



Judaism

William Miller's 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...” (1 Kings 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).



Light Bearers Ministry

OFFICE
37457 Jasper Lowell Road

Jasper, Oregon 97438

PHONE
541-988-3333

FAX
541-988-3300

EMAIL
james@lbn.org

WEB
lbn.org

“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 Magog)..

“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**” (Isaiah 40:7, 8; also 1 Peter 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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FAX
541-988-3300

EMAIL
james@lbn.org

WEB
lbn.org

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!” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 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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FAX
541-988-3300

EMAIL
james@lbn.org

WEB
lbn.org

‘With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.’ Matthew 7:2”
(*The Great Controversy*, p. 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” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 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” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 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”**
(*The Great Controversy*, p. 35.2)