

Prophets (9)

upon the earth. Now I personally reacted rather strongly against Reese's attitude in this book and I found such indications as this seemed to me to look very definitely in the direction of the resurrection of the saints and the rapture occurring before the tribulation, rather than after, but I haven't studied the question through with the idea of looking at all the passages which might bear on it. I prefer to go on studying different passages of Scripture to see as much as we can all the proof we get from those passages and I do not want to be dogmatic on this matter, but I do feel that the evidence on this matter is not one twentieth of the evidence on the matter of premillennialism. I feel that that is definite proof that God does not consider it nearly so important as the other. I think that God emphases are important as well as what He says. How much does He emphasize? And I feel that to make divisions and separations and heated arguments over the question of whether the church is going through the tribulation is extremely unfortunate. I think we should avoid it by all means. It seems to me that we should be ready if the Lord should want us to go through the tribulation, to do it. He says, "You shall have tribulation on the earth," but He says, "Blessed are you when you are persecuted for righteousness's sake. He says that we are going to suffer in the world, but whether we are going to go through the great tribulation or not, we should be ready to go through it if it is His will, we should rejoice in being spared ~~from~~ it if it is not His will and as to the exact details of the future, there is much that He has not made clear. In my opinion, the difference between premillennialism and other views on that point is a difference between reasonable methods of interpreting Scripture and wrong approaches to Scripture. On this matter, to a very large extent, it is simply a question of curiosity regarding the details of the future and I am not at all sure how much of our curiosity the Lord is going to satisfy, so I think that it is vital that we make this sharp distinction. Anything we can learn thoroughly from the Scripture on anything of the future, praise the Lord for, and the Scripture is speaking about definite things. I think that is plain, but there is much we