

time and God, at the beginning, put His finger on the beautiful aspect of it to encourage Him for that aspect was also true.

Now Isaiah had a different sort of experience. ^{Isaiah} He had the King Hezehiak listening to his words and following him. He saw Jerusalem saved, through the wonderful message that God gave, from the mighty Assyrian empire, and he had the wonderful visions of Christ. And God gave the balance to it with this picture of the other side. The picture I gave a few minutes ago is a little bit *over sanguine*. If we went out and each of us won another, in less than 30 years our world would be won for Christ. ~~But~~ Well does the fact that it isn't mean that we have fallen down frightfully on the job? We have fallen down frightfully on the job but that is not the whole thing. No matter how true, how loyal we were to Christ (and if we weren't, we should) we'd have far greater effectiveness than we have. Yes, ^{It} would not work out that way because that is not God's plan. God's plan is, during this age, that Satan shall have a great deal of strength. And during this age it is a fact of experience, a fact of observation, and a fact clearly taught in the Bible, that the Word of God comes to some to win them to the Lord and to others its result is to harden them and to drive them away. We can't tell which one. And you may think a person is getting harder and harder and harder, and then suddenly the Spirit of God may take hold of that person and bring them to a knowledge of Christ in a wonderful way. We cannot tell which the ones are. But God permits Satan to deceive so many people that if it were possible he would deceive the very elect. God permits Satan to bring confusion into the ranks of Christians as will lead Christians to get all confused and upset ~~and~~ and disturbed and get their ideas all mixed up to where they are letting all sorts of little things keep them from doing the great task of supporting the work that God wants us to do, and going forward as we should. God gives Satan a great deal of rope in this age. That is God's plan for this age. And it is good for us to recognize that it is a fact because it saves us from innumerable disappointments. Time and time again in Christian history the work of God has just gone forward to the point where it looks as if the whole world is going to be won for Christ. And then from some corner Satan has managed to come forward, ^{perhaps} in an utterly unexpected way and confuse the hearts of God's people, turning them to fighting against each other instead of opposing modernism and apostasy as they should; turning them and bringing confusion into their hearts, and the work of God is stopped. God permits that during this age. He wants us to get our joy not even from the progress of the work but to get our joy from seeing Him, and seeing Christ, and finding in our disappointments and our discouragements that our complete need is met in the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants us to learn something about His plan, which is taught in His Word as a whole. To learn to see that He knows the end from the beginning; that He may give us to have great victories and successes, or He may cause us to have to seem to put our head