

"none shall make them afraid". In that day they had to be constantly on the watch for the coming of bandits, or of a foreign army, or of some other force that would destroy and wreck them. Here in America we have a little island in which there is greater safety than almost anywhere else in the world, and we don't realize how widespread fear is in most other parts of the world. But if you will go down to South America, as I did a few years ago, and just walk along the streets of almost any town, you will be struck by the fact that you do not see buildings like we have in the United States, with no bars on the windows. Nearly every building in South America, it seems, has bars over all the windows of the first floor. The land has not experienced the background of Protestant preaching, which we have had here in the United States, which has established a level of decency that is hardly to be paralleled almost anywhere else in the world, except for one or two of the nations of Europe which have had a similar blessing. To be able to leave your doors open, to have no bars on the windows, to sit out under your vine and under your fig tree and to know that there is nothing to make you afraid, is a blessing that we have had to a far greater extent in the United States than in almost any other portion of the world. In Micah's day in Palestine these words seemed almost unbelievable. But Micah guaranteed their certainty by adding the statement: "for the mouth of the LORD of Hosts hath spoken it".

These words are his assurance that the picture that he has given is not a mere human guess as to what is going to happen in the future. They are God's guarantee that the situation described, unbelievable as it may seem, is actually going to come to pass. They promise us the coming of a period of complete safety.

Thus far we have been looking at the danger from other human beings. This is a danger that is very real and very present in just about every section of our world. Judging from the statements of our newspapers, we must conclude that it is becoming much more prevalent in America recently than ever before in our history. Yet our reasons for hesitation about sitting under our vine and under our fig tree with no fear whatever, are not based only upon dangers from man's wickedness. We also