilderness and eventually righteousness shall take up its abode in the fruitful field." When the fruitful field is turned into a wilderness, God's judgment takes up its dwelling in what was formerly the wilderness, as the apostles turn to the Gentiles. However, as the verse tells us, the time is coming when God's righteousness shall again take up its abode in what was formerly the fruitful field, and "so all Israel shall be saved" (Rom. 11:26).

Verse 17 describes the results of this indwelling of God's righteousness in the hearts of His people: "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever." This describes that peace of God which comes into the hearts of those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 18 we see the outworking of this peace in the external world. Only to a limited extent is this promise realized in the present age. God's people are entitled to peace within their hearts, but peaceable habitations and quiet resting places are not always found in this dispensation; often there is tribulation instead. This verse looks forward to its fulfillment after the return of Christ, when He shall put an end to all external danger and all His people will enjoy the blessing of universal peace.

The condition described in verse 18 is introduced by the outpouring of God's judgment depicted in verse 19. All that is contrary to His will is to be destroyed. The forest, typical of the great opposing world forces (cf. "Lebanon" in Is. 10:34), is overwhelmed by God's hail, and the city, typical of all civilization that leaves God out of account, is laid low. In the latter part of the verse the American Standard Version is preferable. This verse finds a limited fulfillment all through this age, but refers particularly to that great outpouring of God's wrath which immediately precedes the beginning of the Millennium.

Verse 20 gives the conclusion of this chapter's wonderful picture of God's dealing with His people in this age and on into the Millennium. In view of all that has been said, what is the duty of God's people? It is to carry the Word of God