

beings is a wonderful teaching of the Word of God and can be well illustrated by the change in the wolf and the leopard here described. However, it is certainly not the primary teaching of the passage, for the emphasis is clearly not upon the change in the wolf, but upon the change in the condition of the land. The sucking child will no longer be in danger if it happens to play upon the hole of the asp, for no creature can harm it. It is a wonderful picture of the removal of all external danger, brought about through the reign of the Messiah.

This marvelous picture of external peace and safety forms a counterpart to Micah 4:1-4 and to Isaiah 2:2-4. Even if one were to omit from consideration all other passages of the Bible dealing with the Millennium, one could not but admit that these three passages alone would be sufficient to establish the fact that God has predicted that there is to be upon this earth a time when no one need fear injury from any external attack. All three passages indicate that the divine ruler is to enforce righteousness throughout the world so that nothing external need be feared by any of His people. Whether Isaiah 11:6-8 is to be taken figuratively or literally, it cannot be denied that what it presents is a time of external peace and safety. This period has been generally referred to by Christians as "the Millennium" because Revelation 20 indicates that it is to be a thousand years in length. Isaiah gives no indication of the length of the period; its actuality, however, is so clearly taught by him that "the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

### **Spiritualization**

Like all other literary works, the Bible contains many figures of speech. We can never say that a passage in any book must be interpreted entirely literally, but must examine each portion of it to see whether it is to be taken as literal or as figurative. Thus, when we speak of the sun rising, none of us means that the sun actually comes up, but that it appears to come up, since the earth in that direction sinks down below the line of the rays of the sun. When we say that a man was "a lion in the fight," no one would think that we meant that he actually fought with claws and teeth, but