

the seeking to do whatever the majority feel inclined to do regardless of the interests of the minority or of the weaker parties. Apparently nothing else can be done in a world of wickedness, such as we have today. This verse assures us, however, that the time is coming when One who understands perfect justice will settle all problems and disagreements among nations. He will do this, not on the basis of a balance of power, but on the basis of determining what is right. The Word of Christ will go forth and judge among the people on a basis of absolute fairness and He will rebuke strong nations afar off. It is wonderful that Micah should tell us that such a time of Messianic justice is absolutely certain to come to the earth. This glorious picture is found in many other passages in the Old Testament, and is also stressed in the New Testament.

5. Universal Peace - 4:3

Next Micah describes a fifth characteristic - universal peace: "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks." How clearly this proves that we are not examining a picture of Heaven. Neither swords nor plowshares have any meaning as far as Heaven is concerned. This is a picture of earth. It is a picture of a world in which disarmament can be made into a reality.

How absurd it is today to suggest beating swords into plowshares. At the end of the last great war many people thought: "Now we shall have peace, now we can put away our weapons. We can sell off all our munitions and armaments for practically nothing. We can let the weapons rust. We can do away with the planes and with the battleships." But we discovered very soon that this was an idle hope. We cannot have the reign of peace until the Prince of Peace is here to make it a reality.

Time and again in the history of the world the same process has occurred. After making a step forward and overcoming some great evil power, people have said, "Now we are going to have peace. Let's beat our swords into plowshares." Yet in every