

The last part of verse 3 is a very famous picture of complete disarmament. The nations will destroy their weapons of war, because they will have no further use for them. A time of universal peace will come. Since peace and safety ^{will be} ~~are~~ guaranteed by the going forth of the righteous law from Jerusalem, there ^{is} ~~is~~ no longer ^{be} any need for armaments.

This is not a picture of a foolish pacifism that lays a nation open to destruction by the forces of evil. It is a picture of a time when evil is so held in check that the nation has no further need to protect itself, and therefore can safely do away with all its means of war. ^{will be} There ~~is~~ no need to learn war any more, because the power of God ^{will be} ~~is~~ insuring peace and safety.

Verse 4 makes still clearer the thought of peace and safety. In Micah's day, as in so many periods of general turmoil, it was not safe to go into the open country without strong protection. Here Micah pictures people in the open country sitting under their vines and their fig trees, confident that they have nothing to fear.

In the United States, until recently, there was a considerable measure of this safety. In many a ~~small~~ town people never bothered to lock their doors. It is only in recent years, when the Gospel is no longer preached as widely as formerly, that violence and crime have so greatly increased all over our country. As we read of attacks by mobsters in our streets, and of riots in many of our cities, we wonder whether we are returning to the Middle Ages when one hardly dared venture out without a strong protective force. Micah says the time is coming when throughout the world everyone can sit in peace in open country with no need of armor or weapons, and no necessity of constantly watching out for danger. Since Micah lived in one of the many periods of earthly history when such freedom from external danger was quite unknown, he stressed the certainty of this