

against a stone wall and wait for a little apparent success. But whatever it is, He wants us to learn to be faithful and to trust Him. Isaiah said, "Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the Lord have removed man far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land." Isaiah must have felt discouraged when he heard this. He must have felt disheartened. But God didn't stop there. Thank the Lord He didn't. He went on. He said, Yes this will happen and happen and happen again. And yet, he said, it will be "as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof." No matter how far they go, there is always a ..... of grace. God's plan is going to work out in the end. His witness will never stop, even though He has to send great judgments upon us; even though we have great disappointments, there is the holy seed that is the substance thereof. There is God's plan continuing. There is the ultimate victory He is going to bring. The time will come when the Lord Jesus Christ will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. And Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. And Jesus Christ will reign triumphant over this earth. We need to study the Word as a whole to know God's plan, to see where we fit into the plan. We need to see the wonderful end of what He is going to do when our Lord Jesus Christ comes back, and to be encouraged by seeing it. We shall realize that He permits Satan to have a great deal of power in this world, but that we can escape from Satan's power if we keep our eyes on Him, if we are cleansed by the coal from off the altar, if we day by day go to Him for the cleansing, if day by day we hear the call He gives us and determine that we will make this day count for the utmost for Him.

Let us pray.