

APPENDIX

The Millennium Movement Crashes on Truth

Just when we think the battles over "the millennium" are over, some younger version of Dr. Jeremiah stirs the pot on the subject. Already it is the dominant issue that split the SBC into 3 denominations under the disguise of fundamentalists versus moderates, but that was approximately 25 years ago. Now that these fundamentalists have political control of the SBC, you would expect them to set back licking their chops while they savor the win that destroyed the careers and reputations of many dedicated, so-called "moderates" {really conservatives that disagreed with the fighting spirit and the millennium movement of the fundamentalists, 20 years ago before they took over Convention control, we called them fuedamentalists as you knew what they were against more than what they were for}.

Now, we call them "boss" of the SBC, although almost monthly you hear of debates and disagreements between them and other State Baptists in Texas and New Mexico. Recall the standard joke about General Dynamics Fort Worth {now Lockheed Martin Fort Worth}, what do you call a Texas Aggie at GD FW, and the answer of "boss".

2-1: "The Millennium" is Still Dangerous!

The point is that while the disagreements go on and on, fundamentalists by and large, wanting you to accept them as spiritual leaders and heroes while foolishly

The Millennium Movement Crashes

stating "just relax and every thing will be okay" **{this has gone on steadily since 25 years ago when the Convention split, and what they are trying to do primarily is to protect their retirements with the Relief and Annuity Board, and their positions}**; still, by and large, "millennium" remains an underground concept, hardly understood by the majority of Christians, but periodically brought up from the pulpit and over the radio by such men as the younger version of Jeremiah, who want to stir the pot, use some of their seminary notes, or speak something novel from the pulpit. Throughout all these turbulent 50 years of SBC history and the ups and downs of fundamentalism **{quite often revived in the Calvary church movement}**, one thing remains constant: the millennium movement contributes to the falling away as it distorts and crashes on truth about the kingdom, the Holy Spirit versus Satan, eminence of the Second Coming, and realities now of the Falling Away. For example this dream of the millennium movement denies the present realities of the 4th stage of the Falling Away--"the turning away from truth", after (1) intolerance toward sound doctrine, (2) church members motivated by personal desires, and (3) the heaping up of Bible teachers and preachers with itching ears by itching ears church members **{all this you will find, of course, in II Timothy 4:3,4}**, with wishful thinking that Christians will be raptured away before the Falling Away; and with the complex philosophies **{originally from Darby and Scofield}** of the millennium movement that build up all these false events, including one thousand years of Christ reign on earth, that must happen before the Falling Away and the Second Coming. In short, the whole atmosphere of the millennium movement creates fictitious events and imaginations, that distract from (1) the reality of the Falling Away now, and (2) the immanence of the Second Coming. Also many other sound doctrines of the Bible become side casualties of this false philosophy well developed by Scofield, a divorced lawyer who as pastor of the First Congregationalists Church in Dallas propagated a correspondence course among backwoods preachers in Tennessee and Texas on "the millennium" that later became the notes of the Scofield Reference Bible, and is still promoted by a society of that name in Memphis, Tennessee. **{It sells Scofield Reference Bibles, and except for the NOTES it is an exceptionally helpful Bible. And the problem with the NOTES is that like the Mormons with their King James Version with notes from Joseph Smith and Brigham Young inserted, the NOTES are treated like Scripture.}**

Our two most outstanding conservative Bible scholars on the book of Revelation and eschatology **{last things and last events}** were Dr. Ray Summers who formerly taught Greek, the book of Revelation, and eschatology at Southwestern Seminary and through his helpful books of WORTHY IS THE LAMB on rev-

Millennium Movement Crashes on Truth

elation and *THE LIFE BEYOND* on eschatology; and from Southern Seminary in Louisville, McDowell with *THE MEANING AND MESSAGE OF REVELATION*.¹ They both made efforts at peace making on the subject, and their approach can be summarized like many of us today try to do on the subject of "millennium": do not discuss it and hope it will go away. Or stated in a more positive way, since "millennium" is not a Bible word anyway, just preach and teach positively the sound doctrines of the Bible on eschatology. Primarily teach and preach II Thessalonians, which will keep everybody straight; and then back it up with the clear teachings of Jesus in Matthew 24 as a guideline to help in the interpretation of the book of Revelation.

2-2: Get a Healthy Dose of II Thessalonians Before Revelation 20:2-7.

One of the most basic of principles of hermeneutics {Read the helpful book of Bernard Ramm on *THE SCIENCE OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION*.}, is to allow the easy to understand bulk of the New Testament to guide you in your understanding of the harder passages of the book of Revelation, like Revelation 20:2-7 on the loosing and binding of Satan and "a/the" thousand years; rather than throw out all your theology and Bible understanding previous learned when you come to passages difficult to understand.

1. The stumbling block of interpretation of the millennium movement is that fundamentalists just will not admit that Satan was bound for "a/the" thousand years when the Holy Spirit came on the first Day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ, and that Satan is released when the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from earth. This firm conviction and teaching of II Thessalonians, like in the passage below, should anchor the Bible reader when he comes to read passages like Revelation 20:2-7.

a. II Thessalonians.

"For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way." (II Thessalonians 2:7)

b. Revelation 20:1-7.

1. One of the first things fundamentalists did after the SBC takeover was remove such good books from the Baptist Book Store {also change the name to *Christian Life Bookstore*}, also remove such good teachers from Seminaries and Baptist University, even pulpits when they could. One might compare it to the purgings of the Roman Catholic churches of past history. This alone should tell you the real reason for the Convention takeover and splits, for survival of their millennium movement; and not the fictitious good explanations of current history books written by fundamentalists. They are even ashamed to admit in public what they did!

The Millennium Movement Crashes

"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years." (Revelation 20:1,2)

Although full of images not to be taken literal as Satan is not actually a dragon or a serpent--he acts that way, used the snake to tempt Adam and Eve, who by the way stood upright and was a beautiful creature before that; it is not a real physical key or a real chain, and it is not a millennium of one thousand years, the words "one" and millennium are not there--the thrust of the passage is positive reinforcement of II Thessalonians and much other related Bible on the work of the Holy Spirit on earth that when the Holy Spirit came to earth in great power on the first Day of Pentecost after the Ascension, the work that He was given to do--convict the whole world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11)--served to "restrain" (II Thessalonians 2:7) and "bind" (Revelation 20:2) Satan for a very long period of time like "a" thousand years. {In reality, since the Holy Spirit has not yet been withdrawn from earth, it has been approximately 2000 years since Satan was bound, or so we think. Pentecostals and others are still speaking in tongues--but will they keep doing that after the withdrawal; and of course along with the decrease in evangelism to almost zero because the Spirit is not at work leading us, the peak in sin and lawlessness, the withdrawal of the Spirit from earth will show in the 5 stage completion of the Falling Away. Yes, also you will see the man of sin.}

However, if you wish you carry out the imagery of Revelation of the binding of Satan with a chain, you will notice that all this did, just like a mad dog being tethered to any chain, did not limit the fact that "he goes about as a lion seeking whom he may devour"; and that Satan tempts us today like he did Jesus in the wilderness with status and things of this world. {Never forget that it is primarily the spirit within us that lusteth to envy, the covetousness and greed, that tempts us to wrong more than Satan. That is the message of James 4:5 and the book of James.}

2. That the angel, always the messenger of and from God with great power, is carrying both a key and a chain is highly illustrative of where the Revelation 20:1-10 passage is headed, to the "lake of fire and brimstone" of 20:10,14,15.

"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tor-

Millennium Movement Crashes on Truth

mented day and night forever and ever. (20:10)...Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death (2:14)...And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire (2:15).

2-2: Millennium Is Not a Bible Word or Concept, But a Philosophy.

It is a philosophy generated by two lawyers, Darby and Scofield which they have tried to impose on the Bible. It is unfortunate that after the divorced lawyer Scofield became pastor of the First Congregationalists church in Dallas, and through largely a correspondence course among the backwoods preachers of the South, fundamentalism and Bible Baptists through the Scofield Reference Bible Notes {also imposed on real Bible} have continued as a throne in our flesh as part of the Falling Away from truth.

NOTE: The following on "millennium" is posted online for reference, so that we will not have to waste further time on the subject. You should know about it, and the influence it exerts among Christian churches today; but you should also not spend much time on it, deferring like the SunGrist_Bible ministry to presentation and beliefs on sound Bible doctrines. {Check the last section of this subject for examples of the preaching of sound Bible doctrine.} It should be treated as another false gospel like the "Gospel of Prosperity"; and when you come down to the nitty-gritty both subjects divert you into "materialism", a work of Satan.

You will notice that "millennium" is a word never found in the Bible. For one reason it is Latin, and a Latin version of the Bible was not written until years after the original manuscripts of Bible books were written in Greek. "Millennium" if you check Webster's dictionary is not even the vulgar Latin of the Roman Empire: it is the new Latin of approximately 1638. You will find the following directly from the dictionary.

"New Latin, from Latin mille thousand + New Latin -ennium (as in biennium)

Date: circa 1638"

Fundamentalists in efforts to indoctrinate you on their unsound truths about eschatology {last events and things} try to force you to read "millennium" into the "a thousand years" {3 times} and "the thousand years" {3 times} of Revelation 20:2-7. Notice carefully in the reading of Revelation 20:2-7 with the six times mention of "a thousand years" or "the thousand years", the word "one" is never used for "one thousand years"; and yet these fundamentalists of the SBC

The Millennium Movement Crashes

and other groups would have you impose on the Bible of Revelation 20 a "one thousand years" which is in the definition of millennium.

1 a : the thousand years mentioned in Revelation 20 during which holiness is to prevail and Christ is to reign on earth b : a period of great happiness or human perfection

2 a : a period of 1000 years; especially : one reckoned from the beginning of the Christian era *at the start of the third millennium* b : a 1000th anniversary or its celebration.

Remember also that the number "1000" is also not in Revelation 20: it is "a thousand years" or "the thousand years". Granted that this hypothetical "millennium" of the fundamentalists, coming years ago from a divorced lawyer¹ who became pastor of the First Congregationalists church in Dallas and taught a correspondence course of Millenniumism to backwoods preachers in Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee {later was incorporated into the famous Scofield Reference Bible, and promoted by an organization in Memphis by the same name}. that is to repeat to get where this argument is headed, this hypothetical "millennium" does have a definition and concept of "one" in the "one thousand years" definition; but there is absolutely no reason that you should impose "one" on Revelation 20, much less impose the definition of "millennium" on Revelation 20; and above all in the very important methods of interpretation of the Bible {called "hermeneutics" among the teachers and students of Bible interpretation}, you should never come to this part of the Bible, and any part of the Bible, with preconceived ideas, concepts, and definitions that you try to impose on the Bible. This in the science of Bible interpretation {hermeneutics} is called "isogesis", for reading meaning into the bible; as contrasted to "exegetis" which is the reading of meaning out of the Bible.

2-1: Why Is It Important?

Granted we also run the risk as we bring the level of Bible discussion, like this, down to the level of the fundamentalists, of "much ado about nothing"; or as it has been stated in past theological discussions, to the level of "how many angels could you put on a dime". Even more important for Christians, we run the risk of doing, like the fundamentalists and the Pharisees before them, of "straining at a gnat {on theology and Bible} and swallowing a camel".

1. Scofield got his mis-directions from another lawyer, Darby of an earlier generation in Ireland.

Millennium Movement Crashes on Truth

Why then get down to this level of the: "one thousand years" of the millennium" versus the "a thousand years" and "the thousand years" of Revelation 20. Well, the most obvious answer is that "a" and "the" are in the Scripture of Revelation 20:2-7, not the "one thousand years" of the definition of millennium. Even more so, two thousand years have already passed since the giving of the Bible to earth residents, and we do not see this hypothetically kingdom on earth set up on earth **{nor will we ever see it as given in the definition of millennium above, both from the dictionary and Scofield}**.

In the name of a consistent interpretation of the total context of the New Testament and Bible on eschatology, and as related to other Bible truths such as about the Holy Spirit and the binding of Satan, this hypothesis is presented right now in a positive manner before dealing further with these foolish arguments heard yesterday on the radio from a young pastor, perhaps a junior version of Dr. Jeremiah, definitely a recent seminary graduate, probably of the "calvary" type **{not the Calvary of Jesus in the Bible, but the current church movement which uses the word as a magic buzz word to build their own kingdom}**; and who stirs the same pot of "Millenniumism" that split the SBC approximately 25 years ago, and continues to be a thorn in the flesh between fundamentalists who control the SBC and other baptists.

Hypothesis: the "a thousand years" and the "the thousand years" is a variable like X, which is the equivalent of "last days"¹ (Acts 2:16-21 and Joel 2:28-32) in the Bible, that started with the Coming of the Holy Spirit to earth and ends with the Second Coming of Christ, a little longer than the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit (II Thessalonians 2:7), X is already greater than 2000 years² **{X > 2000 years or X GT 2000 years}**; and that this interpretation of Revelation 20:2-7 is more in keeping with the total context of the Bible, especially like in II Peter 3:8 where "one day" is like "a thousand years", and "a thousand years" is like "one day".

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1. In the nature of progressive revelation from God in the Bible, alias God patiently through thousands of years has led to the complete of the Bible as the Word of God, here a little and there a little; so that to last days, the addition of the concept of thousand years adds that the last days are much longer than many read into the Bible.
 2. What solidifies this as the only correct interpretation is that Christian martyrs, those who die for Christ by blood, are resurrected immediate to live and reign with Christ for this variable, X, of a thousand years; and naturally any such martyrs now killed as they are in so many other parts of the world, have much less of the two thousand years to live and reign with Christ before the Second Coming. Martyrs have died in all generations since the Ascension of Christ, and that alone makes a thousand or the thousand a variable of X. Read again Revelation 20:2-7 again, and you will see it. John and the Holy Spirit did not want everyone being able to read and understand the book of Revelation; and a good job was done, especially on lawyers, with Word of God like in Revelation 20. They get so confused that they can not even think straight.

The Millennium Movement Crashes

NOTE: Be careful again in the reading of meaning into II Peter 3:8, exegesis {not isogesis} of the wording is "one day" and "a thousand years". Again like in Revelation 20:2-7 it never says "one thousand years". And again the isogesis of "one" in one thousand years comes out of only the definition of millennium, which is never, ever taught in the Bible.

Why is this subject important?

1. Already established in the hypothesis above, this is the most consistent interpretation of total Bible context, making the "a/the thousand years" the equivalent of the "last days". Unlike dynamically and confidently stated by this younger version of Jeremiah on the radio {we now have a new generation of seminary graduates like Mark Lowry said of old time evangelists, "they are not always right, but never in doubt", who stir up the pot dogmatically on Millenniumism}, how we interpret Revelation 20:2-7 and Millenniumism determines our whole approach to Bible interpretation, we should never base our whole approach to Bible interpretation on the hardest part of the Bible to understand. **{Read some hermeneutics, you start with and stay with by way of Bible interpretation the easiest to understand, and then work your way up to the hardest, never along the way overthrowing the easiest in favor of the harder.}**

2. As long as preachers like this younger Jeremiah and the church members they convince on Millenniumism, look for a one thousand years kingdom on earth, they will never accept the realities of the Bible and the world today, that churches and denominations are well into the Falling Away.

3. No matter how much they inconsistently preach and believe an immanent return of Christ, waiting for a first one thousand years kingdom on earth, delays {in their minds} the Second Coming of Christ. Dr. Jeremiah admitted this recently, not in so many words but rather in his illustrations, when a little girl, church member of his congregation, told him that "you talk about Christ coming soon, then you tell of all these things that must happen first". Yes, "a child shall lead them", and "out of the mouth of babes comes wisdom".

4. This unsound doctrine of Millenniumism takes the focus off the Bible truths of the kingdom established by Christ in the first century, putting them on a hypothetical kingdom reign of Christ on this earth for one thousand years.

Millennium Movement Crashes on Truth

5. It takes the focus off the fully completed kingdom of Christ that will be fully established on the new earth immediately after the Second Coming of Christ.

6. It is a large nail in the coffin of local churches and denominations {Christianity in general} as "they turn away from the truth", the fourth and almost final stage of the Falling Away (II Timothy 4:4,5). The fifth and last stage, the one of American churches, like the rest of the world, over the precipice of the complete turning away from truth and the completion of the Falling Away, is "they are turned into fables"!

2-2: Millenniumism Contributes Greatly to Turning Away from Truth.

This whole "Millenniumism" preaching, teaching, and belief is far more dangerous that we conservative believers and preachers of the Bible have chosen to accept as we have tried to ignore the subject. Once again, "the children of this world are wiser than the children of light". They have been emotional about it always as you will notice the rare times it is discussed. To them a proper interpretation of "millenniumism" has been made synonymous with salvation. Back in the 1950s while my wife, a Tennessee southern baptist from her roots, was in nurses training at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, a preacher asked her what her young preacher fiancée believed about the Scofield Bible notes on the millennium; and when you said, she didn't know {she didn't know either what those notes were}, naturally and immediately replied, "Oh you should know as they tell what kind of Christian and Bible believer he is."

And just when we thought the fundamentalists of today had dropped the subject like their forefathers who split the SBC in the name of Millenniumism, along yesterday came this younger version of Jeremiah on the radio.

1. It distorts our Bible truth on the Falling Away.

In spite of the overwhelming evidence that the world and churches are going spiritual and physically bankrupt, the philosophy of this movement from the devil has such a hold on church leaders that they will not admit that we are now in the fourth stage of the Falling Away--turn away from truth--and about to go over the precipice of the fifth stage, be turned into fables.

2. It distorts our Bible truth on the Second Coming.

Their addition of all these extra events and years, takes away from all the Scriptures which urge "watch now" and "wait now".

The Millennium Movement Crashes

3. It distorts our Bible truth on the kingdom.

They tend to overlook and under emphasize the kingdom of God that was established by God through Christ during Christ's first advent on earth, and also to ignore the kingdom of God to be established on the new earth as the fulfillment of the completed kingdom of God. That time when heaven and earth become one, and the New Jerusalem is lowered to Mount Zion from heaven. With this isogesis technique of the millennium, they are also led to misapply and misinterpret, based on their confusion about a thousand year reign of Christ, that all those promises of the Old Testament of future peace, for example as the lion lays down with the Lamb, and the re-establishment of the new Israel, to this fictitious one thousand year reign of Christ on earth before the Second Coming.

4. It distorts our Bible truth on the Body Resurrection of Christians.

Besides the non-biblical word of millennium, fundamentalists have added the word rapture out of wishful thinking so that church members and other Christians will not have to be on earth during the final tribulation and the Falling Away. Dream on, 'ole isogetical ones!

5. It distorts our Bible truth on the Holy Spirit.

They will not admit: (1) that the Holy Spirit will be withdrawn from the earth at the beginning of the "little while"; (2) that the binding of Satan was when the Holy Spirit came in great power and glory on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ; (3) they deny that the loosing of Satan is when according to II Thessalonians 2:7 the Holy Spirit is "taken away" by God the Father; and (4) they deny that the Holy Spirit's coming and going determines the period of the "last days". You see, they just do not want to give God the Holy Spirit credit for anything, preferring to give in the millennium movement the credit to Scoffield and Darby.

6. It distorts our Bible truth on the "last days".

They completely ignore in their "pick and chose" methods of Bible interpretation what Peter told, based on the quote from Joel 2:28-32, to listeners on the first Day of Pentecost after the Ascension, that this day the beginning of the last days was fulfilled before their very eyes. And that these last days would clearly run all the way to the end of time, that is until the "great and terrible

Millennium Movement Crashes on Truth

day of the LORD" and Lord; that in between would be many signs in the heavens above and the earth beneath, signs that the whole creation is groaning in child birth to bring in the new earth, and signs that it is rapidly now coming to a great climax of entropy.

7. It distorts our Bible truth on the "binding" and "loosing" of Satan.

It strains the imagination of what they think presently binds the work of Satan.

8. It distorts our Bible truth on the New Earth.

Have you ever heard your fundamentalists preacher speak of the new earth? No, there is hardly room in their books of sermons.

9. It distorts our Bible truth on materialism and righteousness. It is a very good companion false belief with the "Gospel of Prosperity".

There must be a lot of truth in what Henry Steele Commager, the outstanding scholar at Amherst on American Studies, said about fundamentalism: "it was started by a group of millionaires in California." Certainly the twin false doctrines of the Gospel of Prosperity and the Millennium helps businessmen, the greedy, and the worldly rationalize their own way of life and secondary commitment to God and Christ in favor of "success", wealth, and status in the world.

10. It promotes disunity, lack of harmony, and lack of love among Christians in the name of an inerrant Bible that only they know about.

Like W. A. Criswell said to Bill Moyer, and in the name of all fundamentalists, we are going to keep fighting until one side or the other wins. They did as careers and reputations of good Southern Baptists pastors and teachers were destroyed; as the Southern Baptist Convention was split into 3 conventions; and as evangelism and church attendance decreased steadily during the last 20 years. Once upon a time Southern Baptists were unique among main line Protestants: now just like them, thanks to the fundamentalists, they are also on a decline like them.

11. It is synonymous with an elite of exclusive attitude forbidden in I Corinthians 14, that the "Bible came to them only, or came out of their group".

The Millennium Movement Crashes

They have by and large now gone underground with that elite attitude of all the answers; but occasionally like with the young Dr. Jeremiah mentioned earlier, you will hear it spoken. A fighting attitude, an exclusive attitude, and an attitude of literalism {literal only on certain pick and chose scriptures} and lack of love. It is the same attitude condemned by Paul in I Corinthians 14:36, you know that attitude, that the Bible came to them only or that they originated the Bible.

2-3: It is always Preferred to Positively Preach Good Sound Bible Doctrine.

No, we are not going to stay down at this level; and we never do, however you must recognize the major trust of SunGrist_Bible continues with the rescue of sound doctrine and the preaching and teaching of sound doctrine. For reference and reminders, you are reminded to check out the following that we were on the biblecombibleman.com website long ago.

1. Sound Doctrines on the Second Coming.
2. The New Earth.
3. Some Sounds of Sound Faith.
4. What the Churches Don't Want You to Hear.
5. Popular Preachers of Prosperity.
6. Haiti Shakes in Labor.
7. The Falling Away.
8. Moving On Backwards.

2-4: Positive Bible Doctrines to Keep In Your Head and Faith.

1. The "last days" of the New Testament started on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ and runs through to the Second Coming of Christ.
2. The binding of Satan was when the Holy Spirit came to the earth in great power on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension, and runs until according to II Thessalonians when the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from the earth.

Millennium Movement Crashes on Truth

3. The kingdom of Christ, clearly foretold in Daniel as a kingdom that God Himself would set up and "leave not to others" {implying the Holy Spirit would promote it through convictions on righteousness, sin, and belief}, was set up in a small nucleus during the life of Christ, as predicted has grown larger and larger as you can tell by the souls already in heaven waiting to be placed after the Second Coming on the new earth; and which will be all the new inhabitants of the new earth after the Second Coming.

4. Second Timothy 4:3,4 teaches a 5 stage Falling Away with Bible and current news evidence among the churches and God's people indicating that we are on the precipice of the fourth stage, the point of no return when the majority of God's people turn away from truth.

5. Two large directives from God are going on at the world scene scale that can be easily confused: (1) God continues like in Old Testament and NT days to bring calamities on His own people in order to get their attention in the direction of righteousness; and (2) the earth daily dies with things like earthquakes and hurricanes--"wonders in the heavens above and the earth beneath, fire and blood and vapor of smoke", like a woman has pains during child birth, as the old earth delivers into the new earth.

The Millennium Movement Crashes
