

great interest in missionary activity, and a great increase in evangelistic activity. Most of the great evangelists of the last century or two, and most of the great missionaries of the last century or two have explicitly held to premill teaching. That, does not prove it is true but it disproves the statements of some who say that it cuts the nerve of evangelism. The result of it has been exactly the opposite. In the last century there was no greater conservative scholar than Theodore Zahn, the outstanding German conservative scholar of the last generation. When ^{Von} Harnack, the great liberal authority on church history declared that ^{Zahn's} ~~Zahn's~~ History of the most learned work prepared on the subject prepared in the last century. In his commentary on Revelation -- I've translated into English the following words from Zahn's statement: It is to the credit of Irenaeus that he to a degree scarcely attained by any other teacher of the church prior to the end of the Middle Ages was unaffected by the absurd and blasphemous attacks upon the Apocalypse by the Alogie, and by the misinterpretations of the Biblical prophecies which proceeded not only from the Gnostics but also from many who claimed to be orthodox. Instead of thus being led astray by these misinterpretations, Irenaeus prepared a comprehensive and clear exposition of the Biblical teaching of the reign of Christ and His church which is to come at the end of history. Especially apt and profound is the thought that Irenaeus expressed twice that the millennium is a preparation of the church for the subsequent apprehension of God and his majesty throughout eternity." That last sentence, of course, is only a guess, an inference. A number have held it, a number have questioned it. The statements before that were Zahn's statement as to what he believed the book of Revelation teaches. The important thing I think we should have in mind is that we see certain things.