

It is interesting to imagine people, one hundred ^{and} fifty years later, on the way to Babylonian captivity, re-reading these words of Micah. As they realized that Micah's predictions of the destruction of Jerusalem had been literally fulfilled, how they must have rejoiced to know that God had predicted one hundred ^{and} fifty years in advance that it would be a different country which would conquer them, and that He had promised that He would eventually deliver them from the Babylonian captivity. Those who believed in God must have looked up and been filled with hope. When they were delivered from the Babylonian captivity, they must have rejoiced in the wonderful fulfillment of God's promise and have re-read the first four verses of this chapter, longing for the time when ^{that vision} they also would come to pass. Their confidence must have been strengthened in the fact that the time of universal peace and safety is actually going to become a reality.

2. The Second Picture — 4:11-13

In Verse 11 another picture begins: "Now also many nations are gathered together that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion."

Probably this is a picture of something that is to come very near the end of the present age. A situation is to develop where it appears as if little Israel is sure to be completely conquered. Yet Micah points out that God has definite plans, and that His Will will come to pass in unexpected ways. He continues in Verse 12, "But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they His counsel: for He shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor."

The thirteenth verse speaks of Israel as gathering power to beat off and drive back those who are attacking them. Is this a picture of something that is yet to come at the end of this age or is it looking back to the time of the Maccabees, when the great force under the Syrian king appeared to be about to destroy Israel, but a little group succeeded in gathering its forces together so as gradually to