

entire remnant of the chosen people, with special reference to Judah. It is clearly Judah that is uppermost in the mind of the prophet, as he sets before us the picture of the future contained in the verses now to be considered. The substance of this picture is a series of events that are immediately to follow the Babylonian exile. They may be expressed as follows:

1. Jehovah will give to Jerusalem great prosperity, glory, and joy (vs. 12-14).

2. But His enemies He will destroy in great numbers with fire and sword (vs. 15, 16).

3. Even Israel itself shall be purged; for the idolatrous element shall be destroyed out of it (v. 17).

4. Somewhere near Jerusalem Jehovah will gather together all the nations that have afflicted and oppressed her, and they shall see her glory, and behold the majesty of Jehovah's wrath, which shall flame forth as a sign against them, bringing upon them a swift destruction (vs. 18, 19).

5. Yet a remnant of these nations shall be spared; and this remnant, now fearing Jehovah, and earnest in His service, shall go willingly to peoples afar off, those with whom Jehovah has no controversy, because they have not yet known of Him, and have done no harm to His chosen people, to make known to them the glory of Israel's God (v. 19).

6. This spared and penitent remnant of the nations shall also bring back in honor to Jerusalem those of God's chosen people who have been exiles and captives in their lands (v. 20).

7. Jehovah, on His part, shall show His favor towards this spared remnant of the nations by adding some of their number to the holy band of the priests and Levites of the new commonwealth (v. 21).

8. But Israel shall be the queen nation of the world; and her sacred days and her sacred rites shall forever shape the life and the religion of all the nations of the earth (vs. 22, 23).

9. Near Jerusalem shall be the bodies of those who were slain in the day when Jehovah rose up in wrath against the gathered nations; and these slain shall be abhorred of all men, consumed by a fire that shall never be quenched and a worm that shall never die (v. 24).