

...I'd like to cover quite a bit of ground this morning, and therefore I'm going to start immediately in looking at a few passages in the Scripture that I think can be of benefit to us in our thinking and in our Christian life. We just sang about the fact that ~~the~~ Jesus will reign over all the earth. That we believe is definitely taught in the Scriptures. We believe that that time when He will reign over all the earth is described in the first part of Rev.20, where it tells about how Satan is to be bound for a thousand years and that he shall deceive the nations no more, and during this time we believe that wonderful period described in Isaiah 2,1-4, and Isa.11 will come when Jesus Christ will reign in glory and power over this earth, and there will be universal peace and joy. What precedes that is described in Rev.19, as you start at Rev.19:11: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. "

Then there is a description of the coming of this one on a horse who overcomes everything that opposes Him, and destroys everything that questions His control. We have it definitely taught in the Bible, ~~that~~ Jesus Christ is going to come with great power and glory, that He is going to overthrow everything that is in the way or interferes with the establishment of His reign of universal peace and happiness. But we also have another group of passages which at first sight seems difficult to reconcile with these.

If you turn to the first chapter of the book of Acts, you find that there in the first chapter of the book of Acts, we read of a very interesting situation. Jesus Christ went with the disciples out to the Mount of Olives, and there on the way, they asked ~~him~~ a question, verse 6: Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And He said, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. In other words, He said, I'm not saying I'm not going to now restore the kingdom of Israel, I'm not ~~saying~~ telling you that I'm not going to establish universal peace and joy and happiness right now. I'm not telling you that, but I am saying that you do not know when it is going to happen. However, He did say that before it