

Prophets (8)

seventy A. D. who denied that there was going to be any such thing as the reign of Christ upon a material earth. They said, "It must all be taken in a Spiritual, symbolic sense, and they took so much in a symbolic sense there wasn't a great deal left. Some of them were very interested in their Spiritualizing and allegorizing of most everything in the Scripture, but the great bulk of the Christian church up to the time of Constantine held the premillennial view. Then after the time of Constantine there were those who denied the premillennial view, well you can call them amillennialists if you want to, but if they didn't bother to try to explain the teaching about a millennium, you might just say they were amillennialists but if they said, "Here are these teachings of the Old Testament. What do they refer to? They refer to a time when there is a universal peace on this earth before Christ returns," then they would be postmillennialists, but in a great many cases you can't tell which they are because they haven't gone into that fully enough in their writings. Well, now there was one other question that was raised that I thought just a word about would be in order here. Just a statement as to what I think is very vital in our approach to the Scripture. I think an illustration would be of interest. When I was in college a man who was then teaching at the Biblical Seminary in New York—he was later fired from that institution and went to Union Seminary—and taught there. At that time he was teaching at Biblical Seminary in New York. He had two years leave of absence to go visiting the classes all over the country in order to introduce Bible discussion classes, and I attended some of his Bible discussion classes, and he would take up a matter such as, take the question of world peace. Well, he would start and they would read a passage in the Scripture and then they would start discussing it and the discussions would go very far afield. The Scripture was just the place they started at and then they would discuss world peace or race relations or the tariff or most anything else they might start with. They would take a passage in the Scripture and then they would go on and discuss and he said he got letters from all over the country, "We are interested in the problem of fraternities in our school. Where is a good Scripture