




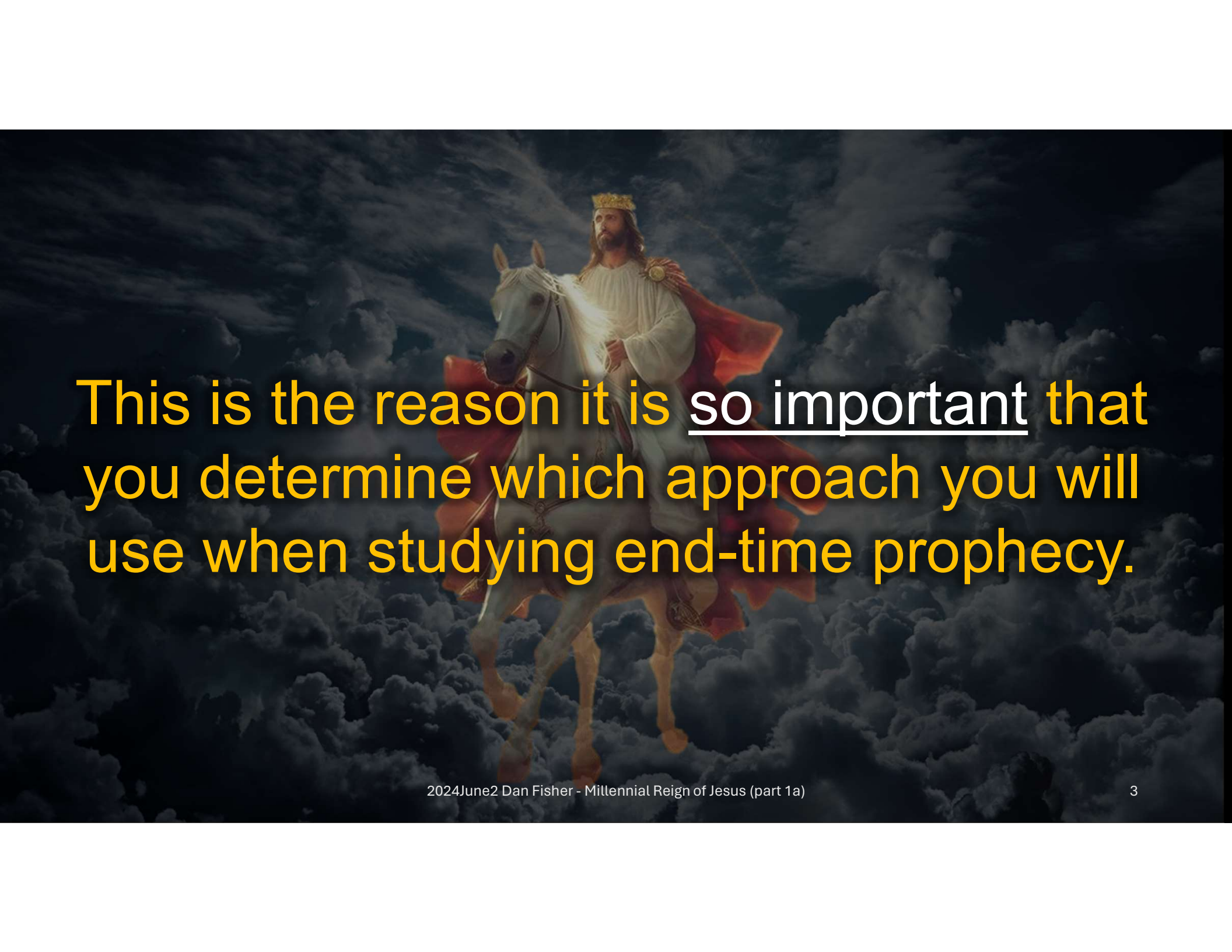
# The Millennial Reign of Jesus

## Part 1: “His return & its timing”

2024 June 2 Dan Fisher - Millennial Reign of Jesus (part 1a)

A dramatic illustration of Jesus Christ riding a white horse through a dark, stormy sky filled with heavy, dark grey clouds. Jesus is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a golden crown. A red cape flows behind him. The horse is white and appears to be galloping through the clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of divine power and judgment.

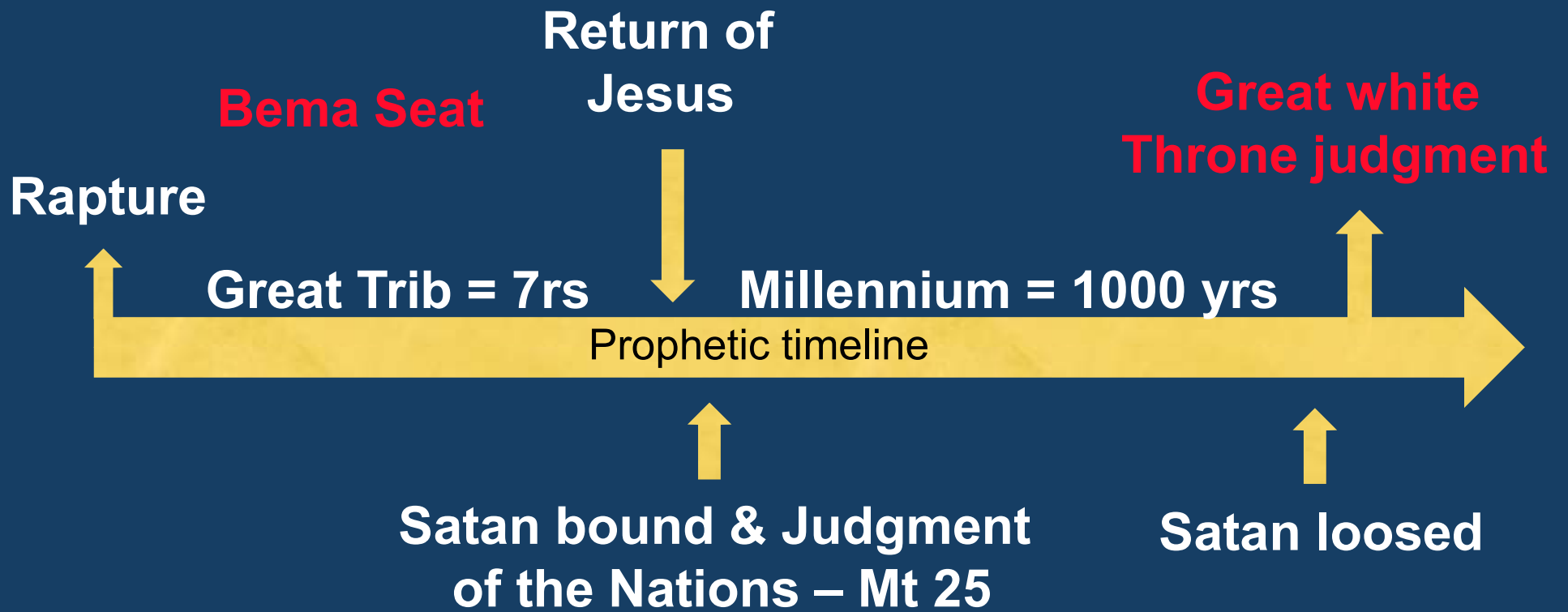
*How you read will, in large part,  
determine *what* you read.*

A dramatic illustration of Jesus Christ riding a white horse through a dark, stormy sky filled with heavy, dark grey clouds. Jesus is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a red cape. He is wearing a golden crown and has a golden sash. The horse is white and is galloping through the clouds. The overall scene is dramatic and apocalyptic.

This is the reason it is so important that you determine which approach you will use when studying end-time prophecy.

A dramatic illustration of Jesus Christ riding a white horse through a dark, stormy sky filled with heavy, dark grey clouds. Jesus is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a golden crown and a white robe with a red cape draped over his shoulders. He is looking forward with a serious expression. The horse is white and appears to be galloping through the clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of divine power and judgment.

# 1. The timing

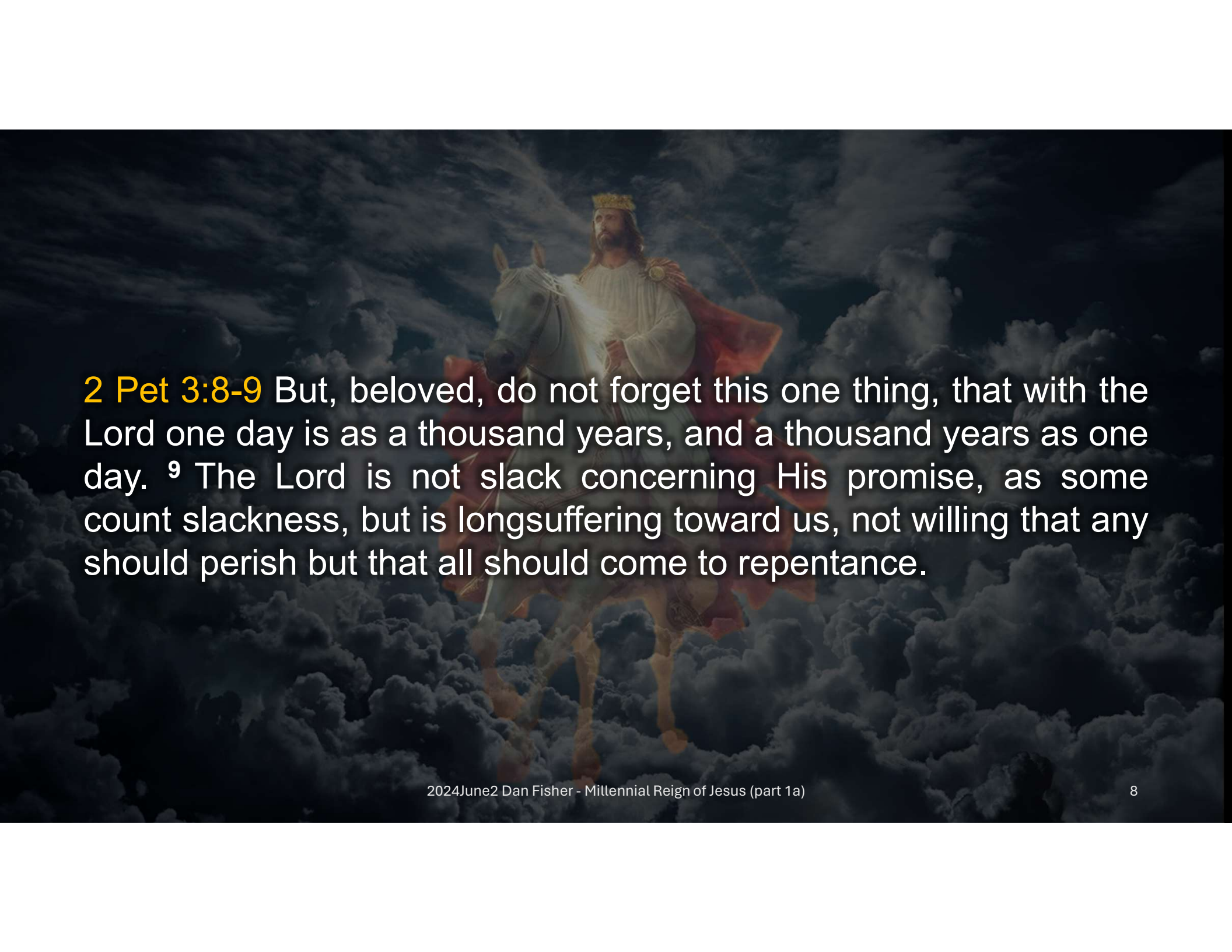


A dramatic illustration of Jesus Christ riding a white horse through a dark, stormy sky filled with heavy, dark grey clouds. Jesus is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a golden crown and a white robe with a flowing red cape. He is looking forward with a serious expression. The horse is white and appears to be galloping through the clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of divine power and judgment.

## 2. The time

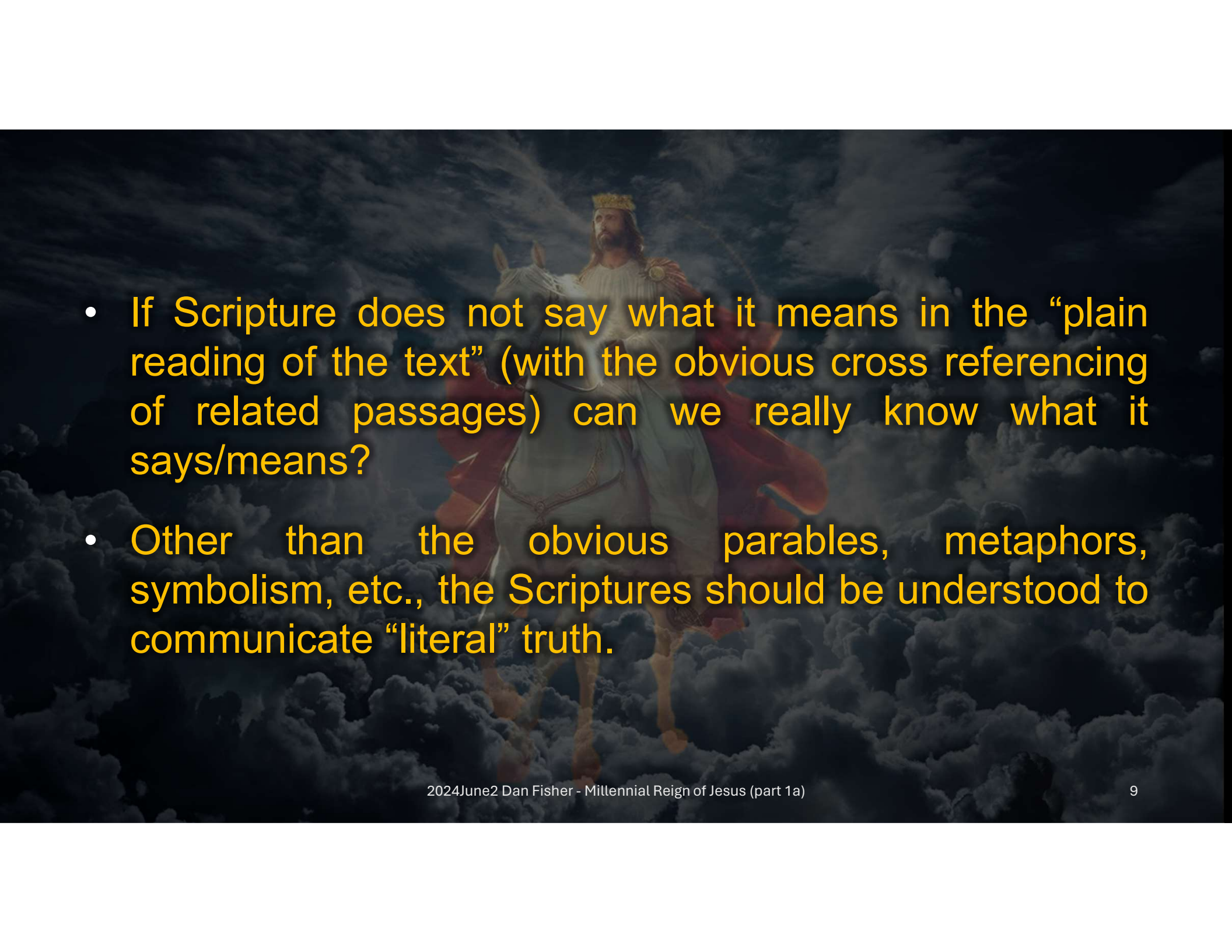


Are the 1000 years of Christ's reign literal  
or are they “symbolic”?



**2 Pet 3:8-9** But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.



- 
- If Scripture does not say what it means in the “plain reading of the text” (with the obvious cross referencing of related passages) can we really know what it says/means?
  - Other than the obvious parables, metaphors, symbolism, etc., the Scriptures should be understood to communicate “literal” truth.



One of the critical rules of hermeneutics is the “literal principle”:

“The Bible should always be interpreted literally unless the context would indicate a symbolic/allegorical approach”



Dr. John Walvoord was asked:

“The most significant theological issues over the next ten years will be the hermeneutical problem of not interpreting the Bible literally, especially the prophetic areas.”

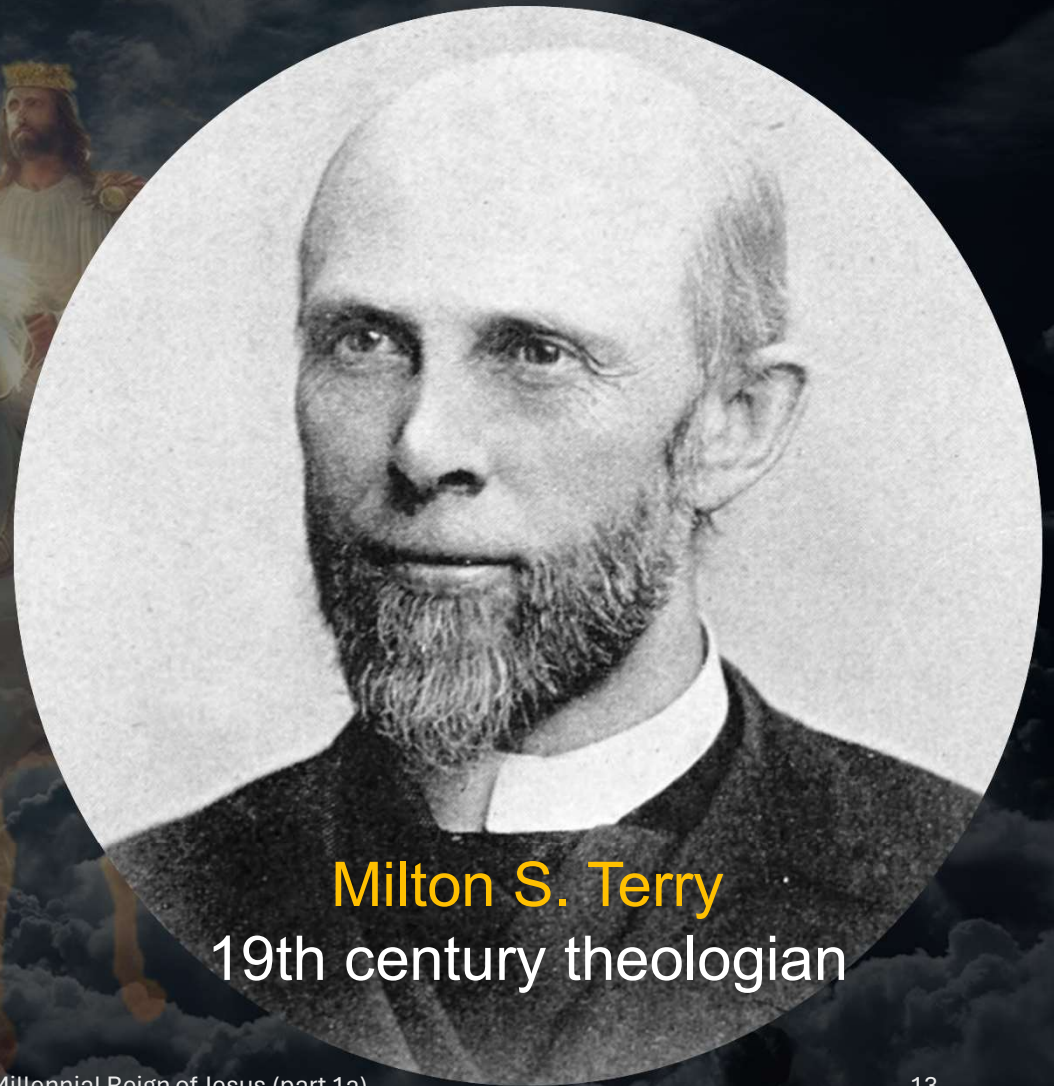


Lewis Chafer  
conservative theologian  
*Systematic Theology:*

“It is but a short step from  
the perversion of truth,  
however sincere, to the  
denial of it.”

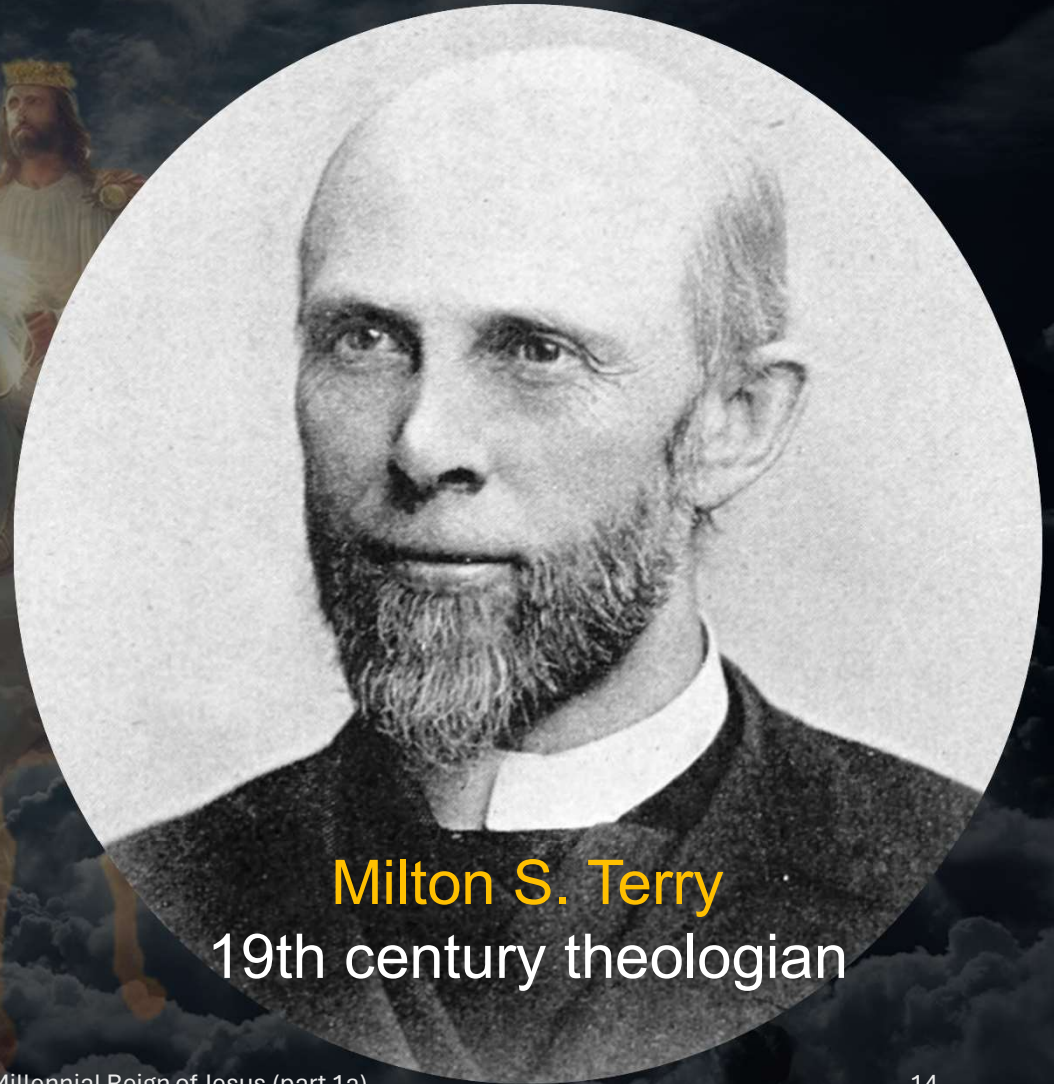
“We cannot believe that the sacred writers desired to be misunderstood. They did not write with a purpose to confuse and mislead their readers. Nor is it reasonable to suppose that the Scripture, given by divine inspiration, is of the nature of a puzzle designed to exercise the ingenuity of critics. It was given to make men wise unto salvation, and in great part it is so direct and simple in its teachings that a little child can understand its meaning.

2024 June 2 Dan Fisher - Millennial Reign of Jesus (part 1a)



Milton S. Terry  
19th century theologian

It will be noticed at once that [the allegorical interpretation] is to disregard the common signification of words, and give wing to all manner of fanciful speculation. It does not draw out the legitimate meaning of an author's language, but foists into it whatever the whim or fancy of an interpreter may desire. As a system therefore, it puts itself beyond all well-defined principles and laws.”



**Milton S. Terry**  
19th century theologian



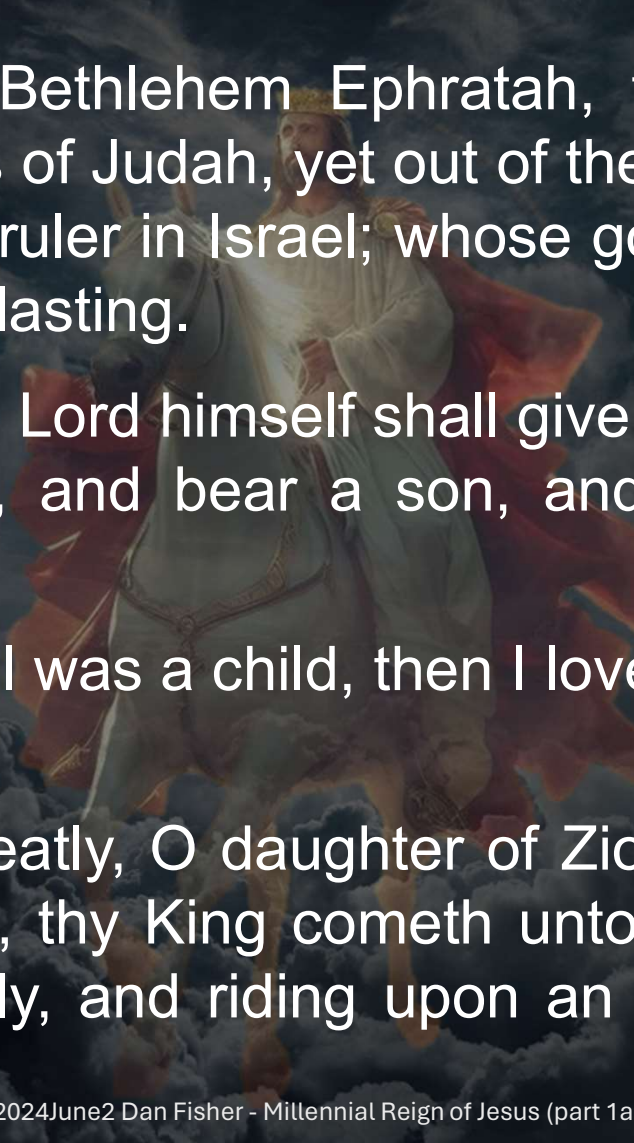
3. Most prophecies are literal – and have been literally fulfilled

- Prophecies about Jesus' first coming were literally fulfilled:

**Gen 49:10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

**Is 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.





**Mic 5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

**Is 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Hos 11:1** When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

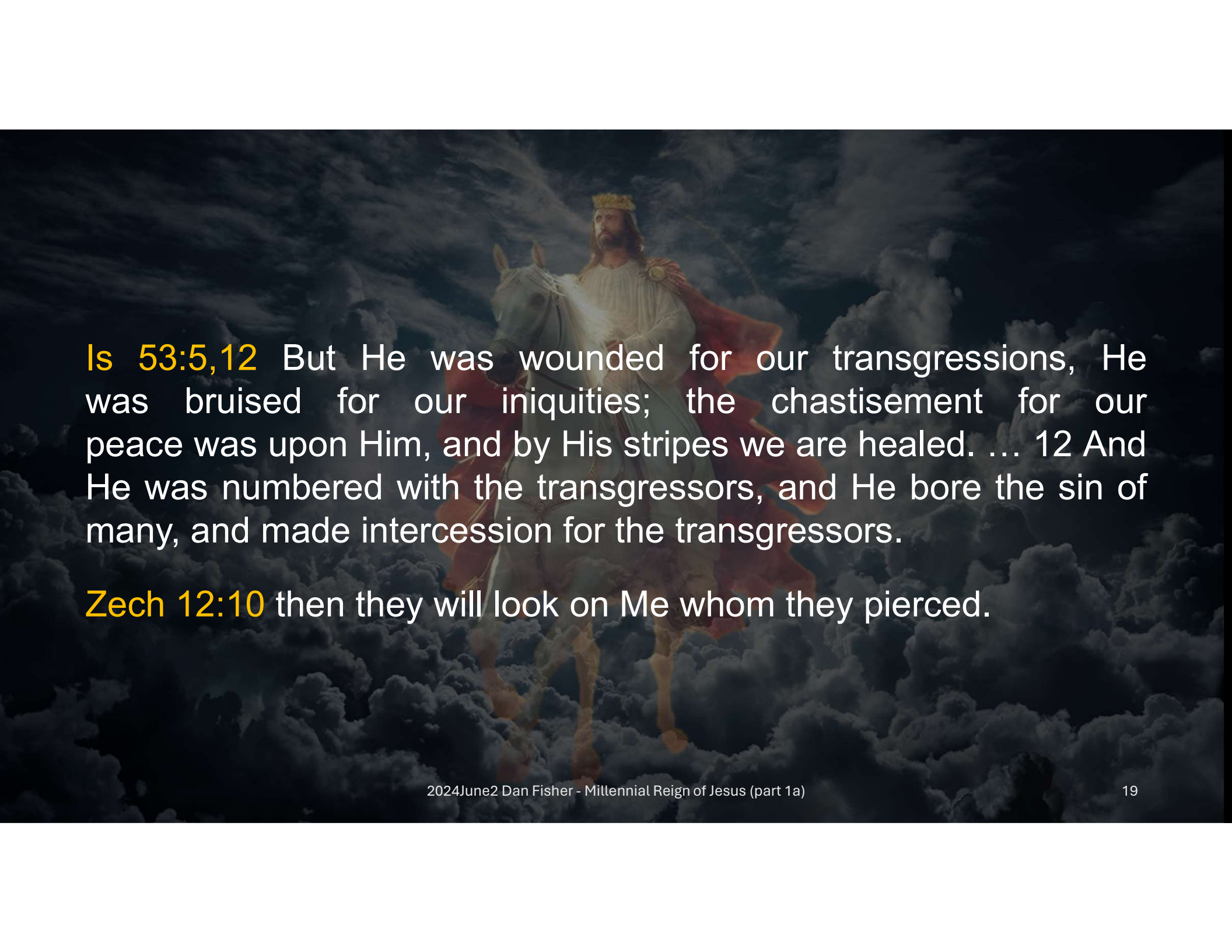
**Zech 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

- 
- Prophecies about Jesus' crucifixion were literally fulfilled:

**Ps 22:7-8** All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, <sup>8</sup> “He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”

**Ps 22:16** They pierced My hands and My feet;

**Ps 41:9** Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.



**Is 53:5,12** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ... 12 And He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Zech 12:10** then they will look on Me whom they pierced.

- 
- Prophecies about Egypt were literally fulfilled:

**Ezek 30:13** and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt.

- Twenty-five hundred years have passed since this prophecy, and during this period of time not one of its numerous ruling princes has been Egyptian!
- This would be similar to predicting that there would never again be an American elected President of the United States!

- 
- Prophecies about Israel's scattering & regathering were literally fulfilled:

**Deut 28:26** Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known

**Jer 30:10** Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob, says the Lord, nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid.

A dramatic illustration of Jesus Christ riding a white horse through a dark, stormy sky filled with heavy, dark grey clouds. Jesus is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a golden crown and a white robe with a red cape draped over his shoulders. He is holding the reins of the white horse, which is galloping forward. The overall atmosphere is one of divine power and judgment.

4. Does it even matter what we believe about the millennium?



Dr. John Walvoord:

“Though millennial truth is essentially eschatological, it is integral to the entire volume of Scripture and its proper understanding is an important essential to theology as a whole. Millennialism cannot therefore be brushed aside as a dispute on the interpretation of Revelation 20, but is rather the product of a system of Biblical interpretation established as the positive teaching of both Testaments.”



# 5. What was the early church's position on millennialism?

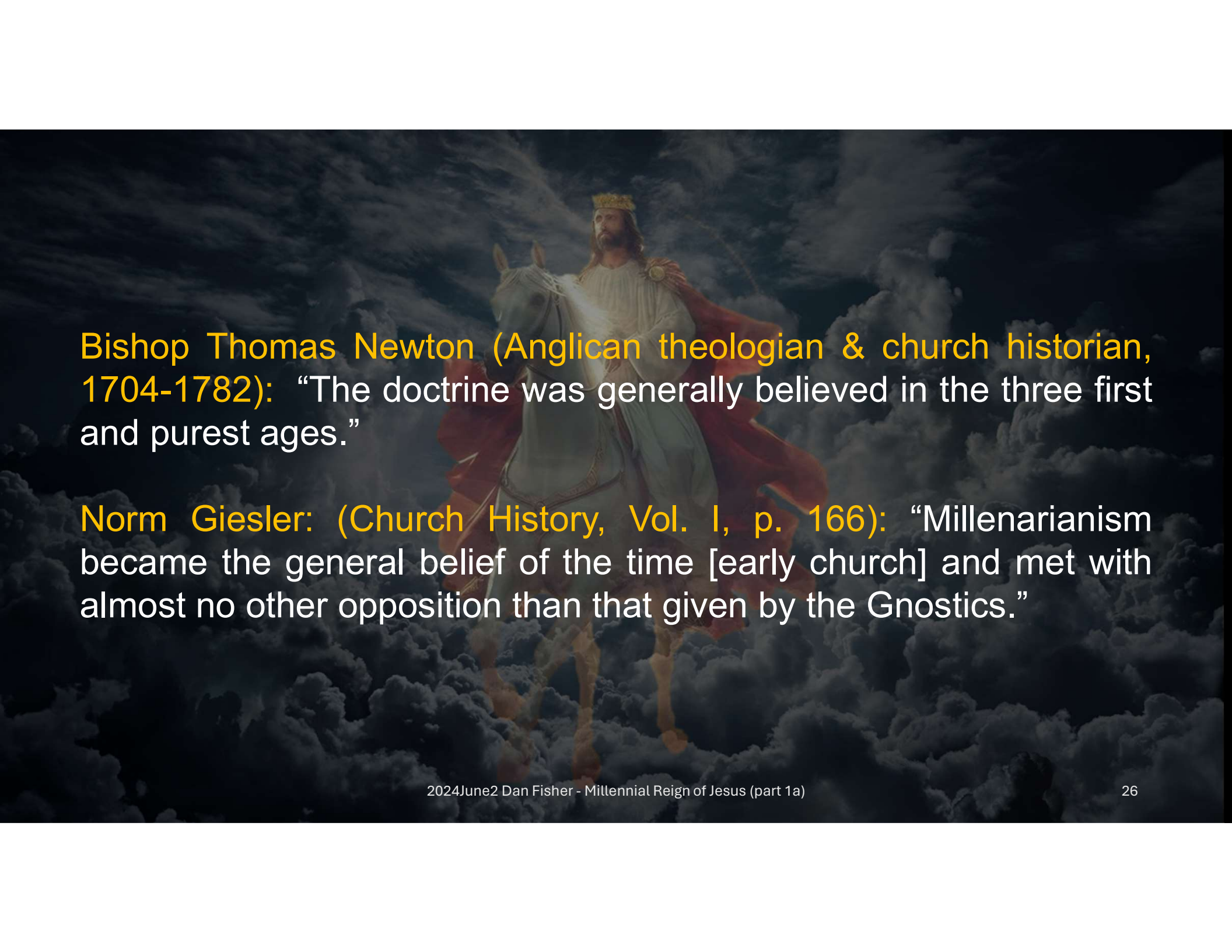




**Eusebius (early historian of the Church):** admitted that most of the ecclesiastics of his day were millenarians.

**Thomas Stackhouse (English theologian & church historian, 1680-1752) Complete Body of Divinity:** “The doctrine [millennialism] was once the opinion of all orthodox Christians.”

**Dr. Horatius Bonar (Scottish preacher/theologian, 1808-1889, Prophetic Landmarks):** “Millenarianism prevailed universally during the first three centuries. This is now an assured historical fact and presupposes that chiliasm was an article of the apostolic creed.”




**Bishop Thomas Newton (Anglican theologian & church historian, 1704-1782):** “The doctrine was generally believed in the three first and purest ages.”

**Norm Giesler: (Church History, Vol. I, p. 166):** “Millenarianism became the general belief of the time [early church] and met with almost no other opposition than that given by the Gnostics.”



6. When did the church's position on the Millennium begin to change?



**Johann Albrecht Bengel (1687-1752, German Lutheran theologian and biblical scholar):** “When Christianity became a worldly power by Constantine, the hope of the future was weakened by the joy over the present success.”

**Dr. Karl August Auberlen (German theologian, 1824-1864) in his Daniel on p. 375:** “Chiliasm (millennialism) disappeared in proportion as Roman Papal Catholicism advanced.”