Is. 11:6-9 describes it as a condition in which "the child shall

play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand

on the coctrices den; they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy

mountain for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters cover the sea. Amos 4 (you mean Micah 4) using other

terminolgy describes a period that would be described in exactly

the same way. So does Is.2. There are references to it at many places

in the OT. It is very clearly taught in the OT that such a period is

coming upon this earth.

Now there are many who explain it away, who say there is no such

period either before or after the return of Christ. They say all

these are descriptions of the church. After all, they say, the wolf

shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall liedown with the kid --

that shows the changed character of Chrsitians! And those who are

liable, those who did injury to others, those who thought only of

themselves are changed! So this picture of absolute peace and harmony

is not a picture of this earth at all, but a picture of the Christian

church. It seems to me that anybodythat that would say that would

have to be an outsider, who had never belonged to a Christian church!

(Laughter) Because every Christian chuch I have ever seen is very very

far from having a millennial situation. Truly, if we believe in Christ

we have been completely justified, and we are free through all eternity

from the guilt of all our sins, past present and future. But our

sanctification is a slow process, and we are a long way from having

reached that goal. And the fights and squabbles over personal matters

and over minor secondary matters among Christians are a scandal before

the Lord. This picture   chapter does not describe the church. It

describes an ideal toward which the church should strive. It describes

a goal that we want to reach, but we will not reach that goal during