

It's a privilege every ten years to come back and to look you all in the face and to tell you how happy I am with the way the Lord has been blessing you here. I'm particularly happy because most of those who have preached to you through the years have been individuals in whose training I have been privileged to have had a part. There's nothing that pleases a teacher better than to see how his students are going on in the things he has tried to teach them and are standing for the Lord who is far more important in the eyes of all of us than anything else could possibly be.

We certainly rejoice in the fine testimony that was borne so many years here by Mr. Kaufman. We've been happy that some of our graduates have been carrying on similar testimonies during the time since.

This morning I'm speaking to you about the Book of Revelation. To many people this is a very mysterious book. There was a long article on it by a very famous scholar that I looked at which began: The Book of Revelation is a symbolic book; everything in it is a symbol. If it describes anything you know ~~as~~ that's not what it's talking about. It is a symbol of something else. Of course that reduces the book to utter nonsense. I'm afraid that to many people it's a book they just don't seem to make anything out of it. The book of course has much in it that is clear and expressed in literal language. An account is given in the first three chs. of the seven churches-- we can know it is speaking about actual churches that were there, and the problems those churches had.

And at the end of the book when it tells us about our Lord Jesus Christ, we can know that it is literal. He is coming Himself to this earth and establish His kingdom, and carry out the wonderful things he has promised in His word. But inbetween there is much that cannot be taken as literal. There is much that is figurative. So the fact there is much in it that is very difficult for us to understand and that many people have many different opinions about, leads many to miss that which is absolutely clear and definite in the book such as the matters I've just referred to and ~~as~~ many others.

The first chapter tells about John's vision of the risen Lord. The second and third give the seven letters to the seven churches. From ch. 19 on you have the account of the return of Christ and the wonderful things that are happening to people them. In chs. 6-19 you have some matters on which there are many different views. I'm not going to go into them this a.m. but inbetween the letters to the seven churches that were here in John's time, and the predictions of these tremendous and often inscrutable things in ch. six on, there are two chs. that were read to ~~x~~ us this a.m. that I want to look at particularly now. Chs. 4 and 5. These chs. are largely figurative. But the figures and symbols in them stand for something definite. We do not believe there were men there that looked one like a Jasper