

associated

A second view of the events ~~concomitant~~ with the return of Christ is the postmillennial view. According to this view the various predictions of a time of universal peace and safety upon this earth are to be fulfilled prior to the return of Christ. As a result of the preaching of the Gospel the entire world is to be converted. Every individual on the earth will believe in Christ and as a result there will no longer be war or hatred. They will no longer need policemen or locks on ~~our~~ ^{their} doors. It will be a wonderful time of universal peace and safety lasting perhaps as long as a thousand years. At the end of this time there will be a great time of falling away ^{sin} in which ~~Satan~~ will again spread through much of the earth, and this will be ended by a sudden, victorious return of Christ to the earth. This is the so-called postmillennial view. A third view is known as the amillennial view. According to this view no such time of universal peace and safety is to exist upon ~~the~~ ^{this} earth at all. All these verses are taken either as descriptions of heaven or descriptions of the internal peace of the heart of the Christian brought about through the preaching of the Gospel. Christ returns to an unconverted earth but there is no millennium either before or after His coming and His return is immediately followed by a general judgment in which both the saved and the lost participate.

Of these three views the first-named, the premillennial, seems to the present writer to be most in harmony with the Scripture. I do not feel that it is possible to interpret the Old Testament passages in any other way than as a description of a time of universal peace and safety upon this earth, nor do I think that Revelation 20 can be reasonably interpreted aside from this view. It is the view which has been held by many of the greatest interpreters of the Scripture all through the ages. It was almost universally held by the early church during the first three hundred years. When Constantine was converted to Christianity the faith of many in the return of Christ grew cold and they began to think that the kingdom of Christ could be established upon this earth without the presence of the king, through the activity of the ~~Roman~~ empire