

be the destroyer of all wickedness, the Mighty One who will reprove with equity for the meek of the earth, and judge the poor in righteousness. The great power that the verse depicts was occasionally displayed during His first coming, but will be far more evident when He comes to put an end to all the great anti-God forces that are now in the world.

Verse 4 continues with a very strange statement: "and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked." It is sometimes said that this is a picture of the going forth of the Gospel. In my opinion that interpretation is carrying figurative language too far. Certainly there is figurative language in the Bible. Often a figure of speech expresses an idea much more clearly than could be done by a literal statement. We must be careful, however, that we never carry figures to such an extent that anything can mean anything. It is surely rather absurd to take this rather cryptic expression as a picture of the Gospel going forth. We shall return in a little to see what light later portions of the Bible throw upon it.

The description of His character ends with the words: "And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins." These are characteristics that apply to Christ at all periods.

The following verses give a vivid picture of the condition that will be established by the activities of the One who has been described. Verse 6 reads: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

This is a situation very different from anything that exists in the world today. Animals that now kill and devour other animals are pictured as living in peace with them.