

one describes as "a rod out of the stem of Jesse". The external peace and safety is seen to extend even to the animal world, for the curse is to be removed, so that the lamb and the calf need no longer fear the wolf and the lion, nor is the child in danger of harm from the asp. The universality of this condition is vividly portrayed in verse nine where it is stated that "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." There is no suggestion here of a situation in which isolated Christians are scattered through a world that is largely hostile to God, but a clear prediction that the condition described is to be universal. The unbelieving radical may dismiss this as phantasy; as to the liberal, it is hard to avoid questioning either his honesty or his intelligence if he seeks to persuade us that it finds adequate fulfillment in this present age.

One need not seek for profound and complicated evidences that it has been promised that a golden age of righteousness will occur upon this earth. The few passages already cited, while forming only a very small portion of the material bearing upon the subject, are sufficient in themselves to prove the fact. Two matters of importance are not touched upon in these passages, namely, the time when the promised golden age will begin, and its length.

The answer to the first of these questions, while it can easily be gleaned from the Old Testament itself, is most readily ascertained by a comparison with the New Testament. Isaiah 11:4 tells us that one of the characteristics of the promised Ruler, under whose reign external peace and safety are to be universal even within the animal creation,