

A FEW SUGGESTIONS REGARDING BRO. RUSSELL'S VIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM.

Due to the fact that there continues to be challenges to Bro. Russell's presentations on the subject of Christ's one thousand year kingdom, we offer the following observations and suggestions.

A different chronology has been presented which ends the 6,000 years since Adam's creation in 2043 AD, as the time when the 7th one thousand years of Christ' reign would begin. Hence Christ' presence now, since 1874, is separated from the 7th. 1,000 year Day of the Lord.

It is also presented that Bro. Russell taught that there are two separate 1,000 year periods. One of Christ' presence and one of Christ' Mediatorial reign.

While it is true that Bro. Russell has written in a number of places that Christ' Mediatorial reign would be 1,000 years long, it is always in the context of a mixed public and brethren publication, like the WatchTower Magazine.

Please note well that this is a writing technique. In like manner Bro. Russell wrote at times of the presence of Christ as being a future event.

BUT HE NEVER WROTE THAT THERE ARE TWO 1,000 YEAR PERIODS OF CHRIST'S REIGN WITH ONE STARTED SINCE 1874 AND ANOTHER YET FUTURE, AS A STUDIED SCRIPTURALLY PRESENTED TRUTH.

Nor did he ever write in the Volumes that there was to be two one thousand year periods of Christ' reign, or that there was to be a 1,000 year Mediatorial period.

Rather for the brethren, in the 1916 Forwards of the 6 Volumes, written just weeks before his death and graduation, he still believed that the 1,000 year reign of Christ the Messiah had already begun, 43 earlier.

"The Bible chronology herein presented shows that the six great thousand-year Days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great Seventh Day, the thousand years of Christ' Reign, began in 1873. The events of these 43 years, which this Volume claims as the beginning of the Millennium, we still find fully corroborating Bible prophecies, as herein set forth." Quoted from "The Time Is At Hand" Forward page ii written October 1, 1916.

"For this cause, God permits the Millennial dawn to come upon the world gradually. As men are awakening from the stupor of the past, they do not consider the Lord or acknowledge His grace in connection with the blessings present and coming. We have estimated that these 43 years have brought to mankind a thousand times as much wealth as was created during the six thousand years preceding. The improved conditions of all mankind in civilized lands, the shortening of the hours of labor, etc. are offset by greater knowledge and a discontent which comes therewith..." Quoted from "The Battle Of Armageddon" Forward page 1, written October 1, 1916.

Couple this with another quote just a few pages later,

"How glad we are that man's extremity in this Time of Trouble will be the Lord's opportunity! He is waiting to be gracious. He is wishing to pour out upon mankind the blessings of the Millennial Kingdom for one thousand years, for their uplift out of sin and death conditions back to the

image and likeness of God. He foreknows that they must first have their lessons. He has shown this already to those who have seeing eyes, by granting more than forty years of the dawning period-which, however, instead of bringing blessings and happiness to the world, have brought more and more of discontent...." Quoted from the above, page 4.

Now putting this together is very simple. Bro. Russell taught us that the 1,000 years of Christ' reign, God's kingdom, the Millennial Day had begun 1874 (1873 Jewish reckoning). That his reign IS a reign of blessings to mankind. The blessings have begun. We see the benefits of this. However the world is ever more agitated by the increasing knowledge and liberty and they desire more and more temporal improvements at the expense of better and better characters! The thousand years (and only 1 thousand year period, not 2), has already started and those of us with our mental eyes of understanding can see these matters clearly.

In other words, WE recognize that the 1,000 years of blessing has already begun. Yet the world is still waiting for their concept of the 1,000 years blessings to begin!

Note well his phrase "the blessings PRESENT and COMING." Yes this is all part of the "Millennial dawn to come upon the world GRADUALLY."

He does not write of a second "DAWNING" of a thousand years future.

These October 1, 1916 Forwards are really the last writings of Bro. Russell on these subjects. This is intended by him (and I personally believe by our returned Lord Jesus), to be for our final encouragement with the passage of time.

Here is another related thought on this subject. Some have suggested that Bro. Russell changed his mind concerning the 1,000 Year Kingdom of Christ because he changed the title of the Millennial Age on the Divine Plan of the Ages Chart, renaming it the "Messianic Age". However, we do not agree with that supposition. Rather it makes much more sense and is in keeping with Bro. Russell's own 1916 Forwards as noted above, that he changed the title so that it would conform more perfectly to the other Age titles which relate to the work being accomplished, not the period of time.

The "Jewish Age" title suggests that God would be working with the nation of Israel.
The "Gospel Age" title suggests that God would be working with the Christ, Head and Body members.
The "Millennial Age" title really only gave a time period and does not denote the work of the Age.

Hence the "Messianic Age" title suggests that God would be working with the world of mankind in their restoration.

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