

A Common Sense  
View  
of the Millennium

By

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## THE MILLENNIUM

In the Millennium God's Covenant with Noah will not be abrogated or changed;—"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Gen. 8:22). Dismiss the notion that homes will be in the rainbow; that trees will bear golden apples; that stalks of wheat will bear loaves of bread already baked; that nobody will get sick; but all will be on the band-wagon. Physical things will continue as now. Seasons will go on, too wet; too dry; bugs will destroy fruit; cows will have to be milked; the wheat cut in a hot sun. God's curse upon the ground will not be changed. Children will be born "dead in trespasses and in sin" as now. Sin will fight for the mastery, with the same and only Deliverer—CHRIST JESUS. All will get sick and all will die. Good living may prolong life a little; but life's limit will continue. The door will be slammed shut on saloons, movies, theatres, dance-halls, roadhouses, Sabbath desecration, night-clubs—the whole devil's business! All will go underground. "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" will be seen and felt. Notwithstanding, one will earn his bread by the sweat of his face. Rest and sleep will be just as necessary in the Millennium.

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IT MAY NOT BE SUPPOSED THAT THE MILLENNIUM WILL COME WITH A BLARE OF TRUMPETS. "The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation." The daybreak may be long for many things are to take place before it is here. The "beast" and the "false-prophet" are to be cast into the lake of fire—their end; (Rev. 19:21); the gospel is to be preached to all na-

tions; the Jews are to be converted. In the church there is to be a great "falling away" when "the love of many shall wax cold" and ears will itch for new "isms." It is now becoming popular to step out and shout up to CHRIST—YOU ARE NOT THE SON OF GOD; BUT A MAN LIKE THE REST OF US!—Satan speaking through men's mouths!—like the man in the tombs. The church is far from prepared for the Millennium. "Judgment must begin in the house of God." Indications that it is beginning are few.

Notwithstanding, a good many people are shouting—CHRIST IS COMING AND MAY BE HERE ANY MINUTE! and in one swoop He will catch up His people (THE RAPTURE)! Time and again the "RAPTURE" has been set, with folks giving away things to neighbors who kindly kept them for them until the next morning. Learn anything? No: not a thing! They just set another date and shout—IT'S SURE THIS TIME!

WHY CAN'T WE BELIEVE GOD!

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## CHRIST'S REIGN ON THE EARTH IS

### MODERNISM APPLIED

Some believe Christ will come before the Millennium. Some, after. And some believe there will be no Millennium. Rev. 20:4 reads: "I saw thrones." "And they sat upon them." Who sat on them? and are all to sit on thrones? "And I saw the souls "of them that were beheaded." Why does God specify these? What is your exegesis? That only the "beheaded" lived? or that only martyrs lived? or that all the righteous lived from Adam down? Millions and millions and millions died since Adam; but not as martyrs. Are they excluded? Why say—"I saw the

SOULS of them "which had not worshipped the beast"? Does the "beast" refer to Heathen Rome; and his "image" to Rome so-called Christian? If the "beast" refers to heathen Rome; and "his image" to persecutions under so-called Christian Rome—popery—is the Millennium limited to these? Heathen Rome passed away; but Rome so-called "Christian" has not ceased to persecute, when she dared, from early in the Seventh Century. Does Revelation 20 refer to the "Dark Ages" only?

The writer will not suggest answers to these questions; but instead he will give what may be defined as

## A COMMON SENSE VIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM.

A discussion of Christ's reign on the earth avails little until the question is settled—"With what bodies do they come." (1 Cor. 15:35). WILL THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD COME UP OUT OF THE GRAVE A NATURAL BODY; OR WILL THEY COME UP A SPIRITUAL BODY? WHICH? If a natural body, will they come up naked? Will the risen go to work and earn their bread, as God said?

Will they rise men and women? Or, will all be men? j) If "as angels" they could not be associated here. k) Will they get about by horse and buggy; by auto; by train; by airplane? Who would provide them? or, will they have wings? l) What language will they speak? If their native tongues, they would be tied to their home country, yet many would come up in far countries. m) If, as is said, Christ will reign at Jerusalem, who would pay their way; and feed them while there; and bring them back? If all went at one time, Palestine would hardly afford

standing room; and one could not get within miles of Christ. Would they go in relays? How many hundred years would be required? WOULD THE RISEN LIVE THE THOUSAND YEARS? If so, the righteous on earth would live the thousand years also—a fair inference. **Would they die a second time?** “It is appointed unto all men once to die; and after death the judgment.” ((Heb. 9:27). “But they which shall be accounted worthy to attain that world and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage. Neither can they die any more; for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.” (Lu. 20: 35-6). Not a hint of coming back to this earth for a thousand, or any, years.

Keep in mind that during the Millennium the curse on the ground will not be removed. “Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee. . . . In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.” (Gen. 3:17-18). Generations living during the thousand years will not escape work. There may be good harvests and poor. There will be sickness, death and funerals. Because one lives during those blessed years, disciplinary sanctification will be as necessary. The world will be the same as now, excepting great waves of righteousness will sweep over the people.

Generation after generation will continue during the Millennium. If the dead are to rise and stay on earth a thousand years, as some say, they will have to fit into conditions with the living. The great crowds coming down the street from graveyards would certainly cause people to ask—WHAT’S UP? And where could so many put themselves? And a still more serious

question—What are we here for?

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IF THE RIGHTEOUS ARE TO RISE FOR THE MILLENNIUM THEY WILL RISE SPIRITUAL BODIES, God says so. “It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.” (1 Cor. 15; 44). So far as observed God has not defined the “spiritual body,” excepting this; “It doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (1st John 2:2). “With what bodies do they come?” WITH “SPIRITUAL BODIES,” AND BE EVER WITH THE LORD” (1 Thes. 2:17); which puts them in heaven where He is. If “spiritual,” they could have no association with men on earth.

It is said—CHRIST IS TO COME DOWN AND BRING THE HOSTS OF THE REDEEMED WITH HIM. The souls of the saved in heaven are to come down with Christ; their bodies are to come up from the grave and be reunited with the soul; AND ALL TO DWELL ON THE EARTH FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.” But God said—“Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun.” (Matt. 13:43). The situation seems complicated; if not impossible. It IS impossible. The righteous shining as the sun could have no fellowship with men. “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Dan. 12:2). This, amplified and particularized for the righteous in I Cor. 15, is the only resurrection God has revealed; and it is at the end of the world. Men’s determination to work in another resurrection, and for men to live longer than Methusalah, has no Scriptural foundation—just “wishful thinking.”

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27).

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HEAR CHRIST'S WORDS—"VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, THE HOUR IS COMING AND NOW IS," and now is, (that very time) "WHEN THE DEAD SHALL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD; AND THEY THAT HEAR SHALL LIVE." (John 5:15).

Surely this statement by Christ could not refer to the Millennium, and the resurrection of the righteous dead. Instead of a Millennium, the most terrible persecutions followed the thousand years after Christ went back to heavenly glory. His words must refer to the great declaration to Nicodemus—"Ye must be born again." That is a fair, Scriptural interpretation of Revelation 20:5—"THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION"—"born again." "On such the second death hath no power."—Natural death will make no change in your relation to Christ. The declaration—"They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" for thirty-three generations, cannot mean the righteous dead will rise and live again on earth that great stretch of years. It contradicts length of life given by God.

John the Baptist was not Elijah: but he came "in the spirit and power of Elijah." They "lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years"—has similar meaning—faithful in doctrine, ordinances, laws and manner of life for the thousand years.

THAT CHRIST WILL COME TO EARTH AND BRING THE RIGHTEOUS WITH HIM AND REMAIN FOR A THOUSAND YEARS, MUST BE REJECTED. THERE IS NOT A SHRED OF SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE

FOR IT. Furthermore, there is no good reason for the righteous to come back to earth anyway. What are they coming for? God does not need their help!

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But suppose Christ and His redeemed DID come down; look at the situation. HEAVEN WOULD BE EMPTY FOR THIRTY-THREE GENERATIONS—A THOUSAND YEARS. THAT IS A LONG, LONG TIME—ONE-SIXTH AS LONG AS SINCE THE EARTH WAS CREATED. Christ would be gone from heaven a thousand years!! The redeemed would be gone from heaven a thousand years. All songs of worship and praise up there would be hushed for a thousand years. Humanly speaking, God the Father would wander about in the great silent spaces for a thousand years; His Beloved Son gone; the redeemed gone. Such situation needs but be stated to be rejected. IT COULD NOT BE. It doesn't make sense. Yet, the reign of Christ and the redeemed on the earth for a thousand years appears to require just such emptying of heaven. Is the whole Godhead, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to forsake heaven and make this earth headquarters for a thousand years? Who would even mention such? If the redeemed should be caught up to heaven (the Rapture) the earth would be left without a righteous person on it for a thousand years—just given over to raging wickedness. And how would the church get on the earth again? The Rapture is at the end of the world.

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IF THE DECLARATION — "THE REST OF THE DEAD LIVED NOT AGAIN UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE FINISHED" (Rev. 20: 5), means—There will be no wicked on the earth for the thousand years; then,

the coming of Christ and a billion of saints to the earth would seem to have no purpose. There would be no wicked to convert, or to subdue. If, on the other hand, it be accepted that there will be wicked on the earth through the thousand years; but travelling the byways and hidden paths; trying to regain power, but never able; the question would seem to require an answer—**WHY SHOULD IT REQUIRE GOD TO DWELL ON THE EARTH THIRTY-THREE GENERATIONS TO SUBDUCE THE WICKED?** Christ wrought out salvation in three and one-half years of ministry, suffering and death—the greatest work the Universe has ever seen. Shall it take **Him thirty-three generations to subdue the wicked?** Isn't there something wrong with such view? It falls in with Modernism that Christ is not Divine?

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**THERE IS NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE THAT THE FEET OF THE GLORIFIED SON OF GOD WILL EVER AGAIN TOUCH THIS EARTH.** "And now I am no more in the world." (John 17:11). "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also." (John 14:3). "**Be with me where I am that they may behold my glory.**" (John 17:24). There is no Scriptural evidence that these gracious blessings shall be withdrawn for one-sixth as long as man has been on the earth. Common sense as well as Scripture reject such interpretation.

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**IF CHRIST WERE ON EARTH THE COMMUNION COULD NOT BE OBSERVED.** "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's till he come." IF HE

**HAS COME,** the Communion is ended for thirty-three generations. Does **NO COMMUNION** for a thousand years sound reasonable? By the end of that long time **The Lord's Supper** would have been forgotten. Christ gave the Institution with the Cup passed from hand to hand; and all drank of it. That **CUP** was thrown out for the individual cup contrary to Christ's Commandment and example. And now a doctrine is heralded which abolishes the **COMMUNION FOR 1,000 YEARS!** **We are travelling fast.** Hezekiah led Judah in a great Reformation. He observed the Passover as God ordained. He called Israel to come; and sent earnest letters to Ephraim, Manassah and Zebulon to come and keep the Passover as God appointed. But "**they laughed the messengers to scorn and mocked them.**" (2 Chron. 30:10). **TO CALL THE PEOPLE BACK TO THE ORDINANCES OF WORSHIP AND THE LORD'S SUPPER AS GOD APPOINTED THEM WOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE THE SAME TREATMENT TODAY.**

In a great rain on a dark night a driver lost his way. Passing a house lighted up, he called. The good man came to the door and answered—**Go right ahead and turn to the left at the first road.** But the man in the doorway could not see which way the man in the buggy was heading; and directed him exactly the wrong way. Many today, not seeing, are directing God-fearing people into a side road where there would be no Communion for a thousand years.

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Furthermore; That Christ should come and reign on the earth for a thousand years **GIVES A DISTRESSINGLY FALSE VIEW OF THE SON,**

OF GOD. If He is to reign at Jerusalem, or wherever, He must be approachable or His coming would be useless. If approachable, He would be talked with. Those who hold that view seem to think He would be so like themselves that they could slap Him on the shoulder and tell Him what they think He ought to do. THAT IS MODERNISM! IT IS MODERNISM APPLIED. It is Christ in His human nature stripped of His glory. This is distressingly unscriptural. BUT IT FITS IN WITH THE DOCTRINE THAT CHRIST IS NOT DIVINE. "Watch your step!"

There will be no slapping Christ on the shoulder, with Hello! HELLO! "He dwells in light inaccessible and full of glory." He is the "brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of his person." "Who dwells "in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen nor can see; to whom be honor and power everlasting, Amen." (I Tim. 6:16). That we may the better understand His glorious majesty God has put down the experience of the Beloved disciple. In Rev. I: 13-16, John ends the description of Christ's appearance with these startling words—"AND WHEN I SAW HIM, I FELL AT HIS FEET AS DEAD." (fainted away!) And he laid his right hand upon me saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last; I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive forever more, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Rev. 1: 17-18). Should Christ come to our earth, which He will not, He would appear as He did to John. Everybody would fall down as dead at the dreadful appearance. "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him and they also that pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail

because of him. Even so, Amen." (Rev. 1:7). The terror of it for the wicked! The joy of it for the righteous, who, now raised holy, can look upon Him with joy. "And they shall see his face." (Rev. 22). "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain" (the world will be vastly peopled at that time) "shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we be ever with the Lord." (I Thes. 4; 16-17). And certainly not among the thorns and briars of this sin-cursed earth.

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Besides putting Christ in Modernistic clothes to live here for a thousand years (how destitute of good common sense) and cancelling the COMMUNION for a thousand years, is it not strange when He said, "Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the world," that He gave not the least hint that He would be back presently, and would stay with them for a thousand years? He would have told them He would be back shortly and stay with them for thirty-three generations. But He gave not the least hint of it. No superficial explanation will satisfy this omission. Comfort would require that He tell the sorrowing disciples. But He said not a word.

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Also supposing that Christ and the millions and millions of the redeemed would come down from heaven to rid the world of wickedness and establish righteousness on the earth, see how long it takes them to do it—A THOUSAND YEARS. with the roots still there to burst forth at the end worse

than ever. What slow work for such hosts headed by God Himself! It looks like the cry was—**COME! AND FIGHT DESPERATELY!! FOR THE DEVIL IS ABOUT TO ROUT THE ALMIGHTY!!!** Such view fits in with **MODERNISM.**

**THE ORDINANCES OF GRACE WILL NOT CHANGE DURING THE MILLENNIUM.**

If Christ and the redeemed came from heaven and gave evidence of their glory, those living during the Millennium would have advantage over those who had lived; or would live after. It is far better to believe the Ordinances of Grace will continue to operate during the thousand years as before. God has given no intimation that there will be change and other methods of grace will be introduced.

The righteous will control the family, the church, the state—Christ over all and blessed forever. Blessings will fall as dews upon Mount Sion. "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, **HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD.**" (Zac. 14:20).—business for God's glory. The Songs of Zion will follow the rising and setting sun." Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever." (Rev. 5:15) To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin: God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, and the diligent use of the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption." (Shorter Catechism). That kind of a Millennium makes Scriptural sense. Christ and the redeemed coming to the sin-cursed earth for a thousand years, does not.

"**BUT THE REST OF THE DEAD LIVED NOT AGAIN UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE FINISHED.**" (Rev. 20:5) "Lived not again." They had lived; then died; then, lived again. Is that right? Where were they during the thousand years? They must have been in hell, and at the end of the thousand years, God let them out. Such does not make sense. A better interpretation would seem to be—The wicked are to continue on the earth during the thousand years as before; but pushed back; unpopular. They will try to get out of sight. Every child born during, as before and after, the Millennium, will be born "dead in trespasses and sins"; and must be saved in the blood of Christ, through regeneration, faith and sanctification as in time past. **THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE ORDINANCES OF GRACE.** If the "dead" lived again after the thousand years, the meaning cannot be the wicked will be let out of hell to range up and down the earth, nor will the righteous leave heaven and come again to this wicked world for a thousand years. Both are rejected.

In interpreting Revelation Twentieth we should keep our heads out of the clouds and keep our feet on the ground. **FOR THINGS WILL BE AS REAL DURING THE MILLENNIUM AS NOW.** We should not flatter ourselves that we are coming back for a thousand years' visit.

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