

is that "he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked". Paul tells the Thessalonian Christians that this event is to be at the return of Christ, and hence is still future, when he says: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thess. 2:8) John describes the same event with more detail in Revelation 19 and 20. He describes the coming of One who must be Christ Himself, for "his name is called The Word of God" (19:13) and he is called "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (19:16) The identity with the event described in Isaiah 11:4 and placed in the future by Paul in Thessalonians is made certain by the statements in 19:15 that "out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron" and in 19:21 that "the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth". It is hard to think of a means by which John could have indicated more clearly the identity of that which he is now describing with that described in Isaiah 11 and already clearly designated by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2 as not to occur until the return of the Lord. John immediately goes on to tell what is to follow this event, and describes the ensuing golden age in Revelation 20:1-6. Here he shows that one of its outstanding characteristics is the fact that Satan is to be bound and hence unable to continue to deceive the nations. Also he satisfied our curiosity about a matter which the Old Testament did not reveal: the length of the period. Six times in