THE MILLENNIUM AND THE CALENDAR

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It is easy to clear up the confusion about the date of the millennium. The first point to realize is that the calendar is a regnal calendar like those used all over the world to count the years of reigns of kings, queens, emperors, and the like. AD = *anno domini* actually stands for "in the year of the reign of the lord". 1 AD is the first year of the reign, by definition. 100 AD is the last year of the first century of the reign. It is called the first centenary. Centenary years require big celebrations called jubilees. 101 AD is the first year of the second century. It also requires a celebration as the beginning of a new century.

1000 AD is the last year of the tenth century. It is the tenth centenary. It is also the last year of the first millennium. It is the first millenary. Millenary years require very big jubilees. 1001 AD is the first year of the eleventh century and the first year of the second millennium. It also requires a big celebration as the beginning of a new millennium.

2000 AD is the last year of the twentieth century. It is the twentieth centenary. It is also the last year of the second millennium. It is the second millenary. Millenary years require very big jubilees. 2001 AD is the first year of the twenty-first century and the first year of the third millennium. It also requires a big celebration as the beginning of a new millennium.

Part of the confusion comes from the use of the same calendar both as the Christian calendar and as the civil calendar. The civil calendar is not being used as a regnal calendar, but just to count the passage of time. We need to find something to celebrate. Let us celebrate the rule of common sense that allows us to travel, to communicate, and to trade all over world with everyone using the same civil calendar. Let us celebrate the reign of common sense and let us hope that many other empires will fall under its dominion.

We have only one year to prepare the party for the third millennium. Get started.

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