

when Ruth is off in Moab and she hears that the Lord has visited His people and brought an end to the famine. The word is used for punishment, it's used for levying it's used for bringing relief. It's something -- it's used for a king telling the people, Come and get into my army. It's a great power tellings lesser ones, You do what I say. It makes a real change in their condition--for better or for worse. KJV did a wonderful thing in translating it literally "to visit", but it doesn't do us any good today because we don't use the word visit that way.

NIV says "they will be punished after many days" and has a footnote "or released". There's quite a difference to say they will be punished after many days or to say they will be released after many days. The idea they will be punished after many days is a rather senseless idea--that he's going to take the forces of evil and put them like prisoners in a dungeon and does it sound like our courts that keep you in jail for 10 years before they give you a trial? Does it show the weakness of judicial system? It seems to me they'll be put into prison and be punished. I don't see any point in the many days but to say they'll be put in prison for a while and then released after many days would make some sense.

Franz Delitzsch in his commentary says, We cannot in this passage seeing a similarity to Rev. 20 where Satan is bound for 1000 years and then released for a little season. I certainly could not draw that from Isaiah alone but it certainly makes it easier to understand Isaiah if it's a picture of what Rev. speaks of that Satan will be bound for 1000 years so he can't hurt the nations and then released. Of course we don't have to take that literally. Satan is a spirit. He's not bound with physical things but he's put into a situation where he cannot deceive the nations. I know there are people who say Satan is now bound, but who is carrying on his business? Certainly when you look at the violence, crime, etc. in our nation.

(Comment)

But over and over again you read in the NT that Satan goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. And we must beware of the wiles of the devil. At least 15 or 20 vv. telling us to beware of Satan. Which doesn't sound as if he's bound.

(Comment)

(Christ crushed the serpent's head) in the crucifixion. His power has been wrecked and the crucifixion of Christ is our only hope. But I would say it's going to be fulfilled completely when Satan is God for some reason allows Satan to in this world. You take this program Cosmos. Have you ever seen it? There is a most clever, able fellow who knows a lot about science. He tells you all about this wonderful universe. A week ago he told about going to India and seeing people putting flowers around the heads of cows and gives the idea that those Indians have got a really good religion! Then he tells how there's an Indian story that says that one of the gods was having a dream and he said, Why not turn it the other way and say that the gods represent the dreams of human beings? He makes little slams at the idea of God. He says we see this marvellous creation. Where did it come from?