

these three passages are taken literally, they clearly point to a premillennial return of Christ, since they describe a time of perfect righteousness and external peace and safety when the King Himself is reigning in Jerusalem. If they were to be taken somewhat figuratively and the picture of the animals in Isaiah 11 considered as a figurative representation of conditions among human beings, they could fit the postmillennial view of a period of widespread righteousness upon this earth prior to the return of Christ. However, there is no fair way of interpreting these passages which is consistent with an amillennial view of the return of Christ. One wonders how a man who is ready to accept the Word of God as final and conclusive on all points with which it deals can honestly and fairly examine these passages and still be an amillennialist, since amillennialism requires that a number of clear passages of Scripture be completely ignored. Probably many people hold that view in ignorance. It would seem that on the basis of these passages alone amillennialism could be ruled out as impossible to those who are willing to make an intelligent and careful study of the Bible.

### **Amillennialism and Postmillennialism Unscriptural**

When it comes to postmillennialism, the matter is a little less clear. These three passages alone do not establish premillennialism as compared to postmillennialism, but when it is noted that the promise of the removal of the curse during the Millennium, which is strongly suggested in Isaiah 11, is borne out by the statement of Paul in Romans 8, it begins to appear very likely that postmillennialism is wrong. If one adds to this the fact that Isaiah 11:4 is quoted by Paul as something future, and that John uses it in Revelation 19 as introducing his account of the millennial reign of Christ on earth, it becomes increasingly probable that the promised period of external peace is something which is to be brought about by the coming of the King.

The Bible strikes at the root of all human pride. Humanity cannot bring in the Age of Glory by great schemes and plans for human organization. Sinful man cannot work out means of world betterment that will ultimately succeed. Not even by the glorious preaching of the Gospel can humanity