

There are some beautiful pictures of this in the Bible. Isaiah 11 describes the pre-telling concept of God's deliverance with a portrait of life in the kingdom. We know that this age will be followed by more dissent and the ultimate state will come later in God's program. But the picture is an accurate portrayal of what righteousness will mean when it is consummated.

Psalm 73 quiets us in the meantime by reminding us that if for the present we cannot see the fine purposes of God, in the sanctuary we will indeed understand. We will see that the wicked, even in their prosperity, will come into the program of God and will not go unpunished. And the righteous, especially those who almost seem forgotten in the rush of time, will also be remembered and honored.

God's plan gives us patience in the day of testing. It does not make us lazy or indolent but it teaches us to wait in service and dedication on him. The present trials are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be ours with him.

b. God's Purposes: the Completion of the Believer.

In our doctrines we often speak of "eternal security". By that we understand the concept that the Lord knows his own and will not allow them to fail. He will not, so to speak, allow any man to pluck them from his hand and even they cannot remove themselves from the reality of his grace. They are his...none of them are lost. This doctrine is debated at times but when we come to Romans 8 we realize the debate is on purely human ego terms. In this passage we are told that:

- he works all for good (28)
- he will conform us to his son (29)
- he will see us perfecte d in glory (31)
- He will allow no defeat (31)/

This is what we mean by the completion of the believer.