

Certainly the promises given in these and many similar passages do not refer to this present age. I was amazed to discover in a commentary the statement that these prophecies are fulfilled in the character of the Gospel. Truly the Gospel is peaceful in its character. But the character of the Gospel is not the fulfillment of these glorious prophecies of a time of external peace and safety.

Mr. Steele:-- Dr. MacRae, if this wonderful millennium occurs after you and I are dead, why should we be concerned about it now?

Dr. MacRae:-- Even if we die before it comes we will participate in it. When Jesus returns to this earth He will bring with Him all who have been saved through faith in His atonement. Revelation 20:6 says that we "shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years." It will be a wonderful time of bliss for us who have accepted Christ as Saviour during the present age. James Orr, the noted Scotch theologian, once expressed the thought that perhaps, during that millennial age, those of us who have believed in Christ in earlier periods will freely pass back and forth between heaven and earth as we serve our wonderful Saviour.

Mr. Steele:-- Still, Dr. MacRae, is the millennium something that is a long way off? Is there no chance that it may come soon?

Dr. MacRae:-- On the contrary, it might come very soon. Before evil reaches its climax on this earth, Jesus is going to take His own out of the world. This first phase of His return may come at any time. Frequently in the New Testament Christians are urged to be ready, and are assured that there is no way that we can know when Jesus may come back for us. I Thess. 4:13-18 gives a wonderful description of this phase of His coming. Luke 12:40 gives a command to every Christian. It reads, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."