

on a dish of vegetables reduces it to inedible brine. The recognition of the existence of beautiful figures of speech scattered through the literal statements of the Bible increases our understanding of its meaning and our appreciation of its beauty. On the other hand, to interpret any passage of the Bible as entirely figurative, to make "killing with the sword" mean "converting to the gospel", to take "Israel" as meaning "the church", or "the throne of David" as meaning "Christ's reign in the hearts of His people", or to consider Christ's return to set up His kingdom on earth as being a description of the spread of peace and progress throughout the earth by human effort, is to adopt methods of interpretation which render language meaningless, and leave us without any solid guide.

To the true Christian, who of course believes in a supernatural Christ and a supernatural gospel, these facts are quite obvious as far as the atonement and resurrection of our Lord are concerned. What many fail to see, unfortunately, is that we cannot restrict them to certain sections of the Bible. The entire Bible is the Word of God, and Paul assures us in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all of it is profitable for doctrine. The true Christian must accept every part of it as decisive for him, if he is to know what God has revealed.

The same three attitudes which we noted regarding the resurrection of Christ, are also found in relation to His second coming. The conservative who accepts His statement that He will come in the clouds of heaven (Matthew 26:64) and the statement of the angels that "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11) considers these and the many other similar statements as being literally true.