

Some Highlights of the Life of **Charles Fitch** (1805-1844) (www.APLib.org)
 See "Charles Fitch, the Man of the Chart" *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 4-6

<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Event</i>
1805	0	Born
1826	21	Studied at Brown University in Rhode Island

[Served as pastor of the Congregation Churches in Abington and Hartford, Connecticut, and in Warren and Boston, Massachusetts.]

1828/05/19	23	Marriage
1832	27	Ordained
1835	30	First work published
1837	32	Abolition article
1838	33	Wrote Miller in March after reading <i>Miller's Lectures</i> and told him he agreed with his views, but held back. Moved to New Jersey; holiness doctrine
1839	34	Published <i>Views of Sanctification</i> while pastor of the Free Presbyterian Church, Newark, New Jersey, in response to the request of the Presbytery to explain what he was teaching

I have taken this way to lay myself fully open to my brethren and to the world, because I believe it to be in all respects the easiest and the best; and do greatly rejoice in the opportunity afforded me, to testify to others of "the riches of the glory of this mystery which is Christ in me, the hope of glory...." {1839 CF, VOS 4.5}

1840	35	Visit by Josiah Litch who told him he needed the Second Coming doctrine to add to his doctrine of holiness; restudied the Millerite teaching
1840/04	35	Wrote "Letter to the Presbytery of Newark"

After being made acquainted with my views and feelings on the subject of sanctification, you have passed a resolution declaring them to be important and dangerous error, and admonishing me to preach them no more. I must therefore say, brethren, and I hope to do it with all meekness, and humility, and lowliness of heart, that I cannot regard your admonition; and for the following reasons. {1840 CF, LPN 1.1}

1841	36	Joins the Millerites; published <i>Letter to Rev. J. Litch, on the Second Coming of Christ</i>
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[Closing words:] Mr. Miller I have never seen, but his writings have greatly enlightened my mind, for which I give God thanks, hoping that others may hereby be induced to read, and be, as I have been, greatly profited. Yours, in the blessed hope of Christ's glorious appearing, Charles Fitch. {1841 CF, LJJ 61.1}

[This letter was published, and attached to it was an "Address to the Reader" which closed with:]

Confess him as your Savior now, and he will confess you before his Father and the angels, when he appears. O, stay not,--haste,--haste, lest thou be consumed. Look not behind thee. Remember Lot's wife. {1841 CF, LJJ 66.5}

[Also attached was a section entitled "Remarks on the Twenty-Fourth Of Matthew."]

1841/06/20	36	Preached a sermon "The Power of the Gospel" to show it saves not just from hell but from sin as well
1842	37	Prepared with Apollos Hale the 1843 chart, used extensively by Millerites; Published <i>The Glory of God in the Earth</i> , explaining God's oath in Num. 14:21 will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of Jesus, not by some universal conversion. Published <i>A Wonderful and Horrible Thing</i> .

"Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord. Shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"-Jer. v. 29-31. {1842 CF, WHT 3.1}

The object of this discourse is to show the application of the foregoing text of sacred Scripture to the existing state of things in the professedly religious world.

I. The prophets prophesy falsely.

II. The priests bear rule by their means.

III. The people love to have it so.

IV. What will ye do in the end thereof? {1842 CF, WHT 3.2-6}

1843	38	Preached and published a sermon " <i>Come Out of Her, My People</i> "
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I. What is Babylon?

II. What Are We to Understand by the Fall of Babylon?

III. What is It for God's People to Come Out of Babylon?

IV. What Will Be the Consequences of Refusing to Do It?

1843/12/5	38	Wrote and later published a "Letter to Bro. Himes" on the death of his son Willie
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This day I have laid in the grave my dear Willie, a little boy that would have been seven years of age the 15th of the present month. I need not tell you that my heart aches, and I cannot tell you how much. Some ten months ago, he took an inflammatory rheumatism, which left him with an organic disease of the heart. He was comfortable through the summer, and went east with us. He kept about until the last of October. While I was absent at that time, he was prostrated. On my return the physicians said there was no hope of his recovery. Oh, how my heart was pained at the prospects of seeing his life wrung out of him with anguish, of then following him away to the cold grave. {1843 CF, LBH 1.1}

I stood and watched by his side three weeks, held him in my arms to relieve his distress, and sung to him at his oft repeated request the second advent hymns to beguile his tedious hours. "Sing to me, Pa," was his repeated request every hour. "What shall I sing, my dear?" "Sing, *How Long O Lord Our Saviour*," and again, "sing, *Lo, What a Glorious Sight Appears*, sing, *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*." After three weeks, I thought he might live for weeks to come, and feeling it to be duty, I tore myself away from his side with an aching heart, and I went last Monday week to Huron county to preach the kingdom of the Lord. On Sabbath morning last, being in Fairfield, more than 60 miles from home, I was awakened from my pillow by a messenger who said, "Your child is dead." I hastened home, and we have just laid him in his lowly bed. It has been painful, painful; but the Lord sustains us. But we have hope in his death. {1843 CF, LBH 1.2}

1844/2/24	39	Two of his letters of this date were published in <i>The Midnight Cry</i> , March 14, 1844
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[From the first:]

Our dear Brother Storrs says that the Great Head of the Church designed that we should come out of Babylon, and not wait for Babylon to thrust us out. I believe he is right, and I am therefore determined to come out. {1844 CF, LCFMC 1.1}

Subsequently to my being separated from the Newark Presbytery, I was induced, at the solicitation of several clergymen, to unite with the New York Congregational Association, and was received by that body, and became a subscriber to its creed: having also been received by the General Association of the Western Reserve. {1844 CF, LCFMC 1.2}

[From the second:]

My wife and myself have recently been "buried with Christ by baptism;" having received that precious ordinance at the hands of Brother Cook. I have since baptized about thirty in Cleveland, and eight at Painsville. The most of them have been members of Churches. Brother Pickands and wife, and a large number of his church, have also been baptized. The state of things among his people is truly delightful. They are a happy band, looking without wavering for the coming of the Lord. We have much more opposition to contend with than we had a year ago, but we do not forget that he which endureth unto the end shall be saved, and that opposition is the very thing which we are called upon to endure. {1844 CF, LCFMC 2.3}

[Concludes with:]

My whole being cries out, "Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). Take Thy great power and reign. I tremble in myself, when I think of meeting Him that trieth the reins of the heart. Still I know that I love His appearing, and feel a confidence in His mercy, that He will not cast me out.

Yours in the blessed and glorious hope,

CHARLES FITCH {1844 CF, LCFMC 2.7}

1844/10	39	Chilled while baptizing converts, seriously ill; died on the 14 th
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