

Isaiah 9

this passage here, so close that it is pretty hard to avoid thinking that the two refer to the same thing and so all the evidence that we amassed in that course that this is a description of a millennial age, a time when, as Paul described in Romans, the curse is removed and the whole of creation which groans in travail and pain now waiting for the adoption, ^{with} the redemption of our body, that time is realized; the curse is removed, the human body is no longer subject to the imperfection and misery that has come upon it as a result of the curse and the creation is freed from it and the animal world is not fighting with us now, but the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie with the down together. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb. You notice, I think, that V. 25 here is word for word a piecing together of different sections of what I read in Isaiah 11, and I read you a fairly long passage in Isaiah 11 and I read that in order that it would be evident to you that every phrase with one section in V. 25 was contained word for word in that section there, and what is the one phrase which is contained in V. 25 here which is not contained back there. Dust shall be the serpent's meat. That is not given in the previous passage. That is something new. Here we are told that during this period when the wolf and the lamb feed together the curse is not removed from the serpent. The whole creation is ^{fulfilled}, but the serpent does not have the curse removed from it but there is fulfilled more fully than in this age the curse of Genesis 3. The serpent, we were told, will bruise the foot of the man, but here now the serpent no longer can bruise the foot of the man; dust is the serpent's meat. The serpent is dragged in the dust and ^{which he has in the present age} it does not have the privilege/of causing difficulty and trouble. Of course this refers, not so much to the physical serpent as to that which the serpent represented in Genesis, the spirit who was behind the serpent, the satan who used the serpent, who, in this age bruises, as he bruised Christ at Calvary, he is bruising /the heel of humanity all through this age, but that that ^{is removed and} the serpent is no longer able to do his baleful work during the period described