

time with Him and then the return to establish the wonderful kingdom of happiness and joy and peace upon this earth. You know, these New Testament predictions of the return of Christ are wonderful, and they should have a tremendous effect upon our lives and our activities. But I was wondering once, is this ever made clear in the Old Testament? That the return of Christ is to come for His own before the great outpourings of His wrath upon this earth which are to be terminated by His returning with power to establish His kingdom. Does the Old Testament ever make that clear? Then as I was studying through the book of Isaiah, I was thrilled to find a passage which it seemed to me could be reasonably interpreted in no other way. ~~According~~ Turn to Isaiah 26 and there look at verse 12. Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us; for thou also has wrought all our works in us. O LORD our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us; but by thee only will we make mention of thy name. Who is talking here? This is not the Jewish people who have claimed to be subject to God, claimed to be His people for many generations. This is a people that has turned to Him that had worshipped idols, that had observed other lords. O LORD our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us, but by thee only will we make mention of thy name. They are dead, they shall not live--that is the false gods they're talking about. So it goes on and describes, I believe, the Christian Church, as it looks to God who had made all our works in us, v.12, to Christ who lives in us and uses us, but then we find our situation.

V.17, Like as a woman with child, that draws near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and cries out in her pangs, so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.

I can't think of a phrase which would describe more accurately the attitude, the feeling of true Christians in the world today. A hundred years ago, the great missionary movement was in swing, the great modern missionary movement. People were saying the evangelization of the world in this generation. The Christian gospel was going out in