

Another objection raised against premillennialism is the assertion that the animals described in Isaiah 11 should be taken figuratively as picturing human beings, rather than as actually indicating any change in the animal creation. Yet even if they were to be taken this way any careful examination of the passage would have to recognize that what is described is freedom from external danger. It is not a picture of a lamb having perfect peace in its heart, even though the wolf may soon devour it. It is a picture of the lamb not needing to fear, because there is no danger from the wolf. It is not a picture of a child having no fear of a serpent. It is a picture of a child not needing to fear a serpent's bite, because external danger will have been completely removed.

If the animals were taken figuratively as picturing human beings, the passage might describe the removal of all danger from other human beings, through the conversion of the entire world to Christ. It is true that if everyone in the world were to become truly Christian, and to put Christ first in all things, there would be a great decrease in external danger. Conditions of greatly increased safety and of greater freedom from what is wicked or immoral have been produced in areas where large numbers of people have become believers and the Word of God has been honored. Yet such a condition has never become universal in any part of the world. There has never been a time when an entire country was Christian, or even an entire town. There have always been those who reject God's offer of redemption.

If God should choose to bring in the millennium through universal conversion He could certainly do so. However, there is no such promise anywhere in the Scripture. The Holy Spirit is here to take out from the world a people for His Name. It is never promised that the Holy Spirit will convert the entire world. The church is here for a witness. God has never promised that complete victory on this earth will be accomplished by human efforts, even by the preaching of the Gospel. The millennial conditions described in so many passages will be introduced by the return of Christ, and by His power alone.