

"There is one brief passage in Isaiah 11 which we must take space to quote. it reads as follows:

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:6-9, R.S.V.)

In this passage Isaiah is evidently endeavoring to picture the idealistic conditions which would prevail under the leadership and power of the Christ and His gospel of reconciliation. The prophet's reference to wolves, lambs, and other animals are surely intended as illustrations only. The love of God working in the hearts of men is to bring such peace and perfect harmlessness to society, such miraculous changes in the lives of men, as would appear if animals should undergo the changes in their natures and habits here suggested."

-- Jesse Wilson Hodges, *Christ's Kingdom and Coming* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1957), pp. 92-93.

Another example may be found in a book by Floyd I. Hamilton:

"But what, it may be asked, is the amillennial interpretation of these chapters in Ezekiel? (Ezekiel 41-48) Well, we would first of all point out that there has never been any temple that corresponded to the one described in Ezekiel. Neither Ezra's temple nor Herod's temple in any way can be identified with it, so there is no way of claiming that the prophecy about it has already been literally fulfilled. We have already pointed out the absurdity of supposing that it will be literally fulfilled in the future. That shuts the believer in the inspiration of Ezekiel up to only one possible explanation of these prophetic pictures. These last chapters of Ezekiel must be intended to teach spiritual truths under the symbolism of the temple and the restored nation! . . .

Now then, in the last chapters of Ezekiel particularly we have the picture of what the ideal relationship of God's people to God ought to be. In other words, we have here a symbolic picture of the proper relationship of the true, invisible Kingdom of God on earth to the Sovereign God, as it ought to manifest itself in human government and society . . . this prophetic picture presents the worship of God through the temple ritual, as the ideal mode of worship. The spiritual truths here taught are, (1) The worship of God is to be supreme over the whole of society, (represented in Ezekiel by the city), human government, (represented in Ezekiel by the prince), ecclesiastical organization (represented by the priests and Levites), and over the individuals themselves. The Sovereignty of God should be the very center of human life and thought and action. (2) When any phase of human society is not so subservient to God, the 'times are out of joint,' and terrible abuses creep in. . . . Thank