

We see the return of Christ, and I believe we see the return of Christ to establish His kingdom. I believe this kingdom will continue in the form in which He establishes it for a long period which is designated as 1000 yrs. Whether 1000 yrs. is a figure, or whether it is precisely 1000 years, nobody knows. We cannot be dogmatic. But I certainly would reject the interpretation of that great Dutch scholar Abraham Kuyper who said that Christ will come back to this earth as described in Rev. 19-20 and that when he appears he will then raise the righteous dead, and then in a few minutes or a few seconds will pass which is designated in Revelation as 1000 years. And that at the end of those few seconds or few minutes, Christ will raise up all the righteous dead to him in heaven, and at the end of that they will join with him in judging all the wicked dead. Now if John meant a few seconds or a few minutes, I don't think he would have said 1000 years. It might be 800 years, maybe 500 years, perhaps 2000 years. It may be precisely 1000. God does not ordinarily give us precise figures on such matters, but that it is a sizeable length of time is meant by 1000 years I think is inescapable. One of the greatest theologians of the present century, a very orthodox man has said that the number 7 is the number of perfection, the number 3 is the number of the trinity. Seven and three makes ten. Ten cubed is 1000 and therefore 1000 years stands for the perfection of the joys of the saints in heaven during the present age. It's hard to believe that a real scholar would make such a statement, and I'm not going to say who made the statement. But I think the statement was aptly characterized by Dr. Buswell who said of the article ~~which~~/~~when~~/~~it~~ in which it appeared that one had the feeling that a great mind preoccupied with other matters was trying to dismiss ~~the~~ a familiar?(unfamiliar) subject with as little thought as possible.