



Judaism

William Millers principles of interpretation—

“If it makes good sense as it reads and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally. If not, then it must be understood symbolically.

Does hail and fire mingled with blood cast upon the earth and all green grass being burned up (every blade) make good sense? Does it violate simple laws of nature? If so, it should be understood symbolically.

Great Controversy = Commentary on Revelation.

The Conflict Series is an inspired Commentary on the Bible. It begins with *Patriarchs and Prophets*, followed by *Prophets and Kings*, *Desire of Ages*, *Acts of the Apostles* (the closing chapters of Acts of the Apostles introduce the book of Revelation and give a basic overview of the plan of salvation in Revelation).

The final book in the conflict series is *The Great Controversy*. It presents a focused commentary on the Revelation. This book begins with the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24). In symbolic language the destruction of Jerusalem is the first trumpet of Revelation.

Fire—4442 pur pur (poor)

1) fire [used consistently of hell fire]

7 Trumpets-part 2

REVELATION 8:7— **THE FIRST ANGEL SOUNDED, AND THERE FOLLOWED HAIL AND FIRE MINGLED WITH BLOOD, AND THEY WERE CAST UPON THE EARTH: AND THE THIRD PART OF TREES WAS BURNT UP, AND ALL GREEN GRASS WAS BURNT UP.**

1ST TRUMPET = JUDAISM—FALL OF JERUSALEM

Hail = Battle, war, destruction—“Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of **the hail**, which I have reserved against **the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?**” (Job 38:22, 23).

“Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a **tempest of hail and a destroying storm**, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall **cast down** to the earth with the hand” (Isaiah 28:2).

Fire = Judgment —“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” (Matthew 7:19; note connection to trees)

“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.” (1 Corinthians 3:13).

Blood = Death

“Then answered all the people, and said, **His blood be on us, and on our children.**” (Matthew 27:25).

“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man” (Genesis 9:6).

“And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head...” (1Kings 2:32).

“And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and **I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy.**” (Ezekiel 16:38; connection to judgment).

“That it might cause fury to come up to take vengeance; I have set her blood upon the top of a rock, that it should not be covered” (Ezekiel 24:8).

“And I will plead against him with pestilence and **with blood**; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an **overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire**, and brimstone” (Ezekiel 38:22; note the connection to hail and fire).

Third part = Deceived

“And **his tail** drew the **third part of the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the earth” (Revelation 12:4).



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“With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone” (Ezekiel 38:22 NAS).

“And I will call for a sword against him unto all My mountains, saith the Lord Jehovah: every man’s sword shall be against his brother. And with pestilence and with blood will I enter into judgment with him; and I will rain upon him, and upon his hordes, and upon the many peoples that are with him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” (Ezekiel 38:21, 22, ASV; Gog and Μαεοε).

“The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that **teacheth lies**, he is the **tail**” (Isaiah 9:15).

Trees = Leaders, nations

“For if thou wert cut out of the **olive tree** [Gentile nations] which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good **olive tree** [Jewish nation]: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own **olive tree** [Jewish nation]?” (Romans 11:24).

“And now also the axe is laid unto the **root of the trees**: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire” (Luke 3:9).

“**The tree** that thou sawest... **It is thou, O king**, [Babylon] that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth” (Daniel 4:20, 22).

Burnt Up = destroyed

“Whose fan is in His hand, and He will throughly purge his floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but **He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire**” Matthew 3:12).

“Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and **bind them in bundles to burn them**: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matthew 13:30).

Green Grass = People, wicked

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: **surely the people is grass**. (Isa. 40:7, 8; also 1 Pet. 1:24).

“When **the wicked spring as the grass**, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever” (Psalm 92:7; not sealed Revelation 9:4; Ephesians 1:13).

SYMBOLS IDENTIFIED:

- HAIL = BATTLE, WAR**
- FIRE MINGLED = TEST, JUDGMENT**
- BLOOD = DEATH**
- THIRD PART = DECEIVED BY LIES**
- TREE = LEADERS, NATIONS**
- BURNT UP = DESTROYED**
- GREEN GRASS = PEOPLE, WICKED**

Summary—Judgment on Judaism—

About 40 years, (one generation), after crucifying Jesus and then rejecting the gospel proclamation manifested by the marked outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. The Jewish leaders (trees)



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and all people (grass) who had been deceived were destroyed (not one Christian was lost). Justice and judgment (hail, fire, and blood) are visited upon Jerusalem and it was plowed like a field and any remaining Jews were taken captive and later killed or dispersed among the nations as slaves.

Present Truth—History repeated—The first trumpet and the fall of Judaism/Jerusalem was a type of the destruction of the world and the first application of the abomination of desolation pointed out by Christ in Matthew 24. The Roman standard set up outside the walls at the destruction of Jerusalem is also an end time sign for the Sunday law. Therefore the history of the first trumpet will again be fulfilled at the Sunday law enforcement when (trees) political and religious leaders and (grass) all the people who reject the gospel will be deceived and burned up (experience the plagues) once probation closes.

Historical Notes—Fall of Jerusalem

“Thousands perished from famine and pestilence. Natural affection seemed to have been destroyed. Husbands robbed their wives, and wives their husbands. Children would be seen snatching the food from the mouths of their aged parents. The question of the prophet, “Can a woman forget her sucking child?” received the answer within the walls of that doomed city: “The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.” Isaiah 49:15; Lamentations 4:10” (The Great Controversy, p. 32.1).

“The leaders of the opposing factions at times united to plunder and torture their wretched victims, and again they fell upon each other’s forces and slaughtered without mercy. Even the sanctity of the temple could not restrain their horrible ferocity. The worshipers were stricken down before the altar, and the sanctuary was polluted with the bodies of the slain. Yet in their blind and blasphemous presumption the instigators of this hellish work publicly declared that they had no fear that Jerusalem would be destroyed, for it was God’s own city. To establish their power more firmly, they bribed false prophets to proclaim, even while Roman legions were besieging the temple, that the people were to wait for deliverance from God. To the last, multitudes held fast to the belief that the Most High would interpose for the defeat of their adversaries. But Israel had spurned the divine protection, and now she had no defense. **Unhappy Jerusalem! rent by internal dissensions, the blood of her children slain by one another’s hands crimsoning her streets, while alien armies beat down her fortifications and slew her men of war! (GC 29.1).**

“All the predictions given by Christ concerning the destruction of Jerusalem were fulfilled to the letter. The Jews experienced the truth of His words of warning:



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‘With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.’ Matthew 7:2. (GC 29.2).

“The Roman leaders endeavored to strike terror to the Jews and thus cause them to surrender. Those prisoners who resisted when taken, were scourged, tortured, and crucified before the wall of the city. Hundreds were daily put to death in this manner, and the dreadful work continued until, along the Valley of Jehoshaphat and at Calvary, crosses were erected in so great numbers that there was scarcely room to move among them. **So terribly was visited that awful imprecation uttered before the judgment seat of Pilate: ‘His blood be on us, and on our children.’** Matthew 27:25. (GC 32.2).

‘The slaughter within was even more dreadful than the spectacle from without. Men and women, old and young, insurgents and priests, those who fought and those who entreated mercy, were hewn down in indiscriminate carnage. The number of the slain exceeded that of the slayers. The legionaries had to clamber over heaps of dead to carry on the work of extermination.’—Milman, *The History of the Jews*, book 16. (GC 35.1)

All green grass—”After the destruction of the temple, the whole city soon fell into the hands of the Romans. The leaders of the Jews forsook their impregnable towers, and Titus found them solitary. He gazed upon them with amazement, and declared that God had given them into his hands; for no engines, however powerful, could have prevailed against those stupendous battlements. Both the city and the temple were razed to their foundations, and the ground upon which the holy house had stood was “plowed like a field.” Jeremiah 26:18. **In the siege and the slaughter that followed, more than a million of the people perished; the survivors were carried away as captives, sold as slaves, dragged to Rome to grace the conqueror’s triumph, thrown to wild beasts in the amphitheaters, or scattered as homeless wanderers throughout the earth.”** (GC 35.2)



7 Trumpets-part 3

Paganism

REVELATION 8:8—AND THE SECOND ANGEL SOUNDED, AND AS IT WERE A GREAT MOUNTAIN BURNING WITH FIRE WAS CAST INTO THE SEA: AND THE THIRD PART OF THE SEA BECAME BLOOD.

2ND TRUMPET—PAGANISM/PAGAN ROME

Mountain = kingdom

“... and the stone that smote the image became a **great mountain**, and filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:35).

Burning Mountain = Judgment on a Government/kingdom—

“Behold, I am against thee, O **destroying mountain**, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a **burnt mountain**.” (Jeremiah 51:25).

Fire = Judgment (see previous definition)

Sea = peoples, nations, multitudes and tongues

“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” (Revelation 17:15).

Seas = among the nations, peoples, tongues of Europe

Pagan Rome divided into Europe = Daniel 7:24

Blood = Death

“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man” (Genesis 9:6).

“And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head...” (1Kings 2:32).

“And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy.”

Summary verse:

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the **fig tree** [symbol of Jewish nation Jesus cursed], but also if ye shall say unto **this mountain** [symbol of Pagan Rome], Be thou removed, and be thou **cast into the sea**; it shall be done” (Matthew 21:21; The Jews and the Romans were the two powers persecuting God’s people when Jesus spoke these words).

GREAT = 3173 **megav** megas (meg’-as)

1a) large, spacious, long, stature and age, old, 1b)
of number and quantity: numerous, large, abundant. 1c)
of age: the elder, violent, mighty, strong.
4b) of things which overstep the province of a created being, proud (presumptuous) things, full of arrogance, derogatory to the majesty of God.

Length of kingdoms:

Babylon = 66 years

Medo-Persia = 200 years

Greece = 163 years

Pagan Rome = 643 years

Pagan Rome most violent = Daniel 7:7

Pagan Rome Derogatory to God = John 19:5

In relation to being a “great” mountain (kingdom) Pagan Rome was the oldest, most violent, most derogatory to God (crucified Christ/His disciples) of all the previous kingdoms.

Burning = 2545 **kaiw** kaio (kah’-yo)

1) to set on fire, light, burning

2) to burn, consume with fire. To be cast out John 15:6 lost.

Cast = 906 **ballw** ballo (bal’-lo)—

1) to throw or let go of a thing without caring where it falls, 1a)
to scatter, to throw.



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SYMBOLS IDENTIFIED:

- Mountain = kingdom
- Great = long, old, violent, strong, against God
- Burning with fire = consume
- Cast = scatter, throw
- Sea = peoples, nations
- Third part = deceived
- Blood = death

Summary—Pagan Rome (great mountain) died (blood) not by being conquered by another single power or nation but was destroyed (burned with fire) by being swallowed up by (cast into seas) the various peoples, nations, tongues and multitudes of Europe.

Present Truth—History repeated—in the present day the New Rome (U.S.) is being swallowed up by the nations. It is losing its sovereignty and freedom.

REVELATION 8:9—AND THE THIRD PART OF THE CREATURES WHICH WERE IN THE SEA, AND HAD LIFE, DIED; AND THE THIRD PART OF THE SHIPS WERE DESTROYED.

Third Part = deceived/fallen/wicked —

“And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth...” (Revelation 12:4).

Creatures = People who heard the gospel—

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister” (Colossians 1:23).

Sea = peoples, nations, multitudes and tongues

“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” (Revelation 17:15).

Life = God’s sustaining power

“... He gives to all life, breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25)

“For in Him we live, and move, and have our being...” (Acts 17:28).

Ships = faith/experience in Christ

“Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck” (1 Timothy 1:19).



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“This hope [in God] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil” (Hebrews 6:18, 19).

Summary— Those who were deceived (third part) among the nations (seas) who had heard the gospel (creatures) and had been sustained by God (life) died. And many were deceived (third part) who had faith (ships) and compromised the truth making shipwreck of faith (destroyed).

Present truth—History repeated—today many who have heard the gospel during this probationary time fall under the deceptions of satan. They compromise the truth and make shipwreck of their faith.

Historical Notes—2ND TRUMPET—PAGAN ROME

“Satan therefore laid his plans to war more successfully against the government of God by planting his banner in the Christian church. **If the followers of Christ could be deceived and led to displease God, then their strength, fortitude, and firmness would fail, and they would fall an easy prey.** The great adversary now endeavored to gain by artifice what he had failed to secure by force. Persecution ceased, and in its stead were substituted the dangerous allurements of temporal prosperity and worldly honor. Idolaters were led to receive a part of the Christian faith, while they rejected other essential truths” (The Great Controversy, p. 42).

“Most of the Christians at last consented to lower their standard, and a union was formed between Christianity and paganism... Unsound doctrines, superstitious rites, and idolatrous ceremonies were incorporated into her faith and worship. As the followers of Christ united with idolaters, the Christian religion became corrupted, and the church lost her purity and power. There were some, however, who were not misled by these delusions. They still maintained their fidelity to the Author of truth and worshiped God alone” (The Great Controversy, p. 43).

“When Christians consented to unite with those who were but half converted from paganism, they entered upon a path which led further and further from the truth. **Satan exulted that he had succeeded in deceiving so large a number of the followers of Christ.** He then brought his power to bear more fully upon these, and inspired them to persecute those who remained true to God” (The Great Controversy, p. 45).

The history of the early church testified to the fulfillment of the Saviour’s words. The powers of earth and hell arrayed themselves against Christ in the person of His followers. **Paganism foresaw that should the gospel triumph, her temples and altars would be swept away; therefore she summoned her forces to destroy Christianity. The fires of persecution were kindled. Christians were**



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stripped of their possessions and driven from their homes. They “endured a great fight of afflictions.” Hebrews 10:32. They “had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment.” Hebrews 11:36. Great numbers sealed their testimony with their blood. Noble and slave, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, were alike slain without mercy. (GC 39)

These persecutions, beginning under Nero about the time of the martyrdom of Paul, continued with greater or less fury for centuries. Christians were falsely accused of the most dreadful crimes and declared to be the cause of great calamities—famine, pestilence, and earthquake. As they became the objects of popular hatred and suspicion, informers stood ready, for the sake of gain, to betray the innocent. They were condemned as rebels against the empire, as foes of religion, and pests to society. Great numbers were thrown to wild beasts or burned alive in the amphitheaters. Some were crucified; others were covered with the skins of wild animals and thrust into the arena to be torn by dogs. Their punishment was often made the chief entertainment at public fetes. Vast multitudes assembled to enjoy the sight and greeted their dying agonies with laughter and applause. (GC 40.1)