

the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, 'Is not the Lord among us? None evil can come upon us (3:11).'" Detail after detail in this terrible third chapter describes the condition of the people who had fallen so far short of the great heritage that God had given them.

After reading the description of Israel in this third chapter, we are not greatly surprised at the terrible fate that Micah predicts for them in Verse 12: "Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest." Such sin as has been described cannot result in anything less than this terrible doom.

It is easy for us to imagine the feeling of the godly followers of Micah as they heard him give this terrible picture. They must surely have said, "How terrible! And yet we know that it is true. Look at the sin of the people around about us. Look at the way our nation has turned against God. We ourselves are implicated!" How could God be a God of righteousness if he did not do what he says in this 12th Verse: "Zion shall be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high place of the forest." "Oh", they must have thought, "how we have failed God! How we have turned aside from His will. No wonder He declares that He will pour out His awful wrath upon us!" ^PCannot we feel the same way in America today, as we see our nation turning away from God to so large an extent? Unbelief is preached on every corner; our newspapers and our magazines are filled with attacks upon and criticisms of the Word of God; many of the children in our public school system, right up through the universities, are trained to believe that this Book is only a collection of myths; and that man evolved by a natural process in which God had no part. How can God fail to pour out His wrath upon our nation? Would we not give way to despair, and would not Micah's people have given way to despair, if God's Word had stopped here instead of going on to present its wonderful promises about the last days?