

Isaiah 10

sinner. There was something wrong with him or he wouldn't have died at such an early age." There is a small amount, then, of death and a small amount of sin. It is not to do away entirely with death or to do away entirely with sin but it is a situation in which God is recognized everywhere, a situation in which the word of God is everywhere present, a situation in which the knowledge of God covers the whole earth, a situation in which any who might have the inclination to do injury or destruction are absolutely prevented from doing so by the presence of Him who rules the nations with a rod of iron and who keeps any such tendency in subjection. There is death present to a very small degree. There is sin present to a very small degree in this picture which you have here. It is not a picture of a church, it is not a picture of an eternal age. It is a picture of something different. Mr.---? (Student) Well, the devil introduced sin into this earth through his temptation of Eve, it is true but we can't blame all our sins on the devil. The devil is not like God. God is a Spirit who is everywhere and Who controls all things and Who is available for the advancement of goodness at all times and ready to answer all who call upon Him. Satan is the prince of the power of the air. He is the leader of the spirit of wickedness, but he is not the only spirit of wickedness and there is plenty of wickedness in the human flesh and in the sinful human heart apart altogether from that which Satan promotes and advances. The removal of Satan means the removal of the very great part of the incitement to evil but it by no means the removal of all sin or of all evil. You cannot interpret the passage in Revelation 20, the description of the time when Satan is bound, as a time when there is absolutely no sin in the world, because it is a time when there is no outward revelation of sin, when that which is here is held down by the power of Christ and the presence of God is known everywhere, because at the end of the period for a little season Satan is loosed and he finds it possible during that little season to gather a great multitude who are ready to follow him, people who give lip service to Christ and people who in an age/which all the external influences were good it was made