# THE MILLENNIUM; OR, WORLD TO COME; AND ITS RELATIONS TO PRECEDING DISPENSATIONS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

### ISBN 9780649648795

The Millennium; Or, World to Come; And Its Relations to Preceding Dispensations by  $\, J. \,$  Wilson

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PRECEDING DISPENSATIONS.

BI

# J. WILSON,

AUTHOR OF

"OUR ISRAELITISH ORIGIN."

"Unto the angels bath He not put in subjection, the World to Come,—whereof we speak."—HEB. II. 5. "Then hast put all things in subjection under Bis feet,"—HEB, ii. 8. "And we shall reign on the earth."—REV. V. 10.

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### TO THE

# REV. WILLIAM MARSH, D.D.

AUTHOR OF "PLAIN THOUGHTS ON PROPHECY." &c.

WITH CONGRATULATIONS

UPON THE EXTENSIVE SPREAD OF

PROPHETIC TRUTH,

OF WHICH HE WAS SO EARLY AND ABLE AN ADVOCATE;

AND.

WITH THE PRAYER THAT HE AND HIS

MAY, IN HEALTH AND USEFULNESS,

LONG BE PRESERVED,

AND THAT HE MAY IN THE APPROACHING DAY OF THE LORD.

BE FOUND TO HAVE

MANY FOR A CROWN OF BEJOWO

THE FOLLOWING VIEW OF

"THE WORLD TO COME,

IS HUMBLY AND GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED, BY

THE AUTHOR.



# PREFACE.

THE following little work was first produced in the form of a series of Tracts on the Millennium; commenced at the earnest desire of a much valued Friend: who was persuaded that the views here presented, would be of use to others, as they had been to him, in removing many obscurities from a subject which had long been interesting to him, and which he believed to be of vast importance, at the present time, to the children of God—the heirs of the kingdom.

The author has had the satisfaction of knowing, that many who were much in doubt on the subject, have received rest to their minds in the view of the future giory, as here presented: in the light of which, the whole word of God has been much farther opened to their view; and the footsteps of the Lord more clearly traced throughout all preceding dispensations; and the beautiful consistency of the whole working of God, as revealed in nature, providence and grace, made much more apparent.

The centre of England has been long and highly favoured, with testimony to the trath, respecting the Lord's Second Advent, the Resurrection of the Saints, the Restoration of Israel, and Messiah's blessed and glorious reign over all the earth. The Rev. Dr. Marsh's "Thoughts on Prophecy" was one of the earliest, and is still one of the best, works on these subjects in our day; a new edition of which I am glad to find

may soon be expected. More than a century ago, the same animating views were exhibited in their fulness, and in a most wonderful manner, both in Birmingham and Worcester.

The writer has found the truth, as here presented, a rock of strength against false interpreters of scripture: Two remarkable extremes, equally apart from the truth of God, as they are seemingly opposed to each other, have appeared in our day; of whom it is the more necessary to beware, as the language of truth they have much in their mouths, whilst its substance is in effect denied by them.

Many, in different denominations of professing Christians, have become awakened to the truth of prophecy; but still it is not in general so boldly exhibited as it ought to be. There is a fearfulness as to following the Lord fully in the matter, which neither becomes our place nor time. It is high time for the proclamation again to be heard from the months of all the disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. iv. 17. x. 7. "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hesanna in the highest." Matt. xxi. 9. xxiii. 39. Mark xi. 8, 9. May the Bride soon indeed make herself ready; and surely this will be, when she is well assured that the Bridegroom is speedily to appear in his glory; and take her home unto his Father's house, " the New Jerusalem, that cometh down out of heaven, from God;" Rev. iii. 12. xxi. 2; " the City which hath foundations; whose Builder and Maker is God:" Heb. xi. 10. the Bethel of Jacob; Gen. xxviii. 17. the "house of God, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens;" " our house which is from heaven:" 2 Cor. v. 1, 2, that which our Lord denominates, "my Father's house," in which are "many mansions:" John xiv. 2. "the King's Palace," into which the Queen shall be brought, "with gladness and rejoicing;" Ps. xiv. 13, 14, 15, and whence she shall minister blessing to the myriads of ber children, who shall worship at His footstool, during her Beloved's reign of righteousness and peace, when "the God of the whole earth shall He be called." Isaiah liv. 5.

Much remains to be made known, both as to the darkness and the light: a proper preliminary to which, is a prayerful attention to the great outlines of the divine procedure, as revealed in Scripture History and Prophecy. Az attempting to open up the former of which, the author has before presented to the world his "Lectures on Ancient Israel and the Modern Nations of Europe, tracing their identity." And more particularly connected with the subject of prophecy respecting the future, he presents this work on the Messiah's coming kingdom. The two views, that with regard to the past, and this with regard to the future, are, however, intimately connected. and imply each other. And both again resolve themselves into the great Mystery of the Word of God, and the Testimony of Jesus, as to which, much remains to be said; and his views of both of which the author will be happy more fully and familiarly to explain.

Soon may the prayer be uttered in fervency, by every sincere believer, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Ps. cxix, 18. And soon then will the prayer be answered: and this, not by our being given to force our own fancies upon the word of God, but by our being made to sit humbly at the feet of Jesus; and hear simply what He is pleased to communicate, as if it were worthy of being listened

to and understood, in preference to any thing which can be produced by man. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." 2 Pet. i. 20. It is not to be interpreted in reference to what may be supposed the private views or feelings of the writers—"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake—moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Pet. i. 21. The revelation of the written word in its beauty and power, goes before, and is the sign of, the revelation of the Living Word and the many sons of God in His glory.

Now, O Lord, unfold thy Glory unto the People, and let the Bride be fully prepared for thy most blessed presence; and comereceive her unto thyself, O mighty King. The light and power of the kingdom impower us to behold. Let the rising light of the coming day of the Lord be gloriously reflected from even the dark clouds that yet envelope our world-longing for release. And soon O Father of lights, may the gloom be chased away by the Sun of Righteourness, in the glory of the millennial day. Soon may holiness to the Lord be written upon all, beneath his purifying, enriching, invigorating beams. Soon may blessing from the bountiful hand of our King be seen as filling the heaven-reflecting earth beneath thy sapphire throne; and around which, shall circle those that shall be with Ohrist kings and priests, and who shall reign over the earth, under the whole heaven. Wondrous is thy condescension! Marcellous thy laving kindnesses! O King of Kings, and Lard of Lorda!

Clarence Street, Cheltenham,
 Oct. 1842.