

SOBER VIEWS OF THE MILLENNIUM

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649017652

Sober views of the millennium by Thomas Jones

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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THOMAS JONES

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THE MILLENNIUM**

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OF
THE MILLENNIUM:

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BY THE REV. THOMAS JONES,
OF CREATON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

"I also will shew my opinion."—Ecciv.

PUBLISHED BY R. B. SEELEY AND W. BURNSIDE:
AND SOLD BY L. B. SEELEY AND SONS,
FLEET STREET, LONDON.
MDCCCXXXV.

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THE MILLENNIUM.

PART I.

A *VERY glorious Era* is universally expected to come on the earth before the end of time, called the Millennium, or the thousand years, when Christ shall reign on the earth, and the kingdom be given to the Saints. It is expressly said of this period of time, in the language of prophecy, that the kingdoms of this world are to become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ: that the saints shall reign, and that holiness shall cover the whole earth.

From the time sin came into the world, and covered the earth with darkness, the *Sun of Righteousness* has been gradually rising to view, to dispel this darkness. The light of life at the beginning, in the days of Abel, was small and glimmering, but has been brightening from age to age, and will continue to shine more and more to the perfect day. From the Creation to the coming of the Messiah, little was known of the glory of Christ, to what is now known under the dispensation of the Spirit. And all that is now known of the mysteries of Christ and the glory of his kingdom, is

no more than a twilight to the great gospel-sabbath that is to come on the earth. It is then, that the Sun of Righteousness will shine with peculiar splendour, power and glory.

Some of those that have written on the Millennium, *differ widely* in their description of its nature and character. Some sink it far too low, while others exalt it much higher than the Scripture gives them any authority. All the information that we can have on the subject, must be found in the Scriptures of truth. As our information of the Millennium is conveyed to us chiefly in the language of prophecy, the time and circumstances are not distinctly marked ; yet the character and leading features of that remarkable period are so clearly revealed, that they cannot easily be misunderstood by any fair inquirer after truth.

I wish to apprise the reader thus early, that it is far from my intention or desire to enter the *field of controversy* with any class of men. My only aim, is, to give a fair statement of what appears to me plain matters of fact. I shall now proceed to give the most correct description of the *nature and character* of that glorious Era, according to the best views that I can form of it.

It is evident to all, that the leading features of the Millennium, will be these *two things* :—The great reduction and lessening of all *evils*, both of sin and suffering, throughout the whole world ;—and the vast increase of *good*, of holiness and happiness from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. It will be a period of brilliant light, when the darkness shall flee away.

SECTION I.—*Satan bound and banished.*

At the commencement of this era, SATAN will be sent out of this world, and cast into hell, and confined there for a thousand years—By the term Satan, we are to understand all the myriads of fallen angels, who now go “to and fro, through the earth, seeking whom they may devour.”

“And I saw an Angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit, and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the Dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled.” Rev. xx. 1—3.

I. This *angel* that comes down from heaven is no other than the Great Angel of the covenant, the Lord Jesus Christ. For it is he alone, that has the dominion over Satan and his angels. It is he alone that can bind the strong man armed: and it is he that has the keys of hell and of death. He binds Satan, casts him into the bottomless pit, and confines him there for a thousand years, so that he will not be able to tempt and deceive the nations during that period.

This confinement of Satan will be of incalculable *benefit* to the world. This must be evident to all, when they consider what immense evil and mischief he produceth through the whole world, while he is permitted to tempt, delude, and ensnare the nations upon earth. The sins of the world are innumerable as

the sand of the sea. All these are committed against the great and holy God by the instigation of the grand adversary of God and man.

Satan's *plan*, aim and effort, is, to drive God out of this lower world, that he himself may reign without a rival, and have an universal empire over the whole human race. He strives with all arts and energies to extinguish the light of divine truth, and to plunge all nations into the horrible darkness of ignorance and unbelief, so that they may be his willing slaves and captives.

Satan has *succeeded* in accomplishing his plans and purposes, to an alarming degree. This you will confess and lament, the moment you survey the present state of the world. He has awfully deluded the nations, and turned them away from the living and true God, to worship false and dead gods, which are no gods, and can do nothing for them. It is computed that there are four hundred millions that are Heathens who worship stocks and stones. The Mahometans also, which consist of many nations, are the disciples and followers of a false prophet, instead of Christ. The Papists, likewise, which are many Millions, worship the Beast and his image; and the whole nation of Jews reject the Messiah. When all these, with all nominal Christians, are added together, it will evidently appear that Satan has prevailed to an alarming degree, in deluding the nations upon earth; and that the real Church of God, in the nineteenth century, is but as a small garden in the midst of a wild and extensive wilderness.

The *mischiefs* that Satan is now doing in the world, is beyond all conception, great. Man, indeed, from

the corruption of his nature, would disobey and rebel, if there was no tempter. But it will admit of a doubt, whether any sin was ever committed, but Satan had a hand in it. Yet man is not exempted from guilt, because he sins by being tempted. Doubtless, myriads of sins never would have been committed, had it not been for the influence and excitement of the tempter; and the human race would not have been half so wicked and miserable, if Satan had not been among them, to tempt, deceive, and torment them.

II. To have the great enemy of our salvation banished from the earth, and confined in hell, will be of itself an *immense benefit* to them that shall then dwell on the earth. Were the Millennium to consist of nothing more than this deliverance, it would produce the most marvellous change in the condition of mankind. They will then be free from all his fiery darts, entangling snares, and subtle allurements, to draw them into sin, and disobedience to God. When Satan is confined, his whole kingdom upon earth will be ruined, and he can have no more dominion over the minds of men during his confinement.

The greatness and *happiness* of this deliverance, is such as no tongue can express, or heart conceive. It far exceeds all comparisons. The liberation of the slaves in the West Indies, though great and blessed, yet is as nothing to what men will experience under the Millennium, when they are liberated from the tyranny and misery of Satan's dominion. Were men confined for years in a dark and dismal dungeon, and afterwards brought forth to light and liberty, their gladness and rejoicing would be great. What then will be the joy and triumphs of mankind, when they

are delivered from being captives to Satan, and brought forth into the liberty of the children of God ?

While Satan is at liberty to go to and fro through the earth seeking whom he may devour, the *injury and misery* that he occasions to the children of men, is infinite. Satan works on all the evil propensities that dwell in our fallen nature, and strives to stir them up into acts of rebellion against the Most High. He darkens the mind, blinds the eyes, hardens the heart, and fills the soul with unbelief ; aversion to holiness, and delight in sensuality and all manner of evil. He strives earnestly and incessantly, to nourish in the hearts of the children of men, all the evil and malignant tempers of our fallen nature ; such as anger, malice, revenge, hatred, jealousy, pride, selfishness, and all other lusts and abominations. — But when Satan is bound, there will be no enemy from without to tempt men to these or any other evils.

Christians will no longer have to wrestle against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, nor against any of the wiles of the Devil, after he is banished from the earth, and chained in the deep abyss ; but every one throughout the whole world shall enjoy peace and quietness, to sit down under his own vine and his own fig-tree, to enjoy the pleasures of religion. Though this release from the war with Satan and his temptations, would of itself form a heaven upon earth, yet is it but a small part of the glory of the Millennium. It is no more than clearing the ground for the erection of a splendid palace.