

case they have discovered that it was soon necessary once more to beat their plowshares into swords. As long as Satan is the prince of this world, it is necessary to have armament. As long as sin is still in the hearts of men, and the power of Jesus Christ is exercised only through the heart and not in physical power, weapons of war are a necessity.

Disarmament without justice is nonsense. It can never work. You must have a power that can enforce justice, or you must have arms and policemen and strong walls. Jesus Christ alone can make this possible, and Micah says that in the last days we will be able to beat our swords into plowshares, because nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. Universal peace has been the hope and longing of the world through most of its history, but it is a hope that can never be realized apart from the Prince of Peace. It is impossible without the power of the Almighty God. He is going to cause us to beat our swords into plowshares, because, when that time comes, He Himself will be judging among many people and rebuking strong nations afar off.

6. Complete Safety From External Danger - 4:4

Verse 4 reads: "They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid."

The meaning of this verse may not be very clear if we are unfamiliar with the background in Palestine when Micah wrote. Some of the early Christian expositors asserted that the vine represented one type of spiritual blessing and the fig tree another type of spiritual blessing and that the verse portrayed the Gospel age, with men enjoying the vine and the fig tree as two types of spiritual blessings. Such an interpretation shows a complete lack of understanding of the situation in Isaiah's day. The picture is a literal one. It describes a condition which would be absolutely unbelievable to people at that time - that they could go out into the country and sit under their vine and under their fig tree in the *certainty* that