

It is made still clearer that this is not simply a picture of One who will accomplish this result by His wonderful teachings, <sup>as</sup> ~~because~~ Isaiah goes on to say that "he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked." To take this as a picture simply of the wonderful Gospel message having its effect upon human lives is carrying figurative language to such an extreme that anything can mean anything. The fact that such a misinterpretation is utterly unwarranted is shown by Paul's use of this passage in II Thessalonians 2:8, where he says: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." If words mean anything this passage in Isaiah is not a prediction of the going forth of the spiritual influence of the Gospel message, but rather a picture of the establishment of a kingdom to be founded by the great Son of Jesse, the One who is characterized, as verse 5 tells us, by righteousness and faithfulness.

Verses 6-8 go on to describe the results of His rule. Various animals whose nature it is to destroy one another are pictured as lying down together. The implication is very clear that the character of these animals will be so changed that they need not fear one another. Verse 8 describes this. <sup>I read:</sup> ~~It says,~~ "the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den." This is not <sup>merely</sup> saying that a simple innocent child may stumble on to a snake <sup>without</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>any</sup> ~~not~~ be afraid of it. Such a thing has often happened. Many children have been killed in their innocence.

When I was in mission work in New Mexico a man told me of an incident that occurred in his little house in the wilderness. He heard a strange sound coming from the front room. Something seemed to hit something else,