

It's a clear illustration of the fact that these terms here are figurative. There has been much discussion. Is he predicting that Jerusalem is going to become higher than the great mountains of the world? It's going to be raised up? No. It here is figurative. It means it is going to assume an importance greater than any of the other centers, greater than Mount Olympus, greater than the seven hills of Rome- It is the center from which our Lord Jesus Christ came.

"The mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains, it will be raised above the hills and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us of His ways so that we may walk in His paths. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." This could be a wonderful picture of the going forth of the Gospel. As the Apostles and others went out and told about Jesus' crucifixion and how we could be saved from sin through Him. W.1-2 we could say are fulfilled in that. But does the fulfillment end there or does it extend beyond that. "He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Well it goes on. "He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide." When has that been done from Jerusalem--judging among many peoples, settling disputes? Well, somebody says, the Gospel gets into the hearts of people and many disputes have been settled. Many difficulties among nations settled because of Christian leadership of those countries. You can suggest that has been fulfilled in that way, but it sounds as if might go beyond that. Look at the next: They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, now will they learn war any more." Is that a description of 1945 when Hitler was defeated, when Germany was prostrate and when the U.S. put all its battleships into mothballs? When we sold off munitions for 5c on the dollar? Is that the fulfillment of this when they are going to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, now will they train for war any more.

I received a few years ago a magazine sent to me--one of these little magazines trying to advance certain viewpoints--they sent me a copy of it thinking I would subscribe. I noticed on the back of it it said: "Wherever there is a registering for military service there is a draft, and wherever there is a draft there comes war." I wrote to them and said, I would not think of subscribing to a magazine that contained senseless statements right on the outside of it like that because there is no nation is trained for war more steadily and constantly than Switzerland. In ~~Switzerland~~ Switzerland every man is required to have his munitions in his home. Every man is required to go out for a certain part of the year and to train for war. No nation has trained as more assiduously for war than Switzerland and no nation in the world has been freer from war than Switzerland has been in this century. In the world of sin the only way you can escape from being caught in war is to be trained for war so that others will not attack you, otherwise you will be overwhelmed. So this is not a prediction for today. It is a prediction of a time when all the hopes that so many held in 1945 will actually come true--a time when the word of the Lord will go forth with power and judge between nations. Jesus Christ will settle the disputes and no one will need to train for war any more.