

If the animals, then, are not to be taken simply as figures for the winning of human beings to the Gospel, but as representing an actual change in the natural world, this is a tremendous teaching. It should not, however, be entirely strange to anyone who is familiar with Genesis and realizes that the violence and misery in the animal creation is a direct result of man's sin. Genesis tells how after the fall God laid a curse upon the animal creation and evidences of this are to be seen in every part of nature. It would be a stupendous miracle to remove the curse from nature and restore Edenic conditions. There is surely no reason to think that such a miracle will occur prior to the return of Christ.

The idea that such a miracle will occur at all might seem to be drawing a great deal from the picture in Isaiah 11 if there were no further evidence. However, Isaiah 11 does not stand alone in this regard. One of the most beloved chapters of the Scripture, the eighth chapter of Romans, definitely declares in verses 18-25 that the human body, and also the rest of the creation, is some day to be freed from the curse and that this is an expectation for which the whole of nature longs. Surely neither nature nor the human body longs for death. What is pictured here is not an end but a renewal. It is a promise that God will remove the cause and restore Edenic conditions.

What a marvelous hope God has put before us in these promises of the kingdom that Jesus Christ will establish after His return. No matter how bad things may become at any time the Christian should never despair. He can know that God is on the throne and that God will fulfill His promises.

In our day we see external violence increasing. Revolutionaries stand in the airport in Tel-Aviv and ruthlessly shoot down innocent visitors to the Holy Land. Hijackers seize planes and threaten the lives of dozens of people. Is there a time of constant danger and anarchy ahead? Or will tyranny take over and conditions in most of the world become similar to what already exists in Russia and China and