

It is a prediction of such a period. You can interpret it figuratively and you are a postmillennialist. You can interpret it literally and be a premillennialist, or you can throw it out of the Bible. I ~~see~~ see no other way except these three ways. If you take this passage and you interpret it in such a way as to mean heaven, or as to mean peace in the heart or something ~~like~~ like ~~that~~ that you are using methods of interpretation that would just as well change the resurrection of Christ into the great principle of the permanence of personality as I've had modernists tell me it really is. "Jesus didn't raise from the dead. There is no bodily resurrection of the dead. It's just the great principle of the permanence of personality." Now if you can do that, you can as Alford said make anything mean anything. The principle in these chapters is that there is going to be a golden age. There is going to be a period of freedom from external danger. Now if this golden age is brought in by the preaching of the gospel. And ~~when~~ when it says Jesus will rule throughout, it means all the ~~people~~ people will be Christians and they will be ruled that way -- that is the postmillennial view. If it means that it is going to come as a result of Jesus coming back and setting up his kgdm. of righteousness upon this earth and judging in righteousness, and there will be no need of weapons any more, there will be universal peace, then that is a premillennial view. But I don't see how you can say that you take the Bible as your source and interpret it in any other than one of these two ways. I don't see any other possibility.

Now Hengstenberg is a great German interpreter of a century ago who fought the Higher Critics and did some excellent things, and did some excellent exegesis. His commentary on Rev. has just recently been republished, and anything Hengstenberg wrote is worth reading, but I wish two pages in that had ^{not} been included. Because in those two pages I think he showed a great lack of historical sense. In these two pages he says, What about this millennium taught in Rev.? Well, he says that came in when the Germans were converted by Charlemagne's conquering them about 800 A.D. He says that explicitly. That's the beginning of the millennium. Now he was writing a little after ~~800/1100~~ 1800 A. D. He said 1000 yrs. have passed since that time. Satan has been bound. Now he said, We already see the beginnings of revolutions and violence, and it's probably the release of Satan for a little season that is predicted in Revelation. Now I think Hengstenberg