

In view of the very clear statements in the Old Testament about the wonderful Golden Age that God has promised to establish on this earth, and of the New Testament promises that the creation is to be freed from the curse under which it groans at present, one cannot help wondering why it is that one does not more often hear sermons in the churches about this marvelous period.

As a primary reason for this neglect we note the fact that all too many ministers fail to take to heart the teaching of the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 3:16-17 that "all Scripture is inspired of God and is profitable." God did not give us just a few verses or a few simple truths. He gave us the entire Bible, and it is His wish that we should study it in its entirety.

Another reason why many preachers fail to speak on this theme is that they are misled by the fact that some commentaries and some books of theology deny the Scriptural teaching about the Millennium. This is usually because the author of the book involved has started with a philosophical preconception or prejudice, instead of sincerely trying to determine just what the Bible really says. People are all too ready to follow established lines of thought instead of simply asking, "What does the Scripture teach?"

We shall briefly examine some of the objections that such books raise against the clear Scriptural teachings that we have summarized in the previous chapters of this book.

Sometimes a writer denies the Biblical teaching about the Millennium by merely saying, "These are figurative passages," or "The Book of Revelation is symbolic." It is true that there are many figurative statements in the Old Testament, and many symbols in the Book of Revelation. Yet this is