

The little child was putting his hand on the adders den. Is that a fulfillment of this word? The child was having a great time. There was no fear in his heart. He was perfectly enjoying himself. But this is not a picture of peace in the heart where you don't worry, it is a picture of a condition where you don't need to worry.

door

The man told me he grabbed his gun and ran out the back door and around and he was afraid of his life the screen would break before he got there and he shot that snake and the child cried like anything because his pleasure came to an end! This is not a picture when a child does not bother to be afraid of a snake. It is a picture of a time when a child does not need to be afraid of a snake. It's not a picture of a wolf being changed into a lamb, it is a picture of a lamb having no reason to be afraid of the wolf. It is a picture of a time of external peace and safety. Not a picture of peace in heart.

I can't see how anyone can claim to believe the whole Bible and be an amillennialist because an amil must say this is a picture of the church, of the Christian and his peace of heart. The postmil can say Yes this is a picture of an actual situation that's going to come, and it will come because the Gospel is going to be accepted by every man, woman, and child on this earth. The result is is that the cow, bear, wolf is all figurative. It represents people. It means nobody will be in danger because no other person is going to hurt him. It will be a time of external peace and safety, and so the postmil takes this a figure of speech but a reasonable figure of speech. The amil takes it as an utterly unreasonable fig. of speech, something it can't possibly mean. But the post mil takes it as a reasonable fig. of speech. If we had no other passage in the Bible on the matter, I would say we cannot decide from this passage for sure between pre and post mil, but I'd say amil is absolutely excluded by the passage.

difference

What is the ~~XXXXX~~ in this between pre and post mil? One diff. is that v. 4 says that it is going to be introduced because he smites the earth with the rod of his mouth and with the breath of his lips he slays the wicked. It's introduced in that way. The amil says, Oh that's a picture for preaching the Gospel. Smitting the earth does not sound to me like a picture of preaching the Gospel! It sounds more to me like the picture in Rev. where it tells of His coming on the white horse and says the sword proceeded out of his mouth and did slay the host of the wicked. Sounds more like that to me. That's one objection to the post mil in this.

The other objection is that if you take this literally it is talking about animals rather than people. We have the people in v.9. But if vv.6-8 are about animals then that would suggest a removal of the curse, so the animals would not be dangerous to each other or to people. Will such a thing ever happen that the animal creation will be changed so that there is no danger from it. I would not say this passage proves it will, but I will say this, I don't see how that could happen before the return of Christ. There is no indication anywhere that the curse will be removed prior to the coming of Christ. But is there an indication the curse is going to be removed some day? Yes, very clear in Rom.8:18ff. There is a word sometimes trans. "creation" there and sometimes "creature". Same Greek word, and seems to me more reasonable to trans. it same both times, so I'm going to trans. it "creation."