

the thousand yrs. were finished. This is the first resurrection. VS. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection, on such the second death hath no power but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him 1000 yrs. And when the 1000 yrs. are expired Satan shall be loosed from his prison and go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth."

We notice that this word millennium or 1000 yrs is used 6 times in this brief passage, and this Latin Bible which was used during the Middle Ages then came to people to be a term - millennium, a thousand years, to describe a period in which wickedness would be cut down; in which violence would be completely ended; in which there would be no wars -- a golden age. And so the term millennium has come to mean in general just a golden age which is to come. And so our premillennial view is that before this golden age Jesus Christ will come back. Our postmillennial view is that this Golden Age will come first and then Christ comes back. In other words the post-millennialist would believe as ~~Warfield~~ Warfield believed, that the gospel is going to convert every man, woman, and child in the world. And the result is that people's characters will be so changed that they will no longer have wars, they will no longer have fightings, there will no longer be violence, there won't be selfishness, there won't be ~~any~~ a wonderful condition which lasts for a long time, which we can call 1000 years, whether it is exactly 1000 or not is not so important. And so there will be this wonderful period, and then at the end of this period Satan will be loosed for a little season, there will be a turning away from God for a brief time, and then there will be a great judgment and a resurrection of all who have died, in the earth and the judgement of them.

Dr. Machen, I heard say, "I do not necessarily agree with Warfield that ~~if~~ every man, woman, and child on the earth will be converted, but I certainly believe that most of them will be converted before the Lord returns." That is characteristic of post-millennialism -- the view that the gospel is here to conquer the world. There were many who held this view a century ago. They said the conversion of the world in this generation as they began the great modern missionary movement, and today we have more heathen in