

last 1000 years. It would seem to me a rather long continuous thing. It doesn't say how long.

To me that is the great hope of the OT-- the coming of a time of (freedom from ) external danger, of complete freedom from violence and from fear upon this earth. I think from the OT we could draw rather definite evidence that this is brought about by the forceful intervention of the Lord, rather than by the peaceful preaching of the gospel, but I think it might take quite a bit of time to prove that if it can be proven and I've never heard anyone who attempted to, because I think this is very clear in the OT--the coming of this period of freedom from external danger. upon this earth which I don't see how we can reasonably take this as being fulfilled by the church or by anything that can happen on this earth unless it is universal.

By universal I don't necessarily mean every individual. I heard Dr. Machen say once, I would not necessarily agree with The great B. B. Warfield in believing that when Christ returns every man, woman and child on earth will be a Christian. But I would say the Holy Spirit has to do an awful lot more than he has yet in converting the world for Christ. I don't think the Holy Spirit is unable to convert the world for Christ. I certainly think the Holy Spirit could convert the whole world to Christ, if that's the Lord's will. And I think that the Lord --I don't think we have a right to assume it is the Lord's will unless we find clear proof of it.

But while I incline to think that the OT gives evidence that this wonderful period God has promised is going to come by the Lord's return, rather than by the preaching of the gospel, I've never taken the time to make a thorough investigation of the OT on this matter. Because at this point I would turn to the NT.

But that would be the great emphasized hope of the OT-- the coming of the kingdom. Of course the word kingdom we can use in various senses. We can say the kingdom of God includes everything that the Lord controls--all the stars, all the cosmos, all the earth-- all that is God's kingdom in one sense. But there is another sense in which the kingdom of God consists in those who try to do His will. We want whatever He wants. From that viewpoint the kingdom of God is certainly here today. But from that viewpoint the kingdom of God is mighty far from being universal. When you have whole nations in which it is forbidden to preach, and thousands of people who have not heard a presentation of the gospel. The kingdom of God in that sense is very far from universal.

It would seem to me that OT looks forward to a kingdom of God which will be universal. Then when you turn to the NT you don't find much stress in the NT on looking forward to a great kingdom. The emphasis in the NT is on the King. You do find Jesus frequently said, He was going to come back to this earth. When you look at 1 Thess.--the earliest epistle Paul wrote,