**Christ’s Reign and The Millennial Age Begun??**

**Bro. Russell’s View**

Some say Bro. Russell changed his view on these subjects. It is claimed, although he taught in the Volumes that Christ’s reign and the Millennial Age began in 1874/78, that in the later Watch Towers (Reprints) Bro. Russell said Christ’s reign and the Millennium would not begin until all the church are beyond the veil. The following three references, written just before he died (Oct. 30, 1916), prove Bro. Russell did not change his mind.

**Volume 2, 1916 Foreword, page viii—written October 1, 1916**

“The Bible chronology herein presented shows that the six great thousand-year Days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great Seventh Day, the thousand years of Christ’s Reign, began in 1873. The events of these 43 years, which this Volume claims as the beginning of the Millennium, we still find fully corroborating Bible prophecies, as herein set forth.”

**Reprint 6013—Bro. Russell’s last sermon**

“THE DAWNING BEGUN IN A.D. 1874

Let us not stop now to discuss the darkness of the Night and its weeping. Let us awake, and take note of the fact that the dawning of the New Age is already here. For the past forty-two years we have been in it and enjoying many of its blessings. But those blessings came so stealthily —‘like a thief in the night’—that few recognize their import. Some few have been calling attention to the fact that we have been in the Millennial dawn every since 1874.

“Bible chronology quite clearly teaches that the six thousand years since Adam’s creation have ended—six great Days of a thousand years each, mentioned by St. Peter—‘a day with the Lord is as a thousand years.’ (2 Peter 3:8) Now the great Seventh Day, also a thousand years long, has commenced. We have been enjoying its dawning. It is to be a grand Day!”

The above quote was from a sermon Bro. Russell was scheduled to give at the New York Temple on November 12. He died October 30. Ironically the Memorial service of his death occurred on November 12 in the New York Temple. Bro. Russell’s scheduled sermon was read in remembrance.

**Reprint 5989—November 15, 1916**

“GOD’s holy prophets of the Old Testament and of the New give us numerous pictures of our day and the events now taking place in the world. The Psalmist David, taking prophetically a standpoint of observation future from his day, declared, ‘The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof!’

“As we have shown in SCRIPTURE STUDIES, Vol. III, Study 9, this began to be true when our Lord Jesus, *having returned to earth* (italics ours) to set up His Kingdom, took unto Himself His great power. Yet not until His Kingdom has been fully established in the earth will His glorious Reign be clearly recognized. That the Prophet David is referring especially to the present time, from 1878 down to the full inauguration of the Kingdom, is clear from his succeeding statement.”

This issue of the Watch Tower was prepared by Bro. Russell before his death. Notice, also, Bro. Russell said Jesus *returned to earth*. Up until his death, Bro. Russell believed Jesus returned to earth’s atmosphere.

**Any Reprints articles written between the volumes and these final statements can and have to be harmonized with these final statements of Bro. Russell.**