

human body, and Paul very clearly has both in mind. "For the earnest expectation of the creature (or the creation) waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to manity, not willingly but by reason of ~~it~~/ him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God, for we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now, and not only they but ourselves also which have the firstfruits of the spirit, even to wit the redemption of our body."

So Paul says there is going to be a time when the creation is going to be changed; the results of the curse are going to be removed, we are going to be given bodies that are free from the infirmities, the difficulties that are ours in this present age -- the weakness, the sickness and all that is to be gone because of this change that will be introduced.

Now this description in Isa. then is a description of a period of universal peace/ Now this description, however, could be taken in two ways. I've known people who have said, I take every word in the Bible literally. I wonder if they everything ~~is~~ in the Bible. It's unfortunate. I've known children that came from homes where they said, Take everything in the Bible literally, and then they got into college where there was a very clever teacher who said, So you take the Bible literally? "Yes." Well you read in the Bible that trees shall clap their hands." Does that mean that trees have hands?" "No." "Then you don't take the Bible literally do you? And thus he sweeps aside belief in the Bible and goes on to build up on purely human ideas what you are going to believe. We take the Bible for what it teaches, and if you don't take most of it literally you have no solid basis. But we find figures of speech interspersed here and there.

Now is this passage literal or figurative? Well, I don't think we should make too much of a fuss if somebody wants to take this passage figuratively, instead of literally. But however you take it, I say this: It means something definite, and that definite thing which it means is freedom from external danger. It does not mean peace within the heart in the midst of it. And so here is a definite prediction of a time of universal peace when they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mt. for the earth.....sea."