

to precede it? Now let us look at Revelation 19, where the return of Christ prior to the millennium is described. Verse 15 reads in part: "Out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations." In verse 21 this idea is repeated: "And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth." Thus the very sign, which was given in Isaiah 11: 4 and referred to in 2 Thessalonians 2: 8 is again presented here in the description of the return of Christ in Revelation 19 and is immediately followed by the stupendous events of Revelation 20. How could the passages be tied together any more clearly than this? It is exactly as if John had said, "This is that kingdom which was predicted in Isaiah 11 and in the related passages of the Old Testament." Thus it is that objections to the teachings of the Scripture disappear into thin air upon close examination.

CHRIST'S DOMINION EVERLASTING

Another objection to the natural reading of Revelation 20 must detain us for a moment. It is pointed out that certain Old Testament passages speak of the dominion of Christ as everlasting. Does this rule out a millennium? No, indeed. The dominion of Christ is everlasting, since the rule of God endures forever, and Christ is very God of very God. Yet the New Testament elsewhere teaches that a change comes in the dominion of Christ after he has reigned for a time. Scripture does not contradict Scripture, and we must not press the words of a passage to their extreme limit, if that contradicts the plain teachings of another passage. Thus we read in 1 Corinthians 15: 24-26: "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." Thus it is stated that, after he has reigned for a time, he shall deliver the kingdom up to God, even the Father, "that God may be all in all." There is not the slightest difficulty in interpreting the statements of the Old Testament in harmony with this. For instance, Daniel 7: 14 ends with the words: "His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Revelation 20 depicts the hosts of Satan at the end of the thousand years trying to destroy the kingdom of Christ, and utterly failing to do so. It agrees perfectly with the words of Daniel. After the judgment of the wicked dead, Revelation 20: 14 tells us that "death and hell