

Prophets

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whether it is a reasonable method of approach. Now, I think there is this to be said for Milligan. I think that he is more consistent than most writers on the book of Revelation. He adopts the consistent position that the apocalypse contains simply a series of visions intended to exhibit with all the force of that inspiration under which the seer wrote certain great truths connected with the revelation in humanity of the eternal Son. It is intended, too, to exhibit these in their ideal and not merely in their historical form. "In the treatment of them, chronology disappears," he says. Such being the case we are prepared to ask whether the vision of the New Jerusalem belongs to the end or whether it expresses what under the Christian dispensation is always ideally true. He says, "It must be borne in mind that the New Jerusalem, though described as a city, is really a figure, not of a place but of a people. It is not the final home of the redeemed; it is the redeemed themselves. It is the bride, the wife of the Lamb. Whatever is said of it is said of the true followers of Jesus," and he says that the vision is really an echo of Old Testament prophecy. The vision of a new Jerusalem in Revelation 21 is simply a picture of the glory of the present church, according to Milligan. It is simply a picture of the glory of those who in this age believe in Christ. "In the New Jerusalem," he says, "we have essentially a picture, not of the future, but of the present, of the ideal condition of Christ to people, of His little flock on earth in every age. Now, he does that with Revelation 21, at the end of Revelation 20 where you have the last judgment, a last judgment described, he takes that as a picture of God's judgment upon every individual in all ages and of God judging the heart and testing the heart and not of any particular act which is to occur at the end of the age. It is an attitude which he takes which, as I say, he carries through quite consistently and which makes Revelation in no sense a prediction of anything in the future. Everything in it is a symbol, and if you find in it something which seems to describe a definite thing you can be sure that that is not what it really means, because everything in