

Prophets (5)

it is a symbol for something else. Now Milligan carries that view through consistently. It is a method of interpretation which you can just about make anything and everything from, and if you do it, I think it is much better to say, "Revelation is simply a book of beautiful picture but it teaches us nothing. It is not profitable for knowledge," and that certainly is not the Christian attitude toward the Scripture. It is much better, I think, the attitude which Abraham Piper takes, in which Piper rejects the premillennial view that there is going to be a millennial kingdom but he says that the thousand years indicate a brief period of time. It indicates a period of time at which the righteous dead are raised and they live and reign with Christ and then the wicked dead are raised and there is a period between-- maybe it is a thousand seconds, maybe it is a thousand minutes. It is a period but it is a brief period. I think that is going too far. I think a thousand years would have to represent at least a few centuries, but at least it is taking it as the sort of thing which is there described, and to my mind a much more reasonable approach to the general situation. Now, there are, as we have mentioned, three ideas in relation to the future which are commonly used in our ordinary terminology, there are the terms "premillennialist", post-millennialist" and "amillennialist!" Before we refer to them I think we ought to know the very important distinction that we could make. A view does not mean everything that may be held by anyone who holds this particular view. That is not a fair means of using the term. I remember when I was teaching in another seminary one time that a man gave a statement in class. I asked him in a Hebrew class what form this was and it was a form and he said it was a form, and the fellow next to him said, "Oh, that's the premillennial view of the matter." Well now a premillennialist might hold that a certain form was a or a but that doesn't make it a part of premillennialism. A Christian may be an American or he may be an Englishman or he may be a German or he may be a Frenchman but we must distinguish between that which he is as a