

and then his little child laughed with glee. Again he heard the sound of hitting, and then the child laughing delightedly. After this had been repeated a few times, he glanced into the room to see what gave the child so much pleasure. He found that the child would hit his hand against the screen door. The door would fly partly open. A large rattlesnake outside the door would jump at the door. The door would shut with a bang. The child would again hit the screen with his hand and it would fly open a few inches, to the irritation of the snake. The child had no fear whatever of the beautiful snake which was leaping at it. Only the thin screen protected the child from the venom of the serpent. The father's blood nearly froze with fear that the screen might break and let the snake harm the child. There was no fear in the heart of the child, but there was tremendous danger in the external situation. It is not a situation like this that Isaiah describes. He predicts a time when a parent need not fear if his innocent child is playing with a serpent. There shall be nothing in this earth to hurt or destroy, "for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

This is certainly not a picture of heaven. It would be foolish to think that a revelation was necessary to inform us that animals will not hurt or destroy one another in heaven, because the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord. It is clearly a picture of a condition that will exist on this earth when the Messiah will reign. *It is not necessary, at this point, to examine the that look* Many other passages in the Old Testament point forward to this wonderful Golden Age. Those that we have already noted should be quite sufficient to establish the fact, for anyone who is willing to accept the Bible as God's Word, that such a marvelous Golden Age of universal peace and righteousness is yet to come upon this earth.