

Isaiah 9

and another eat. For as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." Surely, the Waldenses, who worked and toiled and built up their homes in Southern France and Northern Italy and then got driven out by the papal troops and thousands of them strung up on trees, surely they didn't feel that this verse was being fulfilled in their life. Surely many a Christian who works hard and toils in this life and then sees everything taken away from us and given to another feels that he has labored in vain. It is hardly a picture of this age, from any viewpoint. And then V. 21, of course, is the same thing as V. 22. But V. 20, "The child will die a hundred years old". We don't have any such longevity in the Church today. The child will die a hundred years old and the sinner being an hundred years old will be accursed. Surely here is something that doesn't fit the Church today. And so I think that we are justified in saying that from Verses 18-25 we have a picture of blessing, a picture which includes great prosperity in this earth, a picture which includes material prosperity; they will not labor in vain. They shall not build and another inhabit. It includes longevity. As the days of the tree are the days of my people. Like the Sequoia trees that have stood for centuries out there, like the palm tree and the cedar, that last for several generations of humanity. As the days of a tree shall the days of my people be. They will build houses and inhabit them; they will plant vineyards and will eat the fruit thereof. There is material prosperity here, a continuous material prosperity. They will not labor in vain nor bring forth for trouble. There is a time of special Spiritual blessing--

"before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." God's people have that to some extent in this age, but surely a time is described when there will be a blessing far beyond that which is enjoyed in this age. And then V. 25, "the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the bullock; and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain", we go back to Chapter 11 and we find there a very similar passage, somewhat longer; "The wolf also shall