

he receives his eventual destruction or punishment, we may well wonder why such a detail deserves mention. However, it is equally possible to take "visit" as referring to a visitation which results in a betterment of conditions. In such a case, there would be real purpose in its presentation here. Perhaps, after Satan has been shut up in the pit "many days," he is to receive a brief new lease of power.

As Delitzsch points out, there is a striking similarity between this verse and Revelation 20:1-3. After the great battle described in Revelation 19, an angel descends from heaven with a great chain. He seizes Satan and casts him into the bottomless pit, and binds him there for a thousand years so "that he shall deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled." During this period of a thousand years the saints reign with Christ on earth. Surely this is the same period which Isaiah describes as "many days." At the end of that period Satan is released for a little season, before his final visitation with eternal destruction when he is cast into the lake of fire.

Thus Isaiah has given us here a picture of the course of events up to the end of the age and the beginning of the Millennium. He has pointed out that Satan is to be bound during the thousand years of the Millennium and that after that he is to be loosed for a little season.

The chapter ends with the wonderful glory of verse 23. "The moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously." The word here translated "ancients" is elsewhere rendered "elders." It indicates those who are selected for leadership by reason of age or experience. In Isaiah's time many of the leaders of Israel were infected with worldliness and unbelief. In chapters 28-29, and in many other places, he declares God's wrath against the untrue leaders of God's people. How wonderful it is to know that a time is coming when all of Christ's elders are to be so completely yielded to Him that they shall be counted worthy to share in His reign (cf. Rev. 20:4, 6).

It is possible that verse 23 is a picture of an eternal state of joy after the end of the Millennium. It would seem more likely, however, that it is a picture of the wonderful glory of