

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

and an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8.

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THE MILLENNIUM HYPOTHESIS.

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Hypothetical teaching which has become very prevalent in these days, should never be allowed a place in religious instruction, but should be resisted, and quarantined as a plague when it would invade the Christian pulpit.

The holy doctrines of the gospel are so fundamental to our religion, and so clearly taught in the orthodox faith of the Church, that there is left no room for speculative and questionable theories, and no person's time should be taken and interests jeopardized in the consideration of things chimerical.

For popular effect the inventors of new and novel systems of belief pose as sages and look wise as they set at naught the wisdom of the Fathers, reject the principles of orthodoxy maintained in martyr fires, while they sacrifice "the faith once delivered unto the saints" (that body of doctrines laid as the foundation of universal Christian belief) when ratified under the crucial tests of scholarly research and erudition.

This orthodox faith was proven divine in forensic debate, in the clash of argument by giant minds, and it passed down the ages surviving the rack and gibbet, faggots and flames.

Among the most glaring examples of the evil of teaching by hypothesis, is the widespread theory of millennium, as a thousand years of Christ's physical reign upon earth over his saints. Whether the final consummation in the universal triumph of righteousness is promised before or after Christ's second coming, the basis of either is equally hypothetical and chimerical, and grows out of a fanciful interpretation of a single citation of Scripture, and a misconception of the Rabbinical use of the term "thousand years."

Two concise and axiomatic rules of Scripture interpretation will at once disclose the error of this hypothesis: 1. "Let the Bible be its own interpreter." 2. "All obscure passages must be interpreted in the light of the plain passages." Under this test of correct exegesis, the numerous structures built upon this millennial interpretation of Rev. 20:1-10 fall to the ground, overthrown by the plainest declarations of Scripture.

Two tenets held in common in all of these speculating theories will be sufficient in review, to prove our contention: First, they hold that Christ will set up a material kingdom on earth. The Word teaches us that in the resurrection our bodies will become spiritual, incorruptable and immortal, like Christ's glorious body, as John saw him in the vision on Patmos, and as he revealed himself in the Transfiguration. "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption . . . It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body . . . this mortal must put on immortality." I Cor. 15: 52-44, 53. "Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body" Phil. 3:21. Hence, after our resurrec-

tion we could not enter and enjoy a physical kingdom, because we will then be wholly spiritual, not subject to the laws that govern matter, as the Word declares: "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Cor. 15:50.

That Christ's kingdom is wholly spiritual is evident from his own teaching: "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation . . . the kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17: 20, 21. "Jesus answered: "My kingdom is not of this world, if my kingdom were of this world then would my servants fight." John 18: 36.

The terms kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven are used interchangeably to explain the reign of grace in human hearts. The kingdom of heaven is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." Rom. 14:17. So when these principles are established in a human heart the kingdom of God is set up there. The operation of grace is of the Lord Jesus compared to "leaven," to "mustard seed," its value to "treasure hid in a field," as it must be diligently sought; to a "pearl of great price," for it takes all to buy it.

This kingdom is already set up on earth. John Baptist and Jesus hath preached: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 3:2; 4:17. We enter the kingdom by conversion. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force." Matt. 9:12. "The kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it." Luke 14:16. So men entered the kingdom of God under the ministry of John the Baptist and of Jesus. Also, every person converted has entered God's kingdom. "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of her dear Son." Col. 1:13. Second, they teach that the Holy Ghost do not make the Gospel effective in meeting man's needs, but it requires Christ's material reign on earth to bring about the mighty moral changes needed. We honor the Holy Ghost as the executive of grace whom Jesus promised should lead us into all truth, hence, whatever doctrine He does not lead us into must be error, not truth. We contend that the Scriptures teach that under His administration, all of man's spiritual needs are met in this life through grace. "My grace is sufficient for you." 2 Cor. 12:9. "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19. "And God is able to make all grace to abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiently in all things may abound in every good work." 2 Cor. 9:8. "The man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:17. When Christ appears He will present His people as grace has made them, "holy and unblamable and unprovable in his sight." Col. 1:22. Again, "That He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it would be

holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:27. Now, in the light of these citations and the general trend of Scripture, is it not a reproach to the cause of Christ and an insult to the Holy Ghost for professed believers in the gospel, and teachers of the Word to say, when Christ shall come back to earth to reign, certain great evils will be abated, peace will prevail and God's people will then be victorious over their enemies?

Suppose the presumption that Christ will supercede the Holy Spirit, in the active conduct of the war upon earth against sin, could be realized; is it believable that one person in the holy Trinity could do better than another in the application of the same remedy for sin?

If not, have we two plans for saving men? The looked for time will never come, when Christ shall conquer Satan by physical force, and compel human obedience, and physically change wild beasts so that "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid."

This Scripture interpreted by the most profound scholarship of past and present, is being constantly fulfilled. Christ's reign on earth is being established in the hearts of men comparable to wild beasts, are quickly tamed and made docile. The Spirit of war and violence ceases as figuratively expressed in into pruning hooks. God's faithful people are living in constant triumph; and the giant evils of our times do cease, where God's people carry out the spirit of the Gospel.—*Wesleyan Methodist*.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF THE WORLD'S S. S. CONVENTION.

The next World's Sunday School Convention is to be held in Tokio, Japan.

The problem of bringing the Mohammedan to Christ was represented as the impossible one from the human standpoint, at the World's Sunday School Convention at Zurich. For it means the problem of getting the proudest man in the world to accept that which he abhors, from one whom he despises.

The Sunday School army of 28,700,000 in 298,000 Sunday Schools is the largest Christian army in the world marching under one banner.

North America sent 1,344 accredited representatives, a thousand of whom went on steamers of "The World's Convention fleet,"—specially chartered ocean liners, whose accommodations were reserved for the convention delegates; Great Britain registered 288; Asia 83; Africa 56; Australia 30 and South America 24. The allotment for continental Europe was 500 delegates, but the enrollment was 728. Every State except Utah and New Mexico, and every Canadian Province except Manitoba was represented. The Pennsylvania delegation with 175 members led the list, followed by New York, 125, and Illinois, 120.

"It is a sin to know good and not to do it."