

Miller's 14 Rules of Interpretation

(14 Rules of Interpretation we are Counseled to Know)

Website: [Healthy Christian Living - Living by the Blueprint](#)

"SAID CHRIST...HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS." The light of truth is going forth like a burning lamp, and THOSE WHO LOVE THE LIGHT WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS. THEY WILL STUDY THE SCRIPTURES, THAT THEY MAY KNOW OF A SURETY THAT THEY ARE LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE TRUE SHEPHERD, AND NOT THAT OF A STRANGER. { RH November 25, 1884, par. 22 }

"THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN PROCLAIMING THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE ARE SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES UPON THE SAME PLAN THAT FATHER MILLER ADOPTED. IN THE LITTLE BOOK ENTITLED "VIEWS OF THE PROPHECIES AND PROPHETIC CHRONOLOGY," FATHER MILLER GIVES THE FOLLOWING SIMPLE BUT INTELLIGENT AND IMPORTANT RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY AND INTERPRETATION:-- {RH, NOVEMBER 25, 1884 PAR. 23}

"1. Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible; 2. All Scripture is necessary, and may be understood by diligent application and study; 3. Nothing revealed in Scripture can or will be hid from those who ask in faith, not wavering; 4. To understand doctrine, bring all the scriptures together on the subject you wish to know, then let every word have its proper influence; and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in error; 5. Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed, or wisdom is my rule, and not the Bible." {RH, November 25, 1884 par. 24}

THE ABOVE IS A PORTION OF THESE RULES; AND IN OUR STUDY OF THE BIBLE WE SHALL ALL DO WELL TO HEED THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH. {RH, November 25, 1884 par. 25}

YOU MAY READ THE 14 RULES OF MILLER ONLINE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK, STARTING ON PAGE 19 ON THE ACTUAL DOCUMENT AND PAGE 16 OF THE PDF PAGE:

<http://centrowhite.org.br/files/ebooks/apl/all/Miller/Miller's%20Works.%20Volume%201.%20Views%20of%20the%20Prophecies%20and%20Prophetic%20Chronology.pdf>

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14 Rules of Interpretation

MILLERS 'RULES OF INTERPRETATION'

"IN STUDYING THE BIBLE, I HAVE FOUND THE FOLLOWING RULES TO BE OF GREAT SERVICE TO MYSELF, AND NOW GIVE THEM TO THE PUBLIC BY SPECIAL REQUEST. EVERY RULE SHOULD BE WELL STUDIED, IN CONNEXION WITH THE SCRIPTURE REFERENCES, IF THE BIBLE STUDENT WOULD BE AT ALL BENEFITED BY THEM."{1842 WiM, MWV1 20.1}

RULE I

Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.2}

PROOF

. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.3}

RULE II

All scripture is necessary, and may be understood by a diligent application and study. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.4}

PROOF

2Tim.iii.15,16,17. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.5}

RULE III

Nothing revealed in the scripture can or will be hid from those who ask in faith, not wavering. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.6}

PROOF

Deut.xxix.29. Matt.x.26,27. 1Cor.ii.10. Phil.iii.15. Isa.xiv.11. Matt.xxi.22. John xiv.13,14. xv.7. James i.5,6. 1John v.13,14,15. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.7}

RULE IV

To understand doctrine, bring all the scriptures together on the subject you wish to know; then let every word have its proper influence, and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in an error. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.8}

PROOF

Isa.xxviii.7-29. xxxv.8. Prov.xix.27. Luke xxiv.27,44,45. Rom.xvi.26. James v.19. 2Pet.i.19,29. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.9}

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RULE V

Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound it to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.10}

“...HE WHO PRESENTS THE TRUTH OF THE PROPHECIES IN THE RIGHT WAY WILL USE SCRIPTURE TO EXPLAIN SCRIPTURE. HE WILL MAKE THE BIBLE ITS OWN EXPOSITOR.” (2MR 96.2) Ms 27, 1908

EXPOSITOR –

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/expositor>

One who expounds or explains; an interpreter.

1. A dictionary or vocabulary which explains words.

PROOFS

Ps.xix.7,8,9,10,11. cxix.97,98,99,100,101,102,103,104,105. Matt.xxiii.8,9,10. 1Cor.ii.12,13,14,15,16. Eze.xxxiv.18,19. Luke xi.52. Mal.ii.7,8. {1842 WiM, MWV1 20.11}

RULE V (Continued)

thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed or wisdom is my rule, not the Bible. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.1}

Read → 2MR 96.2 (towards the end of the paragraph)

RULE VI

God has revealed things to come, by visions, in figures and parables, and in this way the same things are oftentimes revealed again and again, by different visions, or in different figures, and parables. If you wish to understand them, you must combine them all in one. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.2}

PROOFS

Ps.lxxxix.19. Hos.xii.10. Hab.ii.2. Acts ii.17. 1Cor.x.6. Heb.ix.9,24. Ps.lxxviii.2. Matt.xiii.13,34. Gen.xli.1-32. Dan.ii. vii. and viii. Acts x.9-16. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.3}

RULE VII. Visions are always mentioned as such

PROOFS 2Cor.xii.1

RULE VIII

Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy, to represent future things, times and events; such as mountains, meaning governments; beasts, meaning kingdoms. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.4}

Waters, meaning people.

Lamp, meaning Word of God.

Day, meaning year. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.5}

PROOFS

Dan.ii.35,44. vii.8,17. Rev.xvii.1,15. Ps.cxix.105. Ezek.iv.6. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.6}

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RULE IX

Parables are used as comparisons to illustrate subjects, and must be explained in the same way as figures by the subject and Bible. Mark iv.13. See explanation of the ten virgins, Miller's Lectures, No.xvi. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.7}

RULE X

Figures sometimes have two or more different significations (such as a horn not only means king, but it also means power)(Habakkuk 3:4); Beast not only means kingdom(Dan 7:23, but it means king(Dan 7:17) as well), as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.8}

PROOFS

Ecc.vii.14. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.9}

RULE X. (Continued). 1. Indefinite. 2. Definite, a day for a year. 3. Day for a thousand years

If you put on the right construction it will harmonize with the Bible and make good sense, otherwise it will not. {1842 WiM, MWV1 22.1}

PROOFS

Ezek.iv.6. 2Pet.iii.8. {1842 WiM, MWV1 22.2}

RULE XI

How to know when a word is used figuratively. If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally, if not, figuratively. {1842 WiM, MWV1 22.3}

"Mr. Miller is a great stickler for literal interpretation, never admitting the figurative unless absolutely required to make correct sense, or meet the event which is intended to be pointed out..." {1868 JB, AJB 248.1}

NOTE: This is by Joseph Bates, our SDA Pioneer, the one who brought the Sabbath truth to James and Ellen White

NOW FROM SISTER WHITE:

"With intense interest he(Miller) studied the books of Daniel and the Revelation, EMPLOYING THE SAME PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION AS IN OTHER SCRIPTURES...HE SAW THAT THE PROPHECIES, so far as they had been fulfilled, HAD BEEN FULFILLED LITERALLY; THAT ALL THE VARIOUS FIGURES, METAPHORS, PARABLES, SIMILITUDES, ETC., WERE EITHER EXPLAINED IN THEIR IMMEDIATE CONNECTION, OR THE TERMS IN WHICH THEY WERE EXPRESSED WERE DEFINED IN OTHER SCRIPTURES, AND WHEN THUS EXPLAINED, WERE TO BE LITERALLY UNDERSTOOD..."{GC 320.2}

TAKING THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PROPHECIES HAD BEEN FULFILLED IN THE PAST AS A CRITERION BY WHICH TO JUDGE OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE WHICH WERE STILL FUTURE..." {GC 321.1}

"CONCERNING THE POPULAR SYSTEM OF INTERPRETING, OR MISINTERPRETING, THE SCRIPTURES, WOLFF WROTE: "THE GREATER PART OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH HAVE SWERVED FROM THE PLAIN SENSE OF SCRIPTURE, AND HAVE TURNED TO THE PHANTOMIZING SYSTEM OF THE BUDDHISTS, WHO...SUPPOSE THAT WHEN THEY ARE READING JEWS THEY MUST UNDERSTAND GENTILES; AND WHEN THEY READ JERUSALEM, THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THE CHURCH; AND IF IT IS SAID EARTH, IT MEANS SKY..."{GC 360.1}

NOTE: The phantomizing system of the Buddhists is teaching opposite of reality and saying up is down, black is white, the west is the south, the west is the north, the north is the south, etc.

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"THE TRUTHS MOST PLAINLY REVEALED IN THE BIBLE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN DOUBT AND DARKNESS BY LEARNED MEN, WHO...TEACH THAT THE SCRIPTURES HAVE A MYSTICAL, A SECRET, SPIRITUAL MEANING NOT APPARENT IN THE LANGUAGE EMPLOYED. THESE MEN ARE FALSE TEACHERS. IT WAS TO SUCH A CLASS THAT JESUS DECLARED: "YE KNOW NOT THE SCRIPTURES...MARK 12:24. THE LANGUAGE OF THE BIBLE SHOULD BE EXPLAINED ACCORDING TO ITS OBVIOUS MEANING, UNLESS A SYMBOL OR FIGURE IS EMPLOYED...IF MEN WOULD BUT TAKE THE BIBLE AS IT READS...A WORK WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THAT WOULD MAKE ANGELS GLAD AND THAT WOULD BRING INTO THE FOLD OF CHRIST THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS WHO ARE NOW WANDERING IN ERROR." {GC 598.3}

"THE WHOLE BIBLE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE JUST AS IT READS. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THEM NOT TO HAVE BIBLE INSTRUCTION AT ALL THAN TO HAVE THE TEACHING OF THE SCRIPTURES THUS GROSSLY MISREPRESENTED." (GC 521.2)

PROOFS

Rev.xii.1,2. xvii.3-7. {1842 WiM, MWV1 22.4}

RULE XII

To learn the true meaning of figures, trace your figurative word through your Bible, and where you find it explained, put it on your figure, and if it makes good sense you need look no further, if not, look again. {1842 WiM, MWV1 22.5}

RULE XIII

To know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfilment of a prophecy. If you find every word of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event. But if one word lacks a fulfilment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development. For God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed. {1842 WiM, MWV1 22.6}

PROOFS Ps.xxii.5. Isa.xlv.17,18,19. 1Pet.ii.6. Rev.xvii.17. Acts iii.18. {1842 WiM, MWV1 22.7}

RULE XIV

THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE OF ALL IS, THAT YOU MUST HAVE FAITH. It must be a faith that requires a sacrifice, and, if tried, would give up the dearest object on earth, the world and all its desires, character, living, occupation, friends, home, comforts, and worldly honors. If any of these should hinder our believing any part of God's word, it would show our faith to be vain. Nor can we ever believe so long as one of these motives lies lurking in our hearts. We must believe that God will never forfeit his word. And we can have confidence that he that takes notice of the sparrow, and numbers the hairs of our head, will guard the translation of his own word, and throw a barrier around it(Psalms 12:6-7), and prevent those who sincerely trust in God, and put implicit confidence in his word, from erring far from the truth, THOUGH THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND HEBREW OR GREEK." {1842 WiM, MWV1 22.8}

"IN SPEAKING OF THE 8TH CHAPTER OF DANIEL, AND THE QUESTION, "HOW LONG SHALL BE THE VISION?" HE SAYS, "THE ANSWER IS, 'UNTO 2300 DAYS.'" {1853 SB, MWM 207.1}

"BUT,' SAYS THE CRITIC, 'IT IS "EVENINGS-MORNINGS.'" {1853 SB, MWM 207.2}

"No matter: all men seem to understand it days; for it is so translated in every language with which we are acquainted at the present day. Therefore, THIS CAN NEVER BE MADE PLAINER, IF THIS COMPOUND HEBREW WORD SHOULD BE CRITICIZED UPON UNTIL THE JUDGMENT SHALL SET. I AM SICK OF THIS CONTINUAL HARPING UPON

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WORDS. OUR LEARNED CRITICS ARE WORSE ON THE WATERS OF TRUTH THAN A SCHOOL OF SHARKS ON THE FISHING-BANKS OF THE NORTH, and they have made more infidels in our world than all the heathen mythology in existence. WHAT WORD IN REVELATION HAS NOT BEEN TURNED, TWISTED, RACKED, WRESTED, DISTORTED, DEMOLISHED, AND ANNIHILATED BY THESE VORACIOUS HARPIES IN HUMAN SHAPE, until the public have become so bewildered they know not what to believe? 'They have fouled the waters with their feet.' I have always noticed where they tread the religious spirit is at a low ebb; it becomes cold, formal, and doubtful, at least. It is the mind of the Spirit we want, and God's word then becomes spirit and life unto us. {1853 SB, MWM 207.3}

"The words "evenings-mornings" convey to our mind the idea of days; thus this vision is 2300 days long,' says the reader. {1853 SB, MWM 207.4}

"Yes. But how can all this be?' says the inquiring mind. 'Can three kingdoms rise up and become great; from a small people become a strong nation; conquer all the nations of the earth, and then, in its turn, be subdued and conquered by a kingdom still more fortunate; and so on through three successive kingdoms, and do this in little over six years? Impossible.' {1853 SB, MWM 207.5}

"But God has said it, and I must believe. Now the only difficulty is in time.' {1853 SB, MWM 207.6}

"How can this be?' {1853 SB, MWM 207.7}

"Very well,' says the dear child of God; 'I remember me: God says I must "dig for the truth as for hid treasure." I will go to work, and, while I am digging, I will live by begging. Father in heaven, I believe it is thy word; but I do not understand it; show me thy truth.' {1853 SB, MWM 208.1}

"I HAD RATHER HAVE ONE HUMBLE PRAYER OF THIS KIND, WITH AN ENGLISH BIBLE IN MY HAND, THAN ALL THE HEBREW, GREEK, AND LATIN Bro. S. ever knew. {1853 SB, MWM 208.2}

"THE CHILD THEN TAKES THE WORD DAY, AND COMPARES SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL, TO FIND WHAT HIS HEAVENLY FATHER MEANS BY DAYS IN A FIGURATIVE SENSE. THE FIRST TEXT HE LIGHTS UPON IS IN NUM.14:34, 'EACH DAY FOR A YEAR.' {1853 SB, MWM 208.3}

"May this not be it?' says the child. {1853 SB, MWM 208.4}

"He takes hold of it by faith, carries it home, lays it up in his cell of sweets, richer than a lord, and again goes forth in search of more. HE NOW LIGHTS UPON EZE.4:6: 'I HAVE APPOINTED THEE EACH DAY FOR A YEAR.' HE IS NOW RICH IN VERY DEED - TWO JEWELS IN ONE CELL. He does not stop to criticize, like a Stuart, and query, and reason himself out of common sense and reason too; but, Abraham-like, he believes, and lays up his treasure at home.
