

Isaiah 9

converted he lives with the one who was like the lamb before. Well, who is the one who was like the lamb before? Are we not all like the wolf? The wolves are turned into lambs. To say the wolf and the lamb dwell together doesn't quite give a picture of the Church, because we all were wolves, and we are all made into lambs and the true Church doesn't have any who are still wolves in it, and if the true Church includes wolves, but wolves who have been regenerated, it doesn't include any who have always been lambs. We are all wolves regenerated, so that it is hardly a very appropriate picture simply of the church, the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the bullock, the lion has been changed and will now no longer kill and destroy. It's not really, it doesn't quite fit as a picture of the church, and yet we won't rule it out absolutely, the possibility of this verse as a picture of the church, we won't rule it out completely but we'll say it is extremely unlikely. We will say that as far as V. 24 is concerned it might be a picture of the church. "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer: and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." It may be a picture of the Church and yet it is not a complete picture of the Church. Surely there are many times when the most Godly person—it seems as if he calls and there is no answer, he speaks and the Lord does not seem to hear him, and he finds he must search for the reason. Perhaps God wishes him to develop patience. Perhaps God wishes him to wait. Perhaps there is some sin in his life that is keeping God from hearing him. Thus, while it expresses to some extent our experience in this age in the Church, V. 24 it seems to go beyond. I don't say it does, actually, but it seems to. It's like 25. It might be applies to the church but it hardly quite seems to fit. Now Verse 23. "They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble." Does the Church ever labor in vain? Does the true Christian ever labor in vain? To some extent that might fit the church in this age but it doesn't quite seem to be quite sufficient fulfillment for 23. How about 22? They shall not build another inhabit: they shall not plant