

Prophets (3)

was put there for man's sin--one of these two, must be the interpretation.

There is no third that I know of, although you will find a tremendous number of commentators who interpret this as a description of the churches of today, a tremendous number, but it seems to me that that is just making anything fit into anything, because that is not the basic idea of the passage. If it is a picture of a universal situation of this kind which comes about by the preaching of the Gospel, then it fits into the church of this day insofar as it is a step in that direction. It is also true, of course, that that which Christ is going to establish on earth in the millennium, He does establish now in the hearts of the true believers so to that extent it does have an exemplification today, but the specific thing expressed here is the freedom from external danger, not the peace in the midst of danger but the freedom from external danger and over whatever area it covers, whether it be the whole earth or whether it be just a part of the earth, whatever area it covers is completely subject to the rule of Christ. That we find absolutely, I would say specifically and definitely, taught here in the passage. Now as to when this comes, the fact that in the passage it comes after the description of His smiting the earth with the rod of His mouth suggests very strongly that it follows that occurrence, and that occurrence, Paul tells us was still future in his day. It suggests, then, that it is something brought about by that and following that, and, of course, we have the exact parallel in Revelation 19 where we find in Revelation 19-20, in that section which is undoubtedly a unit, Revelation 19:11 to the end of 20, whether the book be a continuous declaration or whether it consist of many recapitulations, however you take the arrangement, this section is a unit and this section describes the coming of Christ, the coming of Him with a sword proceeding out of His mouth and a coming of Him casting the beast and the false prophet into the lake of fire burning with brimstone and and the remnant are slain with the sword of Him who sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth, and all the fowls were killed with their flesh.