

world every part of it will be free from external violence because there will be at least apparent striving to do what God wants, on the part of everyone. But you also have the promise He's going to come back and you do know when it's going to be. Even at the end of Paul's life he said, there is reserved for me a crown and not for me only but for all those who are devoted to His coming. So we have these two hopes.

One way conceivably of reconciling the two hopes would be to say there's going to be a long period when the gospel will reach through the whole earth and there will be freedom from external violence and at the end of this period the Lord will come back and that one aspect of the hope will be fulfilled. Or the other way is to say the Lord is going to come and He's going to establish throughout the world that time of external peace and safety. While I think there are many evidences that point toward the latter one, up to this point I would say the greatest evidence pointing that way is the fact that we're told he may come soon, we're always to be ready, and if ~~we~~ there is going to be 1000 years of wonderful peace on earth before He comes, it's pretty hard to say, What a wonderful hope we have and we're looking forward to it!

"You be ready for His coming which will come after 1000 years of righteousness!" Judging by the way the gospel has spread in the last 500 years, it will be at least another 1500 to 2000 years before he comes. That I think is as far as we can get till we get to the book of Revelation. But I think that's pretty far. We have the two hopes. I don't personally see how we can have the two hopes as something we're looking forward to with longing and expectation, that it might come soon unless the return precedes the establishment (of the kingdom).

Except for Revelation that is my feeling on it. Would you have questions or problems?

(Question about Acts 1)

I think he does that but does that deny the other? He says you don't know the times or dates. He doesn't say, Be careful you don't get a wrong idea.

(Comment)

There is much we don't understand, but it seems to me those passages we looked at are pretty clear.

(Comment re Abraham's hope for a city made without hands)

Not necessarily. I don't think we find that in the OT. That is Hebrews--he looked forward to a kingdom not made with hands. We don't know how much Abraham knew about the kingdom. We certainly have a kingdom now not made with hands. We have a kingdom in the heavens that way. But these particular passages seem to show an earthly situation. They seem to point to that.

(Question) re the state of the redeemed)

We certainly have that in the 40 days. Christ was there in His resurrection body. The disciples were in no-resurrection bodies.