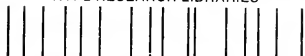


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THE RETURN OF JESUS



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PARE A PLACE FOR YOU
I WILL COME AGAIN"

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The Return of Jesus

Hayden



CARLYLE B. HAYNES

The Return of Jesus

An earnest review of the scriptural evidences which establish the great Christian doctrine of the second coming of Christ, together with a close study of the prophecies relating to this glorious event and the fulfilment of these prophecies in the present generation.

By Carlyle B. Haynes

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CONTENTS

Chapter	Title	Page
1.	“I GO TO THE FATHER” : : : :	5
2.	JESUS WILL COME AGAIN : : : :	9
3.	THE COMING KINGDOM : : : :	16
4.	THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING : : : :	30
5.	OUR LORD'S OWN PROPHECY : : : :	38
6.	THE TIME OF HIS COMING : : : :	50
7.	THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING : : : :	56
8.	THE MESSAGE OF HIS COMING : : : :	80
9.	THE MANNER OF HIS COMING : : : :	90
10.	THE MILLENNIUM : : : : :	103
11.	THE THIRD COMING OF CHRIST : : : :	115
12.	THE HOME OF THE SAVED : : : : :	121



CHAPTER ONE

“I GO TO THE FATHER”

NINETEEN centuries ago the Son of God was on earth.

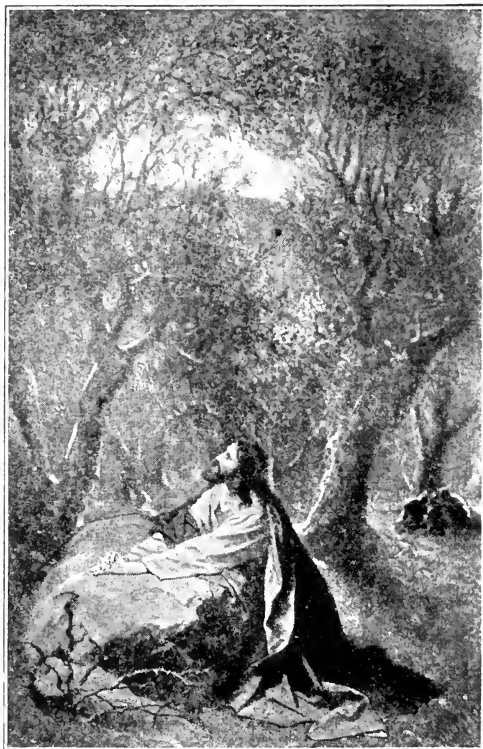
He came as the Saviour of men and of the world. By his sacrifice on Calvary he made a way of escape from death for every human being.

At his first advent he remained on earth for thirty-three and a half years. The last three and a half years of his life were spent in public ministry. During this time he not only taught the principles of the gospel himself, but he made provision, by calling and ordaining the disciples, for the gospel to be preached to the very end of the world.

He told his disciples repeatedly while with them that he was soon to depart and return to the place whence he had come into the world. They heard him say to the Pharisees, “Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.” John 7:33. But like the Pharisees they were dull of hearing, and did not understand. He said plainly to them, “Now I go my way

to him that sent me." John 16:5. He assured them that it was expedient for them that he go away. John 16:7. He said again, "A little while, and ye shall not see me . . . because I go to the Father." John 16:16. But when he went away they were not ready for his departure.

But before he returned to the heavens from which he had come he accomplished the great work which he



"ALONE IN GETHSEMANE"

came to do. He laid down his life for the salvation of men. Alone in Gethsemane, with none to help or comfort, he drained the last scalding drop of the fiery cup, the cup that none other could drain. From Gethsemane he was taken by the mob; priests and rulers insulted and jeered him; the whole nation taunted and gibed him; but not one cry was forced from his pale lips by pain, or thirst, or glaring noon-day sun, or thorns, or nails, or smittings of dirty, sin-stained hands. As a sheep before its shearers, so was he dumb.

The World's Redeemer

They hurried him before Annas and Caiaphas, and then before Pilate, and on to Herod, and back again to Pilate, always in the midst of the vociferating crowd, who buffeted him, and smote him with the palms of their hands, and spit in his face, speaking sneeringly of the shame of his birth, and demanding that he perform for them a miracle. Coming the last time from Pilate's judgment hall after the sentence of crucifixion had been pronounced, they crushed down upon the weary head the cruel crown of thorns and bowed the knee in mockery, and cried, "Hail, King of the Jews." With no rest through the long night, he was hurried from one proud ruler to another, weary, foot-sore, bruised and lacerated with the cruel scourging he had received. In addition to it all he is laden with the weight of the heavy cross, and, with no covering on his head from the mid-day sun but the crown of thorns which had torn his brow in heavy gashes, he staggers on, the world's Redeemer, through taunts and jeers and mocking words.

Reaching the place of Calvary they stretched him upon the cross and drove the nails through his quivering



"AND DROVE THE NAILS THROUGH HIS QUIVERING FLESH"

flesh. Then they raised the cross and let it drop with a dull thud into the hole prepared for it, tearing wider the wounds of the hands and feet where the nails had pierced. With jeers and mockery they watched his dying agonies. And thus the Son of God gave up his life for us.

“He Was Taken Up”

But he was brought up from death, and for forty days he walked and talked with his disciples concerning the great work they were commissioned to do. They were to preach the gospel to all the world, and Jesus promised that his Spirit would be with them to the end.

Later, on an early summer morning, as many were gathered on the slopes of Mount Olivet listening to his instruction regarding their work, he was taken away from them into heaven. Even while they were looking at him, “he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.” Acts 1:9.

Jesus Is Alive

But Jesus is alive and at the right hand of God in the heavens. And through all the centuries since he ascended to his Father, his followers, in their trials, their afflictions, their hardships, their hunger, their persecutions, their martyrdom, and their death, have been cheered and sustained by that word which he spoke before he departed from this world, “Let not your heart be troubled: . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself.” John 14:1-3.

Through the ages of the past God’s people have looked with eager longing for the fulfilment of that glorious promise. They have been able to endure their hardships and wrongs, because they have believed with profound and implicit confidence that Jesus is coming to make all things right. On that event their hearts have been fixed. All their hopes have been centered in that time when Jesus will come again. The second coming of Christ is the consummation of the hopes of the Christian Church.



"I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU."

CHAPTER TWO

JESUS WILL COME AGAIN

THOSE who in all ages have believed in the literal, personal, visible coming of Jesus Christ the second time to this earth have not followed cunningly devised fables. This doctrine is one of the fundamental doctrines of Holy Scripture. It finds a larger place in the pages of Holy Writ than any other doctrine of the church, this glorious event being mentioned more than three hundred times in the New Testament alone. To the devout believer in the Bible there can be no doubt that Jesus will come again.

The faith of the believer in this doctrine is founded not on any theory of his own, but upon the clear and convincing testimony of the Sacred Writings, and especially upon the testimony of Jesus himself, who repeated again and again to his disciples the teaching that he would come the second time. An examination of the teach-

ing of the Scripture on this point will dissolve all doubts that may exist regarding the second coming of Christ.

The Testimony of Jesus

Just before his death Christ said to his disciples:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also.” John 14: 1-3.

Here is a clear-cut, unequivocal promise, the meaning of which there is no possibility of mistaking. The Master himself said, “I will come again.” In the same chapter he repeats this, by saying:

“I will not leave you comfortless (orphans, margin): I will come to you.” John 14: 18.

And again he said:

“I go away, and come again unto you.” John 14: 28.

To the unbelieving Pharisees and Scribes, just before his betrayal, he said:

“Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” Matt. 23: 39.

When instructing his disciples, in answer to their questions as to “what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matt. 24:3), Jesus said:

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: . . . and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matt. 24: 30.

And to his disciples again he said:

“The Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels.” Matt. 16: 27.

When adjured by the high priest at his trial, Jesus answered:

“Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.” Matt. 26: 64.

And in the last chapter of the Bible this same Jesus repeats three times to his servant John this truth of his

second coming. "Behold, I come quickly"; "And, behold, I come quickly"; "Surely I come quickly." Rev. 22:7, 12, 20.

This uniform testimony of the Saviour is enough to create conviction in every heart which accepts him as its Guide and Teacher. There is no doubt here. Jesus is coming again.

The Testimony of Enoch

But there is other testimony in the Bible in addition to that of Jesus himself. This truth of the second coming of Christ to establish an everlasting kingdom and judge the world has been known and taught from the earliest times. The ancient patriarchs, even before the flood, believed it and taught it.

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all." Jude 14, 15.

The Testimony of David

David, under the inspiration of God, sang of the time

"When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory." Ps. 102:16.

And he said again:

"For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth." Ps. 96:13.

And of this time David again says:

"Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity." Ps. 98:7-9.

The Testimony of Isaiah

The prophets also teach the same truth of the second coming of Christ. Isaiah repeatedly refers to this subject. He says:

"And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him and he will save us." "For, behold the Lord cometh out of



his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you." "Behold the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him." "For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirl-

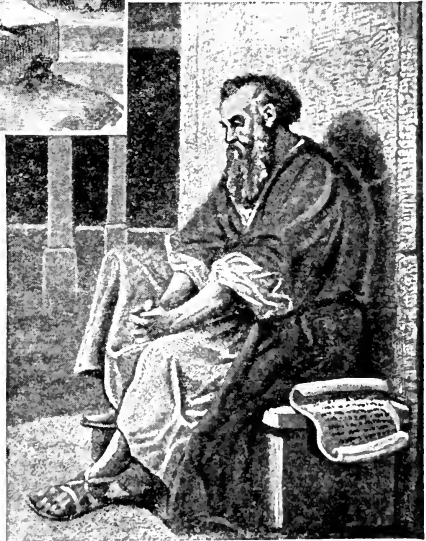
"THE PROPHETS ALSO TEACH THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST."

wind." Isa. 25: 9; 26: 21; 35: 4; 40: 10; 66: 15.

The Testimony of Paul

This truth is also taught by the apostles. Paul says:

"Every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." "Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven." "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" "To the end he may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the



"AND PETER UNITES HIS TESTIMONY."

And Peter unites his testimony. "Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven." "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" "To the end he may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout." "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels." "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time." "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." 1 Cor. 15: 23; Phil. 3: 20; 1 Thess. 1: 9, 10; 2: 19; 3: 13; 4: 16; 2 Thess. 1: 7; Titus 2: 13; Heb. 9: 28; 10: 37.

The Testimony of Peter

And Peter unites his testimony to that of Paul, as follows:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you." "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye-witnesses of his majesty." Acts 3: 19, 20; 1 Pet. 1: 13; 5: 4; 2 Pet. 1: 16.

The Testimony of James

James, the brother of the Lord, gives a similar testimony:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. . . . For the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." Jas. 5: 7, 8.

The Testimony of John

John testifies to the same truth:

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him." "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him." 1 John 2: 28; 3: 2; Rev. 1: 7.

So important is this truth of the Lord's second coming that the Father, at the time of the ascension of Jesus, sent two angels with a special message to the earth to tell his disciples that he would return. The record says:

"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said,

Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:10, 11.

The Doctrine Has Been Discredited

To no other truth of the Scriptures is there given such prominence as to this truth of the second coming of Christ. It is evident that the men who wrote the Bible considered this doctrine of supreme importance. And it is because of this very importance that the enemy of our souls has labored so untiringly to discredit this doctrine in the eyes of the people of God. He has succeeded in surrounding this subject with so much fanaticism that the teaching of the Lord's return itself has been discredited and neglected. So many sensational predictions have been made regarding the second coming of Christ, and have failed to materialize, that unbelief in this great event is becoming prevalent in the church, and the vital importance of this great subject is being hidden.

But it is evident that if Christ is coming again to this earth, it is of the utmost importance that the inhabitants of the earth should be made acquainted with that fact in order that they may make such preparation as is needful for this wonderful event. If his coming is near at hand, as the Scriptures plainly teach, and there are certain indications and signs of God's own giving which prove its nearness, then the church has, in the preaching of the truth of his coming, a most wonderful message to deliver to the world; a message which the church surely needs, for the obvious lack of something definite in present-day preaching is causing the church to drift upon the rocks of higher criticism and infidelity until her whole mission is endangered.

In this message of the second coming of Christ, God is calling to his church to renew her allegiance to him, and just to the extent that the call is heard and obeyed will she succeed or fail in her great mission. This is

equally true of individuals. Hence it is important that we make a thorough investigation of this great biblical doctrine, and as we ascertain the truth, accept it, and bring our lives into harmony with it.



DWIGHT L. MOODY

Dwight L. Moody, in writing on this subject, wisely says:

“To my mind this precious doctrine — for such I must call it — of the return of the Lord to this earth is taught in the New Testament as clearly as any other doctrine in it; yet I was in the church fifteen or sixteen years before I ever heard a sermon on it. There is hardly any church that does not make a great deal of baptism; but in all of Paul’s epistles I believe baptism is spoken of only thirteen times, while he speaks about the return of our Lord fifty times; and yet the church has had very little to say about it. Now I can see a reason for this. The devil does not want us to see this truth; for nothing would wake up the church so

much. The moment a man takes hold of the truth that Jesus Christ is coming back again to receive his followers to himself, this world loses its hold on him. Gas stocks and water stocks, and stocks in banks and railroads are of very much less consequence to him then. His heart is free, and he looks for the blessed appearing of his Lord, who, at his coming, will take him into his blessed kingdom.”—“*The Second Coming of Christ*,” pages 6, 7.





ANGEL SHOWING THE HOLY CITY TO JOHN

CHAPTER THREE

THE COMING KINGDOM

THE coming kingdom of Christ is the subject of many of the ancient prophecies of the Bible. From a study of these prophecies we may obtain much valuable information concerning the nature of this kingdom, and the time when it will be established upon this earth.

As we look about over the world today we behold it shaken in restless tumult by the fury of contending forces. And it has been so for almost six thousand years. Human projects have failed, human hopes have proved phantoms, human promises have turned out falsehoods. From the beginning the political world has seethed and tossed like the sea in a storm. And instead of calm, the eye still looks out upon clouds which presage more terrible tempests. There has been a ceaseless din of war, commotion, and strife.

And out of these wars great nations have arisen, lingered out a more or less brief existence, their records

stained with cruelty and crime, and passed away unregretted, only to give place to other nations as base.

Human Hopes Have Failed

Again and again some new ship of state has gone forth freighted with human hopes, but not one has reached a secure haven. They have been eaten by worms, stranded on sand-bars, foundered in gales, broken on reefs, sunk in collisions, until the shore of time is strewn with their shattered hulks.

Much as men have desired peace and prosperity, their desires have not been realized. All that wisdom, genius, education, civilization, and philanthropy have accomplished still leaves the whole head faint and the whole heart sick. And the ten thousand panaceas of men have brought no relief.

Is this ceaseless course of human failure and woe to go on, and on, and on? Is the sound of war and strife to be perpetual? Will the discord ever end? Shall earth ever find rest? What is the destiny of the world and of the human race?

How great and important a question this is! Compressed within it is the world-wide anxiety of nearly six thousand years.

What Is Coming?

A vague impression has taken hold of men everywhere that some great event is just in the future, whether for good or for ill they do not know. And all the anticipations of men are gilded or clouded by this impression of coming good or ill. We hear voices on every side each proclaiming its own views of the future in tones poetic, oracular, prophetic, sublime, and ridiculous.

Amid this tumultuous babble of ten thousand foretelling tongues it is well that we go to an Authority which can make known the end from the beginning. While the immediate future may be dark to the children

of men, it is known to God. "He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

Entire Course of This World's History

In the days of Babylon, the first universal empire, God gave to its king, the mighty Nebuchadnezzar, a dream which covered the entire course of this world's history from that time to the very end of the world. In one night God unfolded the history of more than twenty-five hundred years. This prophecy is recorded in the second chapter of Daniel.

The meaning of this dream was made known to the king by Daniel, a young Hebrew captive who was one of the king's wise men.

"There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; as for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass." Verses 28, 29.

Attention is directed to the fact that this dream was given in response to a question in the mind of Nebuchadnezzar, a question concerning the future, "what should come to pass hereafter." As he lay in wakefulness upon his bed, thoughts crowded in upon his mind regarding the future of his kingdom. Who would be his successor? What kind of a man would he be? Would he be able to keep his great kingdom intact? Would the time ever come when some other nation would overthrow the great structure which Nebuchadnezzar had built up? Would Babylon ever fall? Was it not more likely that it would stand forever, and always be the mistress of the world? These were the questions which concerned the ruler of earth's mightiest empire as he lay on his bed that night.

The Secrets of the Future Unlocked

And as he slept God gave him a dream which unlocked the secrets of the future. The questions of his heart

were answered in this dream. But when he awoke, while he remembered that he had had a dream which he felt was of vital importance, he could not recall it. After the failure of the wise men to enlighten him, Daniel, given special instruction by the Lord, made known not only what the dream was, but also its interpretation.

In the Latter Days

Before considering the dream and its interpretation, it is important to notice that this dream contains information regarding "what shall be in the latter days." It is, then, a prophecy for the present time.

In describing the king's dream Daniel said:

"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay." Verses 31-33.

And as the king considered this remarkable image in his dream, he beheld

"till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Verses 34, 35.

The Interpretation

This was the dream as the king saw it. And now Daniel gives him the interpretation of it as follows:

"Thou art this head of gold." Verse 38.

Babylon, the great kingdom which ruled over the then known world, is said by Daniel, under the inspiration of God, to be represented on this image by the head. But Babylon was not, as Nebuchadnezzar had hoped, to remain forever. It was to be overthrown.

"After thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee." Verse 39.



"THOU, O KING, SAWEST, AND BEHOLD A GREAT IMAGE . . . WHOSE BRIGHTNESS WAS EXCELLENT."

This prediction was fulfilled. Years later the Medes and the Persians overthrew Babylon on the night of the great feast which Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar and his successor as king of Babylon, had made to a thousand of his lords, and at which he profaned the vessels from the temple of the true God which had been brought from Jerusalem. On that night Daniel, then an old man, had been called in to interpret the mysterious handwriting on the wall, and a part of his interpretation was, "Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." Dan. 5:28. And then the record is: "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Medean took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old." Dan. 5:30, 31.

The breast and arms of silver, then, of this great image, represent the empire which succeeded Babylon, the Medo-Persian empire.

Greece and Rome

But the course of history was not to stop with Medo-Persia, for there was to arise

"another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth." Dan. 2:39.

This third kingdom, represented by the waist and thighs of brass on the image, represented the kingdom which overthrew Medo-Persia. This was Greece, under Alexander the Great.

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise." Verse 40.

The kingdom represented by the legs of iron was the "great iron monarchy of Rome," which overthrew the Grecian empire. Rome ruled the world. She stole the liberties of the world. She despised God. She worshiped all gods save the true One. It was one of her governors, Pontius Pilate, who gave the decision to crucify the Just

One. As iron that "subdueth all things," so Rome crushed the world and trampled it under her feet.

The Division of Rome

But Rome, too, was to fall.

"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron, the kingdom [Rome] shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken [or weak]." Verses 41, 42.

According to this prophecy Rome was to be divided into ten divisions, represented by the ten toes of the human figure, the ten toes of the image. Some of these divisions were to be strong kingdoms, and some of them were to be weak.

The Ten Kingdoms

These ten kingdoms came into existence in the territory of the Roman empire between the years 351 and 476 A. D. They were the result of the barbarian invasions of those times. The kingdoms were as follows: The Alemanni (Germany), the Franks (France), the Burgundians (Switzerland), the Suevi (Portugal), the Vandals (who have been destroyed), the Anglo-Saxons (England), the Visigoths (Spain), the Ostrogoths (who have been destroyed), the Heruli (who also have been destroyed), and the Lombards (Italy).

These are the ten kingdoms which are represented in the great image of Nebuchadnezzar by the ten toes. They are represented in the prophecy of the seventh chapter of Daniel by the ten horns of the fourth beast of that chapter. They include the modern nations of Europe. Three—the Vandals, the Heruli, and the Ostrogoths—have been utterly destroyed, and do not exist at the present time. But seven are still here, the nations of Germany, France, England, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and Italy.

And it is true, just as the prophecy said it would be, that some of these kingdoms are strong and some of them weak.

And now follows a most remarkable part of this prophecy.

“And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.” Verse 43.

The thought here is that attempts would be made, after the division of the Roman empire into the ten kingdoms, to weld these kingdoms again into one great empire. These have not succeeded and never will. “They shall not cleave one to another.” Examine these seven words closely, for they have proven stronger than all the legions of earth’s mightiest armies.

Attempts to Unite the Nations of Europe

In the eighth century Charlemagne made an attempt to do what God had said should not be done. He tried to bring the kingdoms of Europe under his dominion and unite them in a great Christian empire. But, just as God foretold, he failed. During the sixteenth century a similar attempt was made by Charles V, but he failed. During the latter part of the seventeenth and the first part of the eighteenth centuries Louis XIV tried to bring nearly all Europe under his dominion. But God had said more than twenty centuries before that “they shall not cleave one to another,” and Louis XIV failed.

Perhaps the greatest, and what appeared for a time to be the most successful, attempt to bring all the divided parts of the ancient Roman empire under one rule, was made during the first part of the nineteenth century by Napoleon Bonaparte. But all the wisdom of this brilliant military genius, all his shrewdness and ingenuity, all his great knowledge of military tactics, and all the strength of his mighty legions, were not sufficient to break the power of seven short words of

THESE ALL FAILED IN TRYING TO UNITE THE TEN KINGDOMS



Scripture. God
 "They shall not
 other," and while
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 shall stand forever." Isa. 40 : 8.



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Another Method — Intermarriage

But the prophecy goes further than this, and indicates that when the use of force should fail to bring together these kingdoms into one great empire, other methods would be tried. It very definitely predicts that one of these methods would be intermarriage. The words of the prophecy are:

"They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another." Verse 43.

This plan, too, has failed. But notice the fulfilment of this remarkable prediction, given nearly twenty-five hundred years ago. Permit me to direct attention to the intricate relationships now existing between the reigning houses of Europe.

The Relationships of European Rulers

The late Christian IX of Denmark had six children, three sons and three daughters. His eldest son succeeded his father on the throne of Denmark as Frederick VIII. His eldest daughter married Edward, Prince of Wales, and is now Queen Mother Alexandra of England. The second son, Prince William, was elected King of Greece, known as George V of Greece, and was assassinated during the late war between the Balkan states and Turkey. The second daughter married Czar Alexander of Russia, and became the Empress Dowager Dagmar of Russia.

Thus the late Empress Dowager Dagmar of Russia and Queen Mother Alexandra of England are sisters.

Frederick VIII of Denmark was succeeded on the throne by his eldest son, who is now Christian X of Denmark. His second son, Prince Charles, was elected as king of Norway, where he now reigns as Haakon VII. Thus the kings of Norway and Denmark are brothers.

The son of the Empress Dowager Dagmar is the late Czar Nicholas II of Russia; a son of Queen Mother Alexandra is now George V of England; and a son of George V of Greece is now Constantine X of Greece. Thus the rulers of Russia, England, and Greece are first cousins of the kings of Norway and Denmark, and also first cousins of each other, all five being grandsons of Christian IX of Denmark.

Germany and England

The oldest son of the late Queen Victoria of England became Edward VII of England. The oldest daughter of Queen Victoria, Princess Victoria, married Emperor



"THEY SHALL MINGLE THEMSELVES WITH THE SEED OF MEN; BUT
THEY SHALL NOT CLEAVE ONE TO ANOTHER."

Frederick of Germany, and became the mother of the present Emperor William of Germany.

Thus the king of England and emperor of Germany are first cousins, both being grandchildren of Queen Victoria.

A sister of Emperor William of Germany, Princess Sophia, married Constantine X of Greece. Therefore the queen of Greece and the emperor of Germany are first cousins of the king of England. And, be it remembered, the king of Greece, as well as the queen of Greece, is also a first cousin of the king of England.

The late Czar Nicholas II married Princess Alix of England, a first cousin of both King George of England and Emperor William of Germany, being also a grandchild of Queen Victoria. Haakon VII of Norway married Princess Maude of England, a sister of King George of England. Hence the late czarina of Russia, the queen of Norway, and the queen of Greece are all first cousins, being grandchildren of Queen Victoria, while the queen of Norway and the king of England are brother and sister. The emperor of Germany and the queen of Greece are also brother and sister.

Nor is this all. The queen mother of Spain is an archduchess of Austria. And King Alfonso XIII married Princess Ena, another granddaughter of Queen Victoria, and therefore the king of England, the emperor of Germany, the queen of Greece, the czarina of Russia, the queen of Spain, and the queen of Norway are all grandchildren of the late Queen Victoria, being either first cousins of each other, or, as in two instances, brother and sister.

God's Word Still Stands

Thus they are all related, but this intermarrying has not fulfilled its purpose of bringing these nations into closer and more friendly relationships to each other. It has not served to cement them together. Germany hates England none the less because its king is the first

cousin to Emperor William. And they are all just as ready to go to war with each other as they would be if their rulers were not all blood relatives. God's word still stands, "They shall not cleave one to another."

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." Verses 44, 45.

The Everlasting Kingdom of Peace

This is the most important part of this entire line of prophecy. "In the days of these kings." What kings?—The kings who are intermarrying, the modern nations of Europe. In the days of the modern nations of Europe the God of heaven is to establish his everlasting kingdom, the kingdom of Christ.

There is no mistake here. Just as surely as Medo-Persia followed Babylon, as Greece followed Medo-Persia, as Rome followed Greece, and as the modern nations of Europe followed the empire of Rome, just so surely will these present nations be followed in the very near future by the kingdom of God, the great kingdom of peace which shall extend from one end of the earth to the other.

Destroyed, not Converted

Let it be noticed that this kingdom is not to be set up in this world by the conversion of the nations. There is no such teaching here, nor anywhere else in the Bible. The kingdom of God is to be established on the ruins of the nations of this earth. These nations will be destroyed, not converted. The stone which smote the great image represents God's kingdom, and this stone ground the image to powder and utterly destroyed it. So God,

after pleading with all flesh, after sending his gospel of the coming kingdom into all the world as a witness to every nation, will sweep these nations away in his fury, and utterly destroy them, so that not one vestige will remain.

Before they are destroyed, God's people will be gathered out of the nations. Every soul who makes a covenant with the Lord by sacrifice, every one who accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour, will become a subject of the everlasting kingdom which is about to be set up on earth. These subjects are now being gathered out by the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom. Let the reader be admonished by these rapidly fulfilling prophecies and make his peace with the Lord, that he may have an abundant entrance into that kingdom which is soon to come.



"SURELY HE HATH BORNE OUR GRIEFS, AND CARRIED OUR SORROWS"



“ HE WILL COME FOR HIS PEOPLE ”

CHAPTER FOUR

THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING

THE plan of salvation would be incomplete if it did not include the second coming of Christ. It is that glorious event which brings to full fruition all of the benefits and blessings of the gospel.

At the first advent of Christ the seed of the kingdom was sown. The full harvest is to be gathered at the second advent.

The purpose of the coming of Christ the second time is six-fold; namely, to raise the dead, to judge the world, to save his people, to destroy the wicked, to restore all things, and to reign forever and ever.

He Will Come for His People

When preparing his disciples for his departure, Jesus clearly stated the purpose of his second coming. He said:

“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*” John 14: 2, 3.

It has been the purpose of God from the very beginning that his people should be with him throughout all eternity. Christ returned to heaven from this earth in order to make preparation for this plan to be carried out. He is even now preparing "a place" for his people. And he will come again to take them to himself, that where he is there they may be also.

His people will be gathered together by his angels when he comes, for we read:

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and *they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*" Matt. 24:31.

He Will Come to Raise the Dead

At the time when Jesus comes, however, most of his people will be sleeping in death. And therefore one of the primary purposes of the coming of Christ is to awake the sleeping saints and give them an immortal existence. This is plainly stated thus:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: *and the dead in Christ shall rise first.*" 1 Thess. 4:16.

He Will Come to Translate the Living

But some of the people of God at this time will be alive, not having tasted death. These will be united with those who have been raised from the dead, and both classes together will be caught up to be with Jesus.

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thess. 4:17.

All Will Be Changed

When this takes place both classes will be changed from their mortal, corruptible state and given a glorious immortality.

"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall

sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." 1 Cor. 15:51-53.

This will make them all like their divine Master, for

"We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1 John 3:2.

He Will Come to Judge the World

Another purpose for which Christ will come the second time will be to judge the world. It is impossible that this should be done before the end of all things, for God holds men responsible, not only for the commission of their own deeds, but also for the consequences resulting from their deeds. Thus Jeremiah declares that God's "eyes are upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jer. 32:19. And, "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jer. 17:10.

Now, it is obvious that while the ways of a man may be manifest at his death, the "fruit of his doings" will not be manifest until the very end of time. Thus the streams of poison which had their sources in infidel pens may continue to flow through all time, while the Christian fortitude of the martyrs, and the faithful, self-sacrificing zeal and earnestness of true Christians, may be a fountain of perpetual blessing to the world until the close of human probation. Therefore the final reward or punishment must be delayed until the ultimate results of every good and evil action can be surveyed at a glance and the fruit of a man's doings rightly estimated.

In the second chapter of Daniel, commented on in the preceding chapter of this book, the stone which smote the image represented the kingdom of God which is to destroy the existing nations and which will take their

place in the earth, filling the entire earth and remaining forever.

This destruction has not yet taken place. The feet of iron and clay still exist in the modern nations of Europe. The stone has not yet struck them. But the preceding kingdoms, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, have long since passed away. Those who composed the subjects of these kingdoms are dead. This prophecy,

however, informs us that when the stone strikes, when the kingdom of God comes, then the iron, clay, brass, silver, and gold are to be broken to pieces together, and carried away so that no place will be found for them. But those represented by the gold, silver, brass, iron, and clay are dead, and therefore they must be raised from the dead to receive the punishment predicted in



THE STONE SMITING THE IMAGE

this prophecy and to be sent into eternal destruction as a punishment for their sins in a day long ago.

To this agree the words of David, who says:

“For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.” Ps. 96: 13.

Paul makes it very clear that the judgment of both the living and the dead will take place at the second coming of Christ.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.” 2 Tim. 4:1.

It was at this time also that Paul expected to get his reward for faithfulness, for he says again:

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” 2 Tim. 4:8.

The Final Separation of Righteous and Wicked

It is at the time of the second advent of Christ that the great and final separation between the righteous and the wicked takes place.

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.” Matt. 25:31, 32.

At this judgment every man will be rewarded in exact accordance with his works. Rewards and punishments will be apportioned to the righteous and the wicked.

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Matt. 16:27.

He Will Come to Save His People

The second coming of Christ is also for the purpose of bringing complete salvation to his people, salvation from death and the grave forever. Thus we read in the words of Paul:

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Heb. 9:28.

Of this glorious time we read:

“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” Isa. 25:8, 9.

He Will Come to Destroy the Wicked

The fourth purpose for which the Lord will come the second time will be to destroy the wicked, those who have rejected his mercy and his truth.

“When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thess. 1:7, 8.

Concerning this same punishment we read:

“But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.” Isa. 11:4.

John writes of this destruction of the wicked at the coming of Christ as follows:

“And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.” Rev. 11:18.

He Will Come to Restore all Things

Another wonderful purpose of God in the second coming of Christ is the restoration of all things which have been lost through the introduction of sin into this world. At the beginning of the history of the world mankind was placed in the garden of Eden, and given the privilege of eating of the tree of life. It was God's purpose for man that he should ever remain in this paradise and possess eternal life. This plan was thwarted by sin, but God has kept this purpose for man in mind through all the ages which have passed since then, and through Christ all things will be restored to those who accept the plan of salvation. This has been foretold by many of the prophets, and Peter speaks of it in this way:

“And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of

all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3: 20, 21.

A description of the restored earth, with the redeemed race upon it, will be found in the last two chapters of the Bible. It is the second coming of Christ which will prepare the way for the establishment of this new earth, where the people of God shall dwell throughout eternity.

He Will Come to Reign Forever

Jesus will come as King of kings and Lord of lords to reign forever and ever.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. . . . And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Rev. 19: 11-16.

The kingdom over which he will rule will be an everlasting kingdom. This is stated in many passages.

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: . . . it shall stand forever." Dan. 2: 44. "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Dan. 7: 14. "And the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever." Mic. 4: 7. "Of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1: 33.

He Will Come to Give the Kingdom to His People

And of this kingdom the people of God shall be joint heirs with Christ, and the coming of Christ will assure to his people the kingdom which has been promised the faithful.

"And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." Dan. 7: 27.

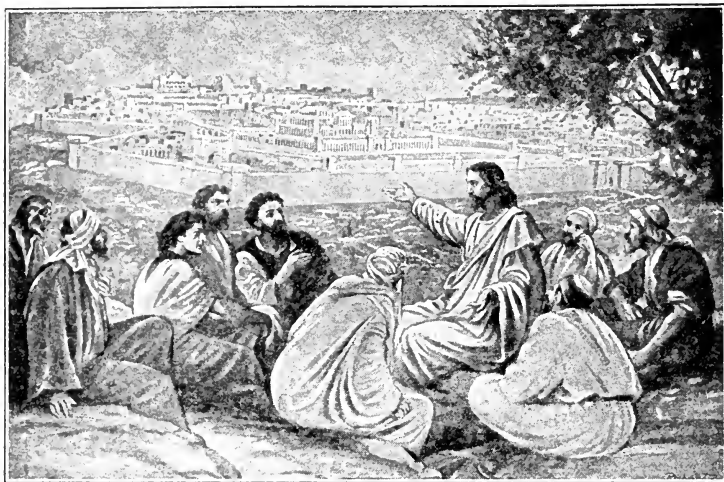
"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt. 25: 34.

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” Rev. 5: 10.

Surely with all these wonderful and glorious purposes to be worked out by the coming of Christ we cannot afford to give up the precious doctrine of his coming. This is indeed a “blessed hope.” As we contemplate the stupendous events of the near future, the events which cluster around the glorious appearing of Christ, there comes from our eager hearts the cry of John, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”



THE APOSTLE JOHN, FROM A STEEL ENGRAVING



CHRIST FORETELLING THE SIGNS OF HIS SECOND COMING

CHAPTER FIVE

OUR LORD'S OWN PROPHECY

BEGINNING with the twenty-third chapter of Matthew is recorded what is evidently the last public address given by Jesus to the Jewish nation. In this address, which was delivered in the court of the temple at Jerusalem, he strongly denounced the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders.

At the close of his address Christ said:

“Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All *these things* shall come upon *this generation.*” Matt. 23: 34-36.

The Jewish people possessed all the light and truth which God had revealed through all the centuries pre-

ceding their time, and in rejecting that light, as they did in rejecting the gospel, they made themselves equally guilty with their fathers in the shed blood of the patriarchs and prophets. And the punishment for this accumulated guilt was, according to these words of Christ, to be visited upon that generation. Attention is directed to the two expressions in this passage, "these things," and "this generation." "These things" has reference to the punishment for all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, and there can be no dispute that "this generation" has reference to the generation living when Christ uttered these words.

This is clearly a prediction that the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation would come upon the very generation which heard and rejected the message of the gospel. And this was literally fulfilled.

Two Questions

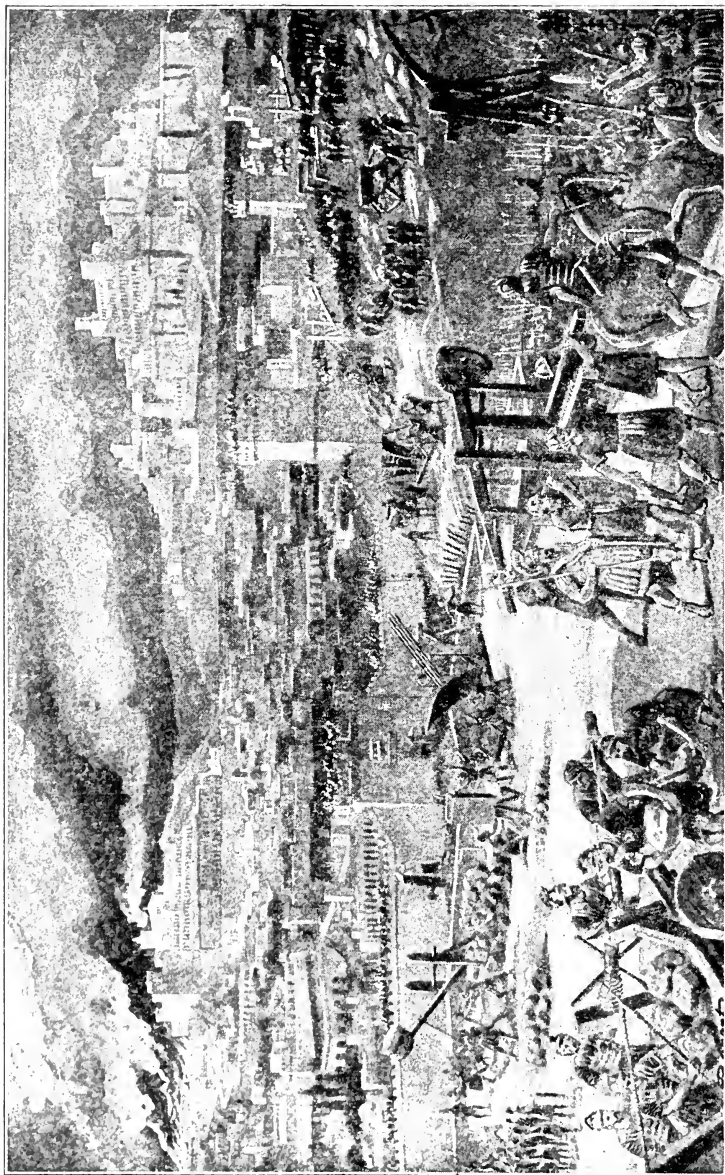
After Jesus had left the temple on this occasion, and was sitting on the slope of Mount Olivet overlooking the buildings of the temple, "the disciples came unto him privately," and they asked him two questions. Just previously he had told them something additional regarding the destruction of the temple, saying, "Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

The two questions which the disciples asked the Master were these:

"Tell us, when shall *these things* be?"

"And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matt. 24:3.

Let it be noticed that they first asked for information as to when "these things," which he had already said were coming upon that present generation, were to come. They first wanted to be enlightened regarding the impending destruction of the temple and the city. And



THE ROMAN ARMIES TAKING JERUSALEM

after that they wanted to learn what sign they were to accept and recognize as a sign of Christ's return to this earth and of the end of the world.

Jesus Instructs the Disciples

"And Jesus answered." Matt. 24:4.

It is claimed by some today that we can know nothing concerning the second coming of Christ, but it is obvious that we can know at least what the answer of Jesus was to these vitally important questions of his disciples. And in that answer is contained a great volume of information and truth regarding this subject, truth which every Christian should be willing to accept without question because it came from the lips of the Master himself.

Jesus then proceeded to answer the first question, giving the indications, one by one, of the approaching destruction of the city and temple, and finally he gave them the sign by which they were to know when to leave the city to escape its destruction. When they should see Jerusalem compassed with armies (Luke 21:20) they were to flee into the mountains. They looked for this sign, and by heeding it when it appeared, all of God's people made good their escape from the doomed city. The Roman armies compassed the city and took it, and put its inhabitants to the sword, destroying the great temple, but the Christians, following the instruction of Jesus, were saved.

The Second Question

Having now answered the first question of the disciples concerning the time when "these things" would come upon "this generation," Christ begins the answer to the second question, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Before considering this, however, let it be noticed that the predicted destruction of Jerusalem did take place upon the very generation

which heard and rejected the message of the gospel, in which was contained a warning concerning this very destruction, and in which, also, was contained salvation for every soul which believed and accepted the message.

The Great Tribulation

In beginning his reply to the question regarding the signs of his second coming, Christ spoke first of a period of "great tribulation."

"Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matt. 24: 21, 22.

This sign was fulfilled in that great period of papal persecution against God's faithful children, which, according to the prophecy of Dan. 7: 25, was to continue for a time, times, and half a time, or twelve hundred and sixty years.

This period of martyrdom and persecution began with the supremacy of the Roman Church in 538 A. D., and continued just twelve hundred and sixty years, until 1798. In this latter year the pope was taken prisoner by General Berthier of France, and sent away into exile, where he died. A decree of religious liberty was read in Rome, and a Roman republic established. This marked the close of the period of papal persecution.

The "days" of persecution, then, reached down to 1798. But the Saviour said these days should be shortened; that is, the persecution itself would be brought to an end before the days ran out, or before 1798. And, true to the Master's word, before 1798 came, the effects of the Protestant Reformation began to be felt, and persecution had practically ceased by 1775.

The Dark Day

Here, then, is a period of about twenty-three years, between 1775 and 1798, during which the persecution of Christians had been brought to an end. In this period,

between these two dates, Christ now locates the next sign of his second coming.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.” Matt. 24:29.

Notice that the Saviour does not say this sign will take place after the days, but after the “tribulation of those days.” There is a difference between the days of tribulation, which reached to 1798, and the tribulation itself, which reached only to 1775. Mark, in recording



HUSS LED TO THE STAKE

this same instruction of the Master, makes the exact time for the occurrence of this sign a little clearer. He says:

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.” Mark 13:24.

The time when this sign will occur, then, is “in those days”; that is, before 1798, but “after that tribulation,” or after 1775.

Thus the occurrence of this sign, a remarkable darkening of the sun, a dark day, is limited to a period of about twenty-three years, between 1775 and 1798. And in

that very period this prediction was exactly fulfilled. It took place on May 19, 1780. About ten o'clock on the morning of that day a darkness began to shut out the light of the sun. The chickens began to go to roost as if it were night, and the cows came in from the pastures. It was necessary to light the candles in the homes of the people in order to read common print. All felt that this was a sign of the approaching end of the world. It came at the very time predicted, and was indeed a fulfilment of Matt. 24: 29.

"In some places persons could not see to read common print in the open air for several hours together. Birds sang their evening song, disappeared, and became silent; fowls went to roost; cattle sought the barn yard; and candles were lighted in the houses. The obscuration began about ten o'clock in the morning, and continued until the middle of the next night."—*Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, edition 1883, page 1604, in article, "The Dark Day."*

"The darkness of the following evening was probably as deep and dense as ever had been observed since the Almighty first gave birth to light; it wanted only palpability to render it as extraordinary as that which overspread the land of Egypt in the days of Moses. If every luminous body in the universe had been shrouded in impenetrable shades, or struck out of existence, it was thought the darkness could not have been more complete. A sheet of white paper, held within a few inches of the eyes, was equally invisible with the blackest velvet."—"*Our First Century,*" by R. M. Devins, page 94.

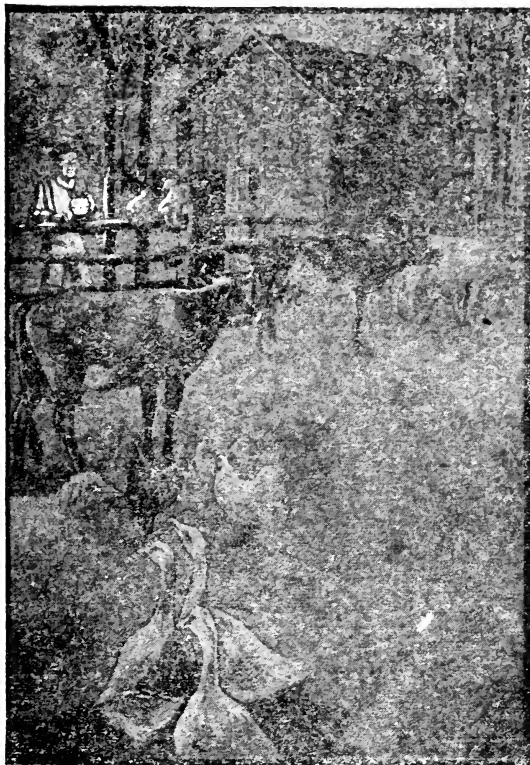
The Falling of the Stars

After the sign of the dark day there was to be another. Christ speaks of it as follows:

"And the stars shall fall from heaven." Matt. 24: 29.

This sign was fulfilled in the wonderful meteoric shower of the morning of Nov. 13, 1833. On that day the most wonderful falling of stars that the world has ever witnessed took place, and fulfilled this verse. An eye-witness of this scene, a Mr. Clarkson, the agricultural editor of the *Iowa State Register*, after reading a statement that modern fireworks surpass even the glory of falling stars, wrote in his paper the following:

"The writer of that sentence did not witness the glorious meteoric shower of November, 1833, when the display was so much superior



"THE DARK DAY"

to any artistic display of fireworks that neither language nor any element in nature can furnish comparisons. The comparison of the sheet-iron thunder of the theater to the electric display of Providence when the heavens are all on fire, and the earth trembles, would be tolerable. But the awful grandeur of the display on the night of the thirteenth of November, 1833, which made the stoutest heart stand in awe, and the most defiant infidel quake with fear, is never to be compared with the most brilliant fireworks.

Those who witnessed the meteoric shower named saw the greatest display that man ever will see until the day that Peter speaks of when the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. The agricultural editor of the *Register* was out alone with a team and load of lumber all night on that never-to-be-forgotten night. And he cannot now consent to hear of human fireworks being superior to that most grand and sublime spectacle ever before or since beheld by man. Patent fireworks are no nearer this wonderful phenomenon than a lightning-bug is equal to the sun."—*Iowa State Register*, July 12, 1889.

Two other statements regarding this important event will be of interest. They are as follows:



“THE FALLING OF THE STARS”

“At Niagara the exhibition was equally brilliant, and probably no spectacle so terribly grand and sublime was ever before beheld by man as that of the firmament descending in fiery torrents over the dark and roaring cataract.”—*The American Encyclopedia, edition 1881, article “Meteor.”*

“The extent of the shower of 1833 was as much as to cover no inconsiderable part of the earth’s surface, from the middle of the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west; and from the northern coast of South America to undefined regions among the British possessions on the north the exhibition was visible, and everywhere presented nearly the same appearance.”—*From a statement by the celebrated astronomer and meteorologist, Professor Olmstead, of Yale College.*

His Coming Is Even at the Door

Thus, as at the first coming of Christ God hung out a star as a sign of his coming, so before his second coming he has hung these signs in the heavens that all may be convinced that his coming is near at hand.

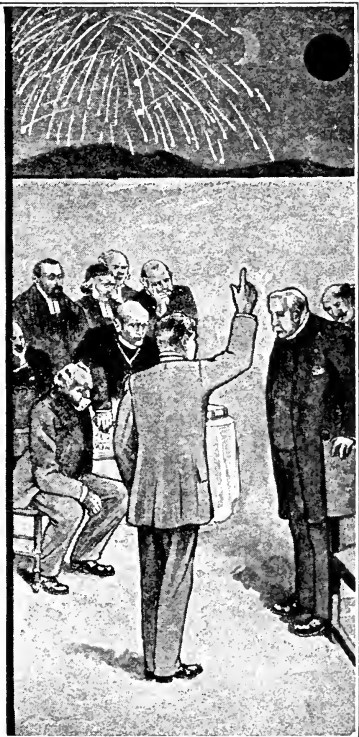
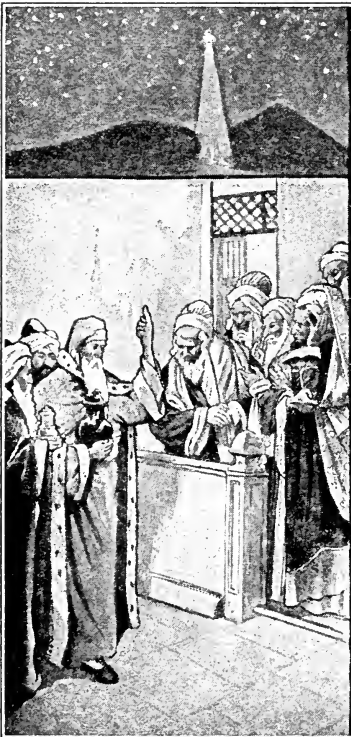
“And then shall appear the sign of the son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet,

and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matt. 24: 30, 31.

From these words it is clear that in this line of prophecy the very next event after the falling of the stars in 1833 is the actual appearance of Jesus in the clouds of heaven. And then the Lord said:

"When ye shall see all these things, know that He (margin) is near, even at the doors." Matt. 24: 33.

When we see these signs,—the great tribulation, the dark day, and the falling of the stars— we may rest assured that Christ is very near at hand.



"WHERE IS HE THAT IS BORN KING OF THE JEWS? FOR WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR"

WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST? FOR WE HAVE SEEN HIS SIGNS

In the thirty-fourth verse Christ locates his coming in a certain generation. In the next chapter of this book we shall consider what generation it is in which the second coming of Christ will take place.

Warnings against False Christs

Before closing this chapter it is important to direct special attention to the warnings given in this discourse of the Saviour against false Christs and false prophets. Satan has attempted to pervert even the truth of the second coming of Christ. He has led men to believe he will not come literally, and that the prophecies of the Bible regarding his coming are sufficiently fulfilled at the death of each person. Others he has deceived by leading them to believe that Christ's coming will be secret, that he will take one here and one there, and that it will be a very quiet proceeding altogether. Others he has led to believe that Christ has already come.

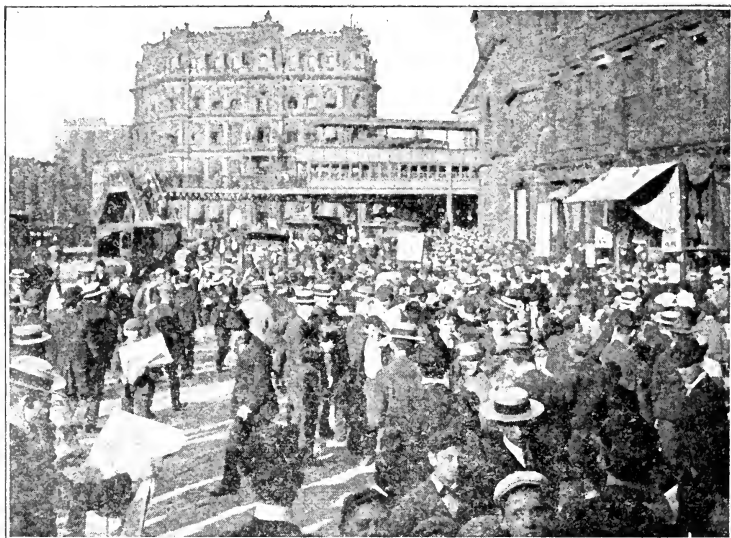
"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24: 23-27.

This is a warning of vital importance. Christ is coming literally, visibly, and personally, and those who believe these facts will not be deceived by the delusions of the present day. There will be those who teach that Christ has come. This has been taught by the late Charles T. Russell, head of the Millennial Dawn movement, commonly called Russellism. He taught, and his followers believe, that Christ came in 1874. But the Lord himself said, "If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ; . . . believe it not." Russellism is a delusion and teaches a lie.

There will be some who teach that he has come "in the secret chambers." This undoubtedly points to the deceptions of Spiritualism, but it also covers the teaching that Christ's second coming takes place at death. Even some learned ministers teach this false doctrine. Christ's second coming is a public event, not a secret coming at death. We have Christ's warning concerning this delusion, "Believe it not." Let us heed the warning.



A SEANCE AT THE TIME OF ANCIENT SPIRITUALISM



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“THIS GENERATION SHALL NOT PASS, TILL ALL THESE THINGS
BE FULFILLED”

CHAPTER SIX

THE TIME OF HIS COMING

THERE has been much futile speculation regarding the time of the second coming of Christ. So many people have set the time for this event to take place, and the time set has passed by so many times that this great event itself has been discredited even in the minds of those who believe the Bible.

The sensational predictions which have been made by fanatical enthusiasts on this subject have served only to arouse the scorn of the world. The result has been that whenever it is proposed to study the subject of the second coming of Christ, the suggestion has been received with open contempt. The opinion prevails quite largely that it is useless to study the subject of the nearness

of the coming of Christ, and when the statement is made that we are now living in a time when his immediate coming may be expected, it is usually received with an incredulous and pitying smile.

The prevailing view of this subject seems to be expressed in the statement so often heard, "We can know nothing of the time of his coming; he may come today and he may come in a thousand years; we know nothing at all about it."

"The Time of the End"

It is most deplorable that so much fanaticism has surrounded the preaching of this subject in the past that this great doctrine has come to be looked upon with reproach. But this ought not to cause those who are seeking for the truth to overlook the fact that the Bible has a great deal to say about "the time of the end," "the last days," and "the days of the Son of man," nor the additional fact that the Bible so fully describes the character of those days just preceding the coming of Christ that only those who are willingly ignorant will fail to recognize them.

Those who diligently seek for the truth of this subject may know something of the time of the coming of Christ. They may know when "he is near, even at the doors." They cannot know the day and the hour, for

"Of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Matt. 24:36.

On the Mount of Olives the disciples asked the Saviour, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world." In his reply to this question the Master described in detail the great period of persecution during the Dark Ages, the dark day of May 19, 1780, and the falling of the stars on Nov. 13, 1833, and he then said:

"When ye shall see all these things, know that he is near, even at the doors." Matt. 24:33.

From this verse it is evident that it is fully possible for all who are interested in this subject to know at least when his coming is "even at the doors." This may be known by the signs which he has given — the great tribulation, the dark day, and the falling of the stars. When these things are seen, then we may rest assured that his coming is "even at the doors." When a person is at our door he is so near that one further step will bring him inside.

In a Certain Generation

To make this, the time of his coming, still more definite, Christ said:

"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, until all these things be fulfilled." Matt. 24: 34.

This verse locates the coming of Christ in a certain generation. Just as the destruction of Jerusalem was to come upon a certain generation, so the coming of Christ is here predicted to take place in a certain generation. It will be remembered that when Christ said the guilt and punishment for all the righteous blood shed upon the earth was to be visited upon the Jews, he used these words:

"Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation." Matt. 23: 36.

Thus in both these chapters, the twenty-third and the twenty-fourth of Matthew, certain things are predicted to take place in certain generations. The first is certainly a prediction that the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation would come upon the very generation which heard and rejected the message of the gospel. And this prediction was literally fulfilled. The destruction of the city and temple took place in A. D. 70, about thirty-nine years after Christ had made the prediction regarding "this generation."



CITY SCENE "IN THIS PRESENT GENERATION"

In This Present Generation

The second use of the words "this generation" has reference to an entirely different generation than the one which saw the destruction of Jerusalem. The gen-

eration referred to in Matt. 24:34 is definitely located in the preceding verse as the generation which "shall see all these things," that is, the tribulation, the dark day, and the falling of the stars. It does not mean to see them literally, necessarily, not all of them, certainly, for there is no one now living who saw the period of persecution, and it is doubtful if there are any who saw the dark day. The generation meant is the one that shall see these things as signs of the coming of Christ. Without doubt there will be some living when the Lord comes who saw the falling of the stars in 1833. The teaching of this passage is clearly that when the people of this earth hear a great message of the coming of the Lord, a message which will set before them these signs as signs of the coming of Christ, the generation hearing that message will not pass away until the Saviour comes. Just as it was the generation which heard the preaching of John and of Christ and his disciples, and which rejected that message, upon which the destruction of Jerusalem came as a punishment for that rejection, so in these last days it will be the generation which hears the message of the coming of Christ with all its allied truths, and rejects that message, upon which the destruction of the last days will come.

That message of the Lord's coming, containing the signs referred to, is even now being preached in practically all the world. This generation, the present generation, is the one which is hearing the message of the coming of Christ.

This brings us face to face with the most solemn truth of all our lives. And that truth is this: *The present generation is the one which is destined to see the second coming of Christ.*

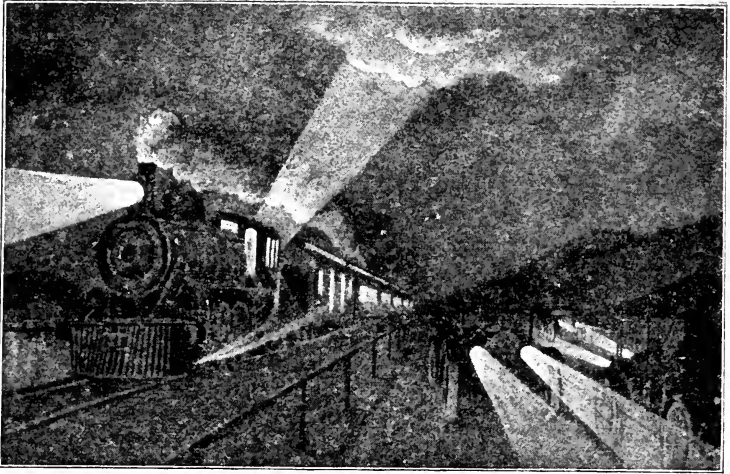
There is no mistake here. Just as surely as the great period of tribulation of the church came to pass, just as surely as this period was followed by the occurrence of the dark day in 1780, just as surely as this in turn

was followed by the falling of the stars in 1833, just so surely will the coming of Christ take place in the present generation.

This is the clear teaching of the Word of God, and the Scripture cannot be broken. How important it is, then, that all who read these words make at once that preparation of heart and life which is necessary in order to meet the Lord in peace.



RESULTS OF THE TERRIBLE WAR "IN THE PRESENT GENERATION"



"THE CHARIOTS . . . SHALL SEEM LIKE TORCHES, THEY SHALL RUN LIKE THE LIGHTNINGS." NAHUM 2:4.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING

IN ADDITION to the signs mentioned by the Saviour himself in his discourse on Mount Olivet, there are other signs foretold in the Scriptures which we must now study, and the study of which will make much clearer the truth that we are now living in the generation which will witness the coming of Christ.

About twenty-five hundred years ago God spoke through the prophet Daniel as follows:

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Dan. 12:4.

According to this instruction, the book of Daniel was shut up and sealed. It was to remain sealed to the time of the end; not to the end itself, but "even to the time of the end." This refers to a short period just before the end. In this period, just before the second coming

of Christ, many are to "run to and fro," and a remarkable increase in knowledge is to take place.

Unparalleled Running To and Fro

This increase of knowledge will be primarily with reference to that which had hitherto been sealed up; that is, the prophecy of the book of Daniel. This is not so clearly expressed in the English translation, but is made very plain in other versions. For example, this text in the German Bible reads:

"And thou, Daniel, hide these words and seal this writing until the last time; then shall many comprehend it and find great understanding."

And the French version reads:

"But thou, Daniel, close these words and seal the book until the time appointed; at which they shall run through it, and of which the knowledge shall be increased."

Previous to the year 1798 no explanation of the prophetic periods of Daniel's prophecy had been offered by anybody. But since that date more than a score of Bible scholars in various parts of the world, acting independently of each other, have searched out the explanation of this sealed writing, all arriving at substantially the same result.

And that this great light obtained from the unsealing of this book might go swiftly to all the world, there has also been a wonderful increase of scientific knowledge, and of running to and fro by means of swift travel and communication which scientific discovery has provided in our day.

Let the reader go to any great railroad passenger terminal and note the unparalleled running to and fro. Tens and hundreds of thousands of people are constantly coming and going. A steady stream comes in from the arriving trains, and a steady stream goes out on the departing trains. And there seems to be no cessation of this great stream of travel day or night. A hundred

years ago people did not travel in this wholesale fashion. Their interests then did not take them away from home, and even though they desired to travel, they did not then possess the means for rapid transportation which we now have. And so they remained at home. But home is now the last place people think of staying if they can reach some other place. The trolleys seem always to be crowded, the trains are always full, and the great steamships are burdened with their loads of humanity. Surely this is the day of running "to and fro," pointed to in the Scripture as the "time of the end."

Remarkable Increase in Knowledge

And in this our day knowledge has been most wonderfully increased. Knowledge of the Scriptures has been increased. We have many agencies now for instruction in the truths of the Bible which were not known a little more than a century ago.

"The London Religious Tract Society was organized in 1799, the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1804, the American Bible Society in 1816, and the American Tract Society in 1825. The Bible has now been translated into about four hundred and fifty languages and dialects, and sent to every part of the globe. Before that time access to the Bible was confined to comparatively few. Now the humblest person may possess it, and is as free to read and study it as is the most exalted in the land. A little more than one hundred years ago there was not a Sunday school in the world, the first one being organized by Robert Raikes, at Gloucester, England, in 1784. Now there are more than 285,000 such schools, with over 28,000,000 officers, teachers, and pupils."—*Bible Readings for the Home Circle,*" pages 237, 238.

And knowledge in every other line of human endeavor has signally marked the past century. Without parallel in the history of the world has been the increase of knowledge in scientific, financial, moral, intellectual, mechanical, and physical, as well as religious, lines, during the past century. Were George Washington and his colleagues of a century and a quarter ago to be raised from their graves and see the steamships, steam and electric

railways, telegraphs, telephones, photographs, sewing-machines, submarines, linotype and monotype machines, motion pictures, aeroplanes, printing presses, the wireless telegraph, and the wonders of anæsthetics and X-rays, they would experience about the same degree of astonishment as would those who lived forty centuries ago. Within the past century the human race seems to have been shocked out of a lethargy which deadened its inventive faculties for thousands of years. All the faculties of the human mind have been sharpened to an amazing degree during the last hundred years. Until a century and a half ago men used about the same means of locomotion as Abraham did when he went from Ur of the Chaldees into the land of promise. They rode upon some beast of burden or were drawn in some crude, primitive cart.

Unparalleled Activity of Invention

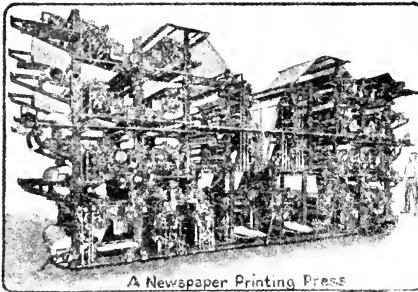
But suddenly there came a change. Human genius awoke and began to produce time- and labor-saving devices in great numbers. Never before has there been an era that can compare with it.

“The great facts of the nineteenth century stand out so conspicuously above the achievements of any preceding century that it would be affectation of humility not to recognize and speak of them.”—*Union Handbook, 1870.*

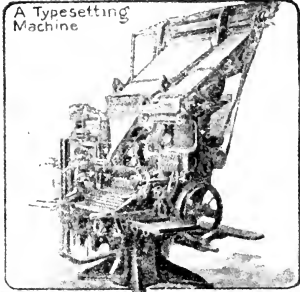
“Never was there such activity of invention within the history of mankind as at the present day.”—*Phrenological Journal, April, 1871.*

“More has been done, richer and more prolific discoveries have been made, grander achievements have been realized, in the course of the fifty years of our lifetime than in all the previous lifetime of the race.”—*London Spectator.*

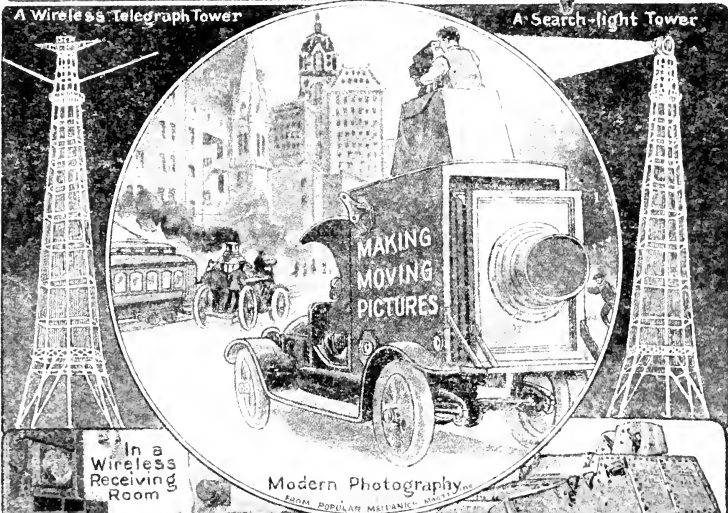
Consider some of the inventions which have come into existence during the last century and a quarter, and which have produced greater advancement in all lines of human enterprise and more progress in all that tends to human comfort, the speedy transaction of business among men, and the rapid transmission of intelligence than all that has been accomplished heretofore in the history of the world.



A Newspaper Printing Press



A Typesetting Machine

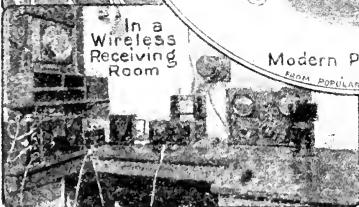


A Wireless Telegraph Tower

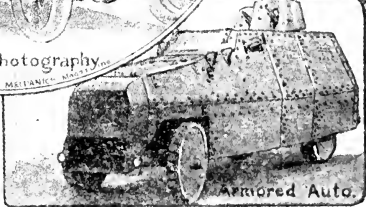
A Search-light Tower

MAKING MOVING PICTURES

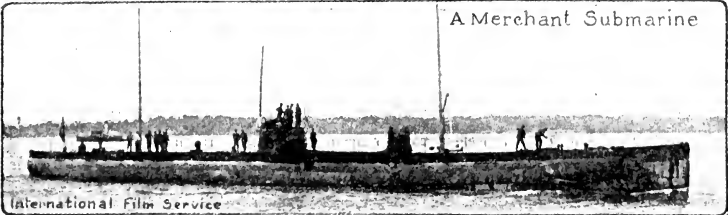
Modern Photography



In a Wireless Receiving Room

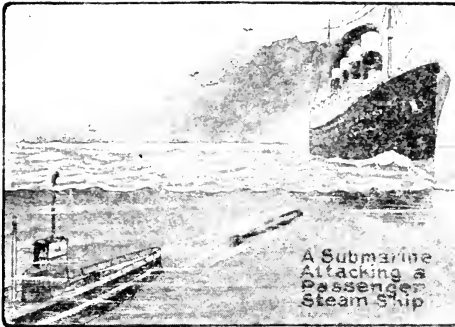


Armored Auto.

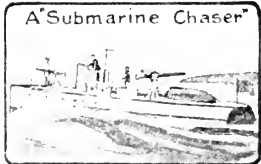


A Merchant Submarine

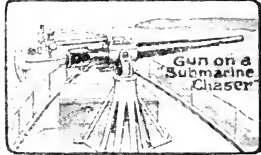
International Film Service



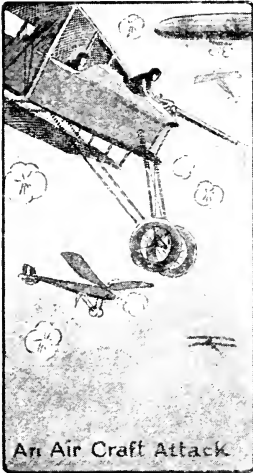
A Submarine
Attacking a
Passenger
Steam Ship



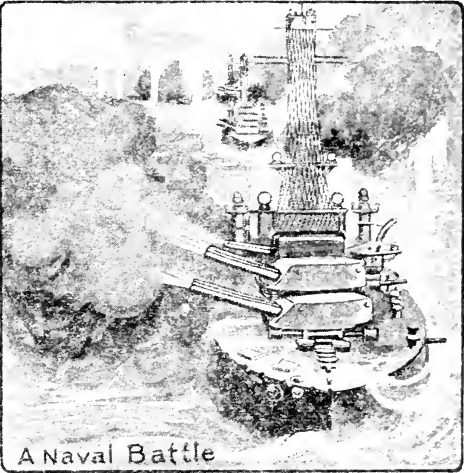
A "Submarine Chaser"



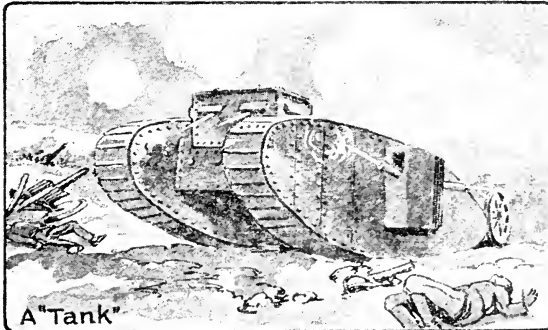
Gun on a
Submarine
Chaser



An Air Craft Attack



A Naval Battle



A "Tank"



Anti-Air Craft
Gun

The first steamboat was operated in 1807, the first steam printing-press in 1811, railroad cars in 1825, the reaper and mower in 1833 (the year in which the stars fell), the submarine cable in 1851, the automatic air-break in 1872, electric railways in 1879, and the steam turbine in 1888. Electrotyping was first used in 1837, chloroform as an anæsthetic in 1847, and radium in 1902. The electric telegraph was invented in 1837, the camera in 1839, the sewing-machine in 1846, the typewriter in 1868, the telephone in 1876, the phonograph in 1877, the modern seismograph in 1880, the linotype in 1885, the wireless telegraph in 1895, the moving picture machine in the same year, the monotype in 1896, and the first successful aeroplane in 1903.

Just a few years ago automobiles, aeroplanes, and submarines were unknown. Automobiles are as common today as buggies were twenty-five years ago, and regular passenger-carrying aeroplanes are now being built which will carry passengers faster than the fastest railroad train. On July 9, 1916, the first merchant submarine to cross the Atlantic, a vessel carrying seven hundred fifty tons of freight, landed at Baltimore after running a blockade of enemy cruisers.

There can be no question but that we have reached the day pointed to by Daniel as "the time of the end." We have truly reached the age of the increase of knowledge. On every hand there are indications that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Distress of Nations

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21: 25, 26.

These words were spoken in answer to the question of the disciples, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Surely we have reached

the days which fulfil this prediction. We are in the days when there is distress of nations. There is war in the heart of the human race,—war, and strife, and jealousy, and envy, and dissension, and bitterness, and all hatred and malice. Guns and battleships and great armaments do not make themselves; they are not spontaneous freaks or accidents of nature. They exist and stare us in the face solely and altogether because they are the concrete expression of an ideal which rules in human hearts and minds. They are here as the deliberate thought and premeditated act resulting from the rule of that ideal in human hearts. And these things promise never-ending distress of nations.

Seeds of Trouble Uneradicated

When the present European war is over, the seeds of strife will remain. The seeds of trouble will not be eradicated. This war will leave many questions unsettled and undecided. National jealousies and animosities will not be blotted out. Personal hatred and bitterness will still be smoldering. No settlement that can be devised will blot out the memory of the horrors which the war has wrought by land and sea, the fields strewn with corpses and the trenches soaked with blood, the pitiless exposure to merciless winter, the terrible suffering of the wounded, and the unspeakable wretchedness of millions of women and children who have been prisoners of despair.

After hostilities have ceased, those who have fought will still recall the screaming shells, the mangled bodies, the rending asunder of great ships, the rain of explosives from the clouds, the ruined cities, the tears of women, and the faces of the little children pinched with hunger and fear. And from such memories the spirit of war will again blaze forth. Nothing will be decided, nothing settled.

There will be the same national ambitions and the



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WOMEN AND CHILDREN DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES

same national intrigues which caused trouble before. These will not be eradicated. There will be the same distrust between those who have been enemies. A generation of peace will not heal the wounds of Belgium. Millions of men will have died. Forty or fifty billions of wealth will have been consumed. There will be ruined lands, towering debts, unnumbered graves. These things cannot be blotted out by the mere wave of a hand, or by the signing of peace treaties. There may be peace, but it will be peace in pretense and outward show; in the hearts of men, in the souls of nations, there will be bitterness, hatred, hostility, jealousy, malice, fear, and all the potentialities of unending conflict and strife. Wars and rumors of war will continue and increase. There is, and will continue to be, "distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."

"It is impossible for any one to contemplate the present naval and military arrangements without the gravest forebodings. . . .

In fact, we never now have any real peace; we live practically in a state of war."—*Sir John Lubbock*.

"We are marching toward the unknown. Who knows what tomorrow has in store for us?"—*Signor Crispi, Prime Minister of Italy*.

"In regard to the future I am filled with disquietude when I think how easy it is to fan these international jealousies, and how difficult it seems to allay them."—*Lord Balfour, of England*.

"In this world of ours we seem to be borne down by commercial and spiritual controversy. . . . We grope in the daytime with fear and trembling for the future. Poor, distracted man is tossed over the night to a more distraught tomorrow."—*John Wanamaker, ex-Postmaster-General*.

Trouble Brewing between Capital and Labor

And there will be distress of nations, with perplexity, from another source. Trouble is brewing between capital and labor. And this, too, is a sign of the times, a sign of the nearness of the second coming of Christ.

"Go to now, ye rich men, Weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasures together for the last days." Jas. 5:1-3.

According to this passage the last days are to be marked by an unparalleled heaping together of treasure, an accumulation of wealth. This description points unerringly to the present time, for there never was a time when there were such accumulations of wealth as there are at the present day. Sixty years ago millionaires were practically unknown in this country, but today we have our billionaires. There is an insane rush for making money, making it quickly, making it every way and any way that will not land one in jail, and many are willing to risk even that possibility.

"Such colossal fortunes, such hoarding of treasures, such combinations of wealth, with such rapid increase in poverty, were never witnessed before. Our age alone fits the prophetic mold."—"*War Between Capital and Labor*," by Rev. H. W. Bowman.

The method by which these vast fortunes are built up is also made plain in the prophecy in James:



"LABOR, TO-DAY, IS NOT GETTING A JUST PROPORTION OF THAT WHICH IT PRODUCES"

“Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.” Jas. 5: 4.

Injustice to Labor

Labor, today, is not getting a just proportion of that which it produces, and as a result we have towering fortunes on one hand and the very depths of poverty on the other. Greed and covetousness have been enacted into laws, and these laws operate with the utmost rapacity and heartlessness to disregard the rights, the welfare, and even the lives of those who toil. Merciless schemes and intrigues are entered into by captains of finance to defraud the public and to exact the last cent. This results in the formation of labor unions for the protection of the toiler, and as a consequence of this, strikes, lockouts, and boycotts, oftentimes leading to bloodshed, are frequent occurrences.

This condition is causing distress, perplexity, and fear for looking after those things that are coming. Judge Gary, the president of the United States Steel Corporation, in a speech made to a convention of his fellow capitalists, said:

“Unless capitalists, corporations, rich men, powerful men themselves, take a leading part in trying to improve the conditions of humanity, great changes will come, and they will come mighty quickly, and the mob will bring them.

“Things are being said very similar to things said just before the French Revolution. I tell you that spark may yet make a flame, and that soon.”

Clouds of Evil Presage

The leaders in the world of thought and statesmanship recognize the danger in the bitter feelings of envy and revenge, and in the increase of class hatred. Clouds of evil presage hang low over the earth. All the elements which produced the French Revolution are present in the world today. The future is dark with terrible menace. It will not be long until the lightnings begin to flash



“ GREAT CHANGES WILL COME, AND THE MOB WILL BRING THEM ”

and the storm will break, such a storm as this world has never yet witnessed.

And what will the people of God do in such a time as this? The Lord himself answers:

“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” Jas. 5:7, 8.

This very situation in the world of capital and labor is evidence of the near approach of Christ.

In the Religious World

Let us turn for a moment and look at the condition which will prevail in the religious world at the time when Christ will come the second time, as it is predicted in the word of truth.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without

natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 2 Tim. 3: 1-5.

This is God's photograph of the conditions prevailing in the last days. Let the reader say whether it is a good likeness. "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Love of Self

"Lovers of their own selves, covetous." We have already commented upon the lust for gold, the greed of the rich. Men today are covetous. This age is marked with that covetousness which is idolatry, and this is one of the signs of the times.

Boasting

"Boasters." Wherever one goes today he finds a spirit of self-praise, a spirit of boasting. Men boast of their skill, their talents, their strength, their power, their prowess, even of their criminal excesses, the hearts they have broken, and the virtue they have despoiled. They are willing to give alms only if they can do so amid a flourish of trumpets.

Pride

"Proud." Pride of every kind is prevalent today. There is national pride, political pride, religious pride, social pride. There is pride in dress, in which honor, reputation, life, and health are sacrificed to fashions originating in the Paris houses of prostitution. In no previous age has Christendom been so devoted to pride and luxury.

Blasphemy

"Blasphemers." This word comes from the Greek word *blasphemeo*, signifying "to speak evil of, to slander, to defame, to revile." In this sense blasphemy surrounds us today on every side. We hear it in the streets, in the

homes, in the stores, in the factories, in the banks, in the cars, in the parlors, on the sea, on the land, and in the air. This is an age noted for its evil speaking and blasphemy.

Disobedience

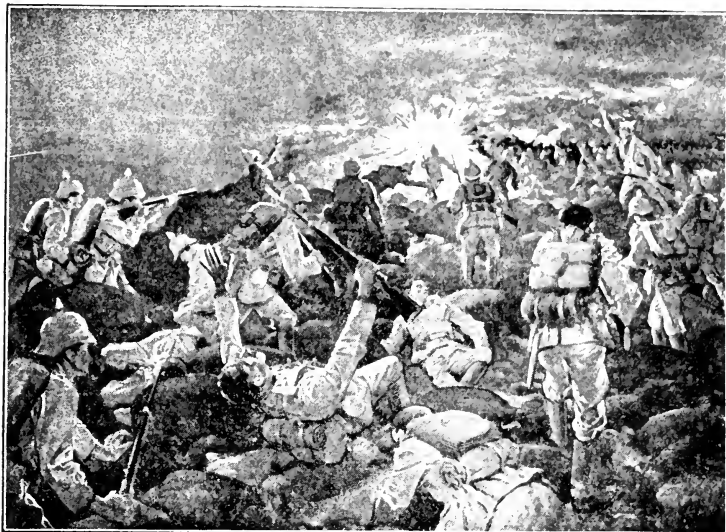
“Disobedient to parents.” Obedient children today are rare. There is a breaking away from parental restrictions, a disregard for all parental authority, an open disobedience to parental will. This condition especially marks this age, and in this one respect there has been a vast change within the last half century. The children of our times are old in sin, knowing more iniquity at the age of fifteen than their parents did at thirty.

Ingratitude

“Unthankful.” This is an age of ingratitude. Men fail to thank God for his mercy, his love, and the blessings he sends upon all. Children fail to honor their parents or give any return for their love. Men who may receive a favor today will return evil for good tomorrow. Trusts are betrayed, secrets disclosed, and confidences violated by pretended friends.

Unholy

“Unholy.” This is an age of religion, but there is very little genuine religion, very little holiness. There is a great deal of outward show, displayed in magnificent church buildings, stained glass windows, mitred priests, lordly clergy, gorgeous furnishings, pompous rituals, stately ceremonies, eloquent preachers, costly organs, highly paid singers, extravagant music, and much pomp and pageantry; but there is very little holiness. Very few of the people of God possess the full powers of undefiled manhood and womanhood. Very few are entirely free from the influence of debasing habits, lusts, and appetites. It was God’s purpose that the church should overcome the world, but today the world is overcoming the church.



A NIGHT ATTACK AGAINST A FORT ON A HILL

Without Natural Affection

“Without natural affection.” This scripture is fulfilled today. Take the testimony of the abortionist who grows rich in his hellish work; take the testimony of the venders of poisons sold to pervert the processes of nature; and take the testimony of the victims of these devilish practises. Then read of the finding of corpses of murdered innocents in the sewers, the reservoirs, and other hidden places; read the records of divorce cases, the desertions, or even the killing, of aged parents by selfish children, and then judge if this is not an age “without natural affection.”

Truce-Breaking

“Truce-breakers.” This is an age when very little dependence can be placed in the pledged word of men. Lawsuits over broken contracts clog our legal machinery. Treaties between nations become mere “scraps of paper”

when they stand in the way of national ambitions. Some men cannot be believed on oath. This is an age of truce-breaking.

False Accusation

“False accusers.” This is a characteristic of the present age. The spirit of slander, calumny, detraction, and false accusation is abroad in the land, and it seems uncontrollable. Falsehoods run through the earth, multiplied a thousand times by the press. Every political campaign is an avalanche of misrepresentation, falsehood, and slander. Reporters are paid for telling a lie and for suppressing the truth. Truthfulness is not expected in business from those who could receive an advantage by lying.

Moral Corruption

“Incontinent.” This is an age of moral corruption. Adultery is common; licentiousness is prevalent; illicit love fills the newspapers with tales of “affinities,” “soul mates,” and “passional attraction”; divorce is increasing at an alarming rate, one in every ten marriages in America today ending in the divorce court. This is the result of the whole course of fashionable life today, of the immoral fashions in dress, the intemperate habits, and the highly-seasoned foods, all of which lead to unbridled lust.

Unrelenting Hate

“Fierce.” This is fulfilled in the desolations of war, and the calamities which nations inflict on each other in their conflicts. Should a visitor from another planet visit the battlefields of Europe and behold the fire of the great guns, see the mangled and bloody limbs of dead and dying, and witness the pain, misery, and destruction which men deal out to each other, he would think he had lost his way and had landed in hell instead of this earth. Today there is a spirit of unforgiving, unalterable, unrelenting hate between various



Photo by American Press Assn.

READY TO RESIST GAS AND INFANTRY ATTACKS

nations of men. The world is learning the art of war on an unparalleled scale. The spirit of war and strife burns fiercely in myriads of hearts.

Hatred of Goodness

“Despisers of those that are good.” It has been characteristic of all times that the evil hate the good, but hatred of goodness and the good is a special characteristic of the present age. This same chapter declares that “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse,” and as evil men have become worse and more numerous, so has hatred of the good increased. Today, as in all previous times, the good suffer persecution. Those who will not serve God hate and dislike those who do. There are many today who reverence the holy men of old, but for those who live the same

sort of lives now they have nothing but contempt and hatred. There are Christians today who cannot bind their consciences by forms and ceremonies and laws which God never made or authorized, and such men become thereby outcasts and objects of reproach. There are those who will not give their souls into the keeping of some pope or bishop or preacher, but who believe that they must live up to the light God gives them, knowing that they must give an account of themselves individually to God, and because of this they become a gazing-stock, outcasts from the crowd which follows the way of the majority. And everything that religious intolerance can do to oppose them, and make their lives miserable, and fence them away from all fellowship and friendship, is done with zeal.

Treason

“Traitors.” This is a day when men who can be trusted under all circumstances are very few. Trusts are accepted, only to be betrayed. The office-boy taps his employer’s cash drawer; the trusted cashier absconds with thousands of dollars; the conductor lays aside a little for himself; the bank president steals by the million; and those in charge of inheritances of widows and orphans take the largest share for themselves. Office-holders betray their trusts; friends cannot be trusted; traitors are on every hand.

Headstrong Recklessness

“Heady.” This is an age characterized by headstrong, reckless dispositions. Its spirit is that of speed and haste, for when you do not run with the crowd you get run over. A headlong, feverish rashness prevails among men everywhere. Patience is a virtue long since discarded. Caution, prudence, and wisdom are obsolete virtues; everything must go through with a rush. “The wicked are like the troubled sea that casteth up mire

and dirt." Great questions upon which the destiny of nations may hang are settled too often by wild tumults of popular passion.

Haughtiness

"High-minded." Men are haughty today, and self-sufficient. They are wiser in their own eyes than "seven men who can render a reason." Youths just out of school suddenly make the astonishing discovery that they know more than their elders. No other comment is needed on this expression than to watch a group of them, surrounded by clouds of cigarette smoke, settling the affairs of the universe with overweening conceit, vain-glorious, puffed up, given to criticism of those in high places. This spirit of high-mindedness also permeates professed Christian people. Many will not accept the authority of God and the Bible. They place their own opinions above the plain Word of God. No matter how clearly God may speak to them from his Word, they submit only to that degree to which the divine requirement may harmonize with their desires and opinions.

Love of Pleasure

"Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." This is an age of amusement and pleasure of every description. Even the churches cannot run without periodical picnics, frolics, and shows. Simple pleasures are no longer sufficient to meet the requirements of this age of speed. There must be something wild, unnatural, exciting, thrilling. The motion picture craze has swept all classes from their moorings, and is educating the young in crime and conjugal infidelity. Feasting and folly prevail everywhere, among both high and low. National peril, appalling disasters by land and sea, a world cataclysm of war, and even close personal afflictions, are not sufficient to restrain the wild orgy of exciting pleasures. Mirth

and madness rule many minds. There are many today who, like Nero, would fiddle while Rome burned. Pleasure rules the age.

Formalism and Hypocrisy

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” This entire prophecy, then, applies, not as would be supposed, to worldlings, but to professed Christians. It is a description of the sins of the church, the sins of those who bear the name of Christ, who make a profession of Christianity, but who are in reality worldlings. We are to look for the fulfilment of this terrible catalog of sins to take place under a pretense of religion. And this is being fulfilled today. This is an age of formalism and hypocrisy. Most of the religion of the present day is mere form, and pomp, and pageantry. It does not operate against the corrupt human nature nor cure besetting sins. All inward grace may be lacking, but if the outward forms, ceremonies, confessions, and tokens are adhered to, that is sufficient. The life may be entirely out of harmony with the precepts of the Bible, but if the name is on the church book, that very fact covers a multitude of sins. No matter how ungodly a cause may be or how sinful warfare may be, the armies are blessed by high church dignitaries, and then go out to butcher other armies which have been equally blessed by other church dignitaries as high, and often of the same religious persuasion. Pure religion and undefiled is described in the Bible as that which visits the widows and orphans, and keeps unspotted from the world; but the religion of this day consecrates and blesses armies which go forth to make millions of children orphans, millions of wives widows, while those who are blessed and those who bless are themselves defiled with all manner of worldly sin. This is an age of correct outward form, but of defective inward life.

An Accurate Description of the Present

These, then, are the signs of the times, the signs which show that Christ's coming is near. God has accurately described the present generation. And as we see these things taking place all about us, and as we witness the prevailing iniquity of this age, it becomes more and more evident that God's people today need special grace from heaven to stand faithful to him in such a time as this. Iniquity abounds on every hand. Even the sanctuary itself is polluted with sin and the presence of sinners.

Corruption Permeates Our Entire Social Fabric

Today the patriotic statesman has been displaced by the political wire-puller; thousands of fine churches for the saving of men are confronted by an equal number of licensed saloons for the destruction of men; houses of prostitution get their licenses from the same source that men do who preach Christ on the street corners; the gambler in Wall Street is allowed to rob the people, while the newsboy shooting craps is fined the limit; newspapers are made rich for teaching a lie and paid for suppressing the truth; preachers draw their convictions from the same source they do their salaries, and are paid \$15,000 a year to tickle the ears of the people; any business is legitimate that does not land one in the penitentiary; we are held down by poverty and held up by trusts; men vote for a thing one day and curse it three hundred sixty-four days; for stealing a railroad a man is sent to Congress, while for stealing a loaf of bread he is sent to jail; crime runs amuck, justice sleeps, sin walks abroad, and corruption permeates our entire social, religious, and political fabric, while the devil laughs from every corner.

Thousands die either of overwork or starve because they have no work; tens of thousands of babies are badly born, and then killed off by starvation, bad air, or inattention; the jails are crowded; great quantities of food

are poisoned; the cost of living is rapidly becoming prohibitive; political support is bought and sold; hundreds of thousands receive no education worth the name; millions of children are in sweat-shops and factories; natural resources are wasted; the boycott, the blacklist, the strike, and the riot are in constant use; news is manufactured, and thought is hired.

A Prospect of Ruin and Woe

Millions of highly civilized men have been employing all their ingenuity to kill other millions who have never harmed them; national animosities have been settled by incredible slaughter; well nigh incredible folly and ferocity have taken possession of men; passions as crude as those of primitive savages have been let loose to engulf civilization; one blast of the war trumpet shattered the utopist's dream of peace; the Hague Peace Palace has become the world's jest; civilization has been feeding on its own flesh; all the ingenuity of the human mind is being prostituted to the purpose of murder, murder by wholesale, the murder of millions; solemn and oath-bound treaties have become but "scraps of paper" before the relentless purpose of war-crazed statesmen and rulers; the most sacred and inalienable rights possessed by men and nations have been swept into the discard; our much boasted civilization has been swept aside before the rush of the primal instincts of mankind; a prospect of ruin and woe has been opened before the world fit to stagger humanity; there are possibilities in each new day that are appalling; an avalanche of ruin overhangs the world; and the nations are shuddering with a deep, convulsive dread.

A Divine Message Needed Today

We need a message from God today. There never was a time when the world needed a divine message more. And in times of lesser need in the ages of the past God has never failed to give the message that the times

required. In the very darkest periods in the history of the world he has given his people light and instruction.

Will he do the same now? God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And just as surely as the message is needed today, so surely will it be given. Yea, it is being given. There is a message in the world today which contains light, and truth, and instruction for these times of peril and perplexity. There is salvation and comfort in that message for every one who believes it. It solves all the perplexities of these times; it permits us to see the final outcome of the kingdoms of this world; and its proclamation will usher in the eternal kingdom of God.

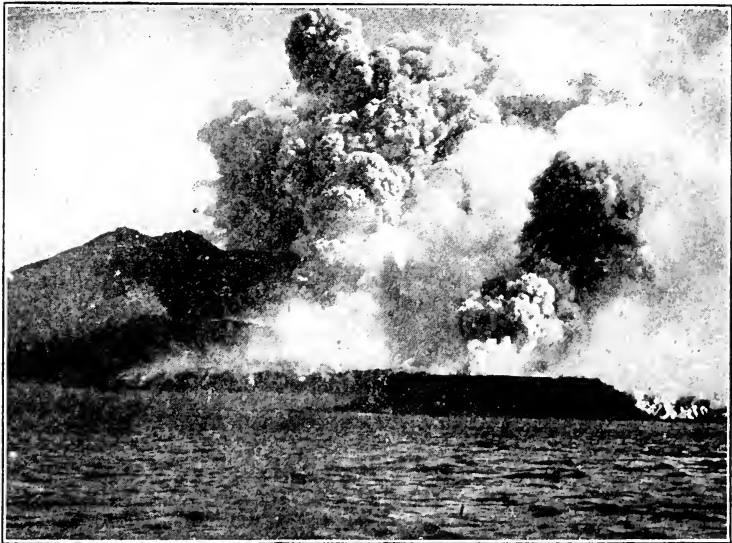


Photo by Paul Thompson

A GREAT VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN JAPAN



JOHN THE BAPTIST IN THE WILDERNESS

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE MESSAGE OF HIS COMING

DURING the centuries immediately following the establishment of the Christian church by Christ and his apostles, an apostasy developed in the church and grew with such rapidity that before long it had taken the place, in the minds of many people, of the true gospel of Christ. This false and spurious system claimed to be the gospel itself, while it was nothing more or less than a counterfeit of the gospel in every detail.

When the Christians of the church at Thessalonica were laboring under the impression that the second coming of Christ would take place in their day, Paul wrote to them as follows:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”
2 Thess. 2: 3, 4.

From a study of this prophecy it will appear that its fulfilment will involve the appearance on earth of not

only an anti-Christian system, a system which would be opposed to Christ, but also a system which in every detail would be a complete counterfeit of the whole work and gospel of Christ, and that this substitution would present itself before the world claiming to be the true church and to be proclaiming the true gospel of Christ, while at the same time it would be only and altogether in every part and detail a substitution for, and a counterfeit of, the true church and the true gospel. While it would be "the man of sin" and "the son of perdition," it would claim for itself all the worship which is due alone to the true God, and it would actually take the place of God "so that he as God" would sit "in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Will Cast the Truth to the Ground

Speaking of this same apostasy Daniel describes its work as follows:

"And it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered." Dan. 8:12.

Now in order to prosper in the doing of such work as is here predicted, this system must of necessity be compelled to appear before men as in all points like that of which it is a counterfeit. A counterfeit in order to "prosper," must be a good counterfeit. Therefore this counterfeit of the gospel must, at least in outward appearances, possess all the features of the gospel.

It will, then, use Christian terms and have Christian forms and ceremonies and institutions. It will look like a church, it will have all the appurtenances of a church, it will act like a church, it will claim to be the only church, and it will present a scheme of salvation to men which will appear very like the genuine. It will be in every detail an exact counterpart of that which it claims to be, and yet under this outward appearance its sole work will be to "cast down the truth to the ground." It will

do the work of Satan while professing to do the work of Christ. It will ruin souls while professing to save them. It will cast down the truth while professing to defend and teach it. It will lead men away from Christ while professing to be Christian. It will be the very masterpiece of the devil's cunning and deception while it will claim to be the only true church of Christ.

A Mammoth Deception

And in all this work it will "prosper." Millions will be deceived by it. Millions will accept it as the genuine. Millions will live and die in its fold, and dying will believe it to be the true instead of the false. Millions will give to it their allegiance, thinking thereby they are loyal to Christ. They will be so deluded by it as to be led to believe that the true gospel is really a falsehood.

But during all its history among men it always has been, is now, and ever will be nothing but solely and altogether a mammoth deception and fraud.

A Complete Counterfeit

There is nothing true in the gospel which will not have its counterfeit in this false system. Thus, just as the gospel will teach the truth regarding God, Christ, redemption, mediation between God and man, the true priesthood, the true sanctuary, the true forgiveness, the true sacrifice, the true baptism, the true communion and the true ordinances of God; so this false system will teach a false god, a false saviour, a false redemption, a false mediation, a false priesthood, a false sanctuary, a false forgiveness, a false sacrifice, a false baptism, a false communion, and false ordinances of the church.

Thus, in all particulars there will be a complete counterfeit of the work and gospel of Christ. Surely this is Satan's great masterpiece of deception. He has succeeded in changing the truth of God into a lie and has handed down that lie, and by many millions of people this false

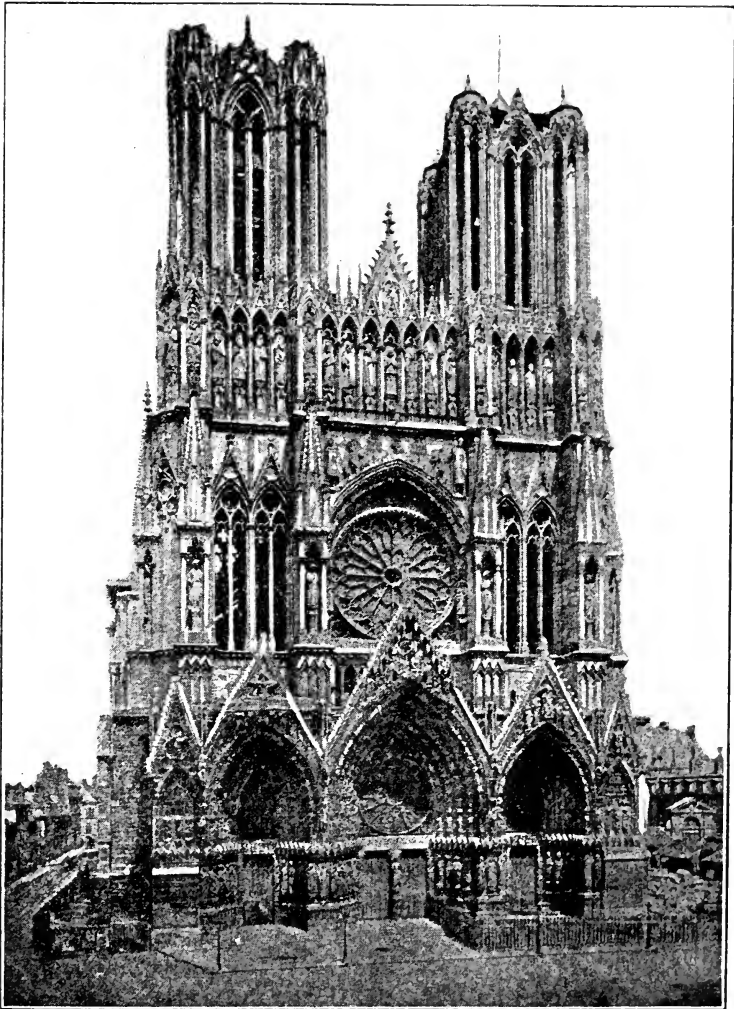


Photo by Boston Photo News Co.

THE FAMOUS RHEIMS CATHEDRAL

and counterfeit system is accepted as the genuine gospel and work and church of Christ. For centuries this system kept the light of truth from shining upon the world, and

it was not until the beginning of the sixteenth century that it appeared before men in its true colors, and began to be known for what it really is, Satan's counterfeit of the gospel.

But through the protecting care of God over his truth and his people, and through the loyalty of those who preferred to give up their lives rather than the truth, the knowledge of the principles of the gospel was preserved through the dark ages of persecution and martyrdom. And at the beginning of the sixteenth century this light began to increase in power and strength, and truth which had been long hidden under the darkness of error began once more to be preached and accepted by the people.

All Truths to Be Restored

It was the purpose of God that the light which began to shine with such clear rays at the beginning of the great Reformation should increase in volume until all the truths which had been perverted had been set before the world again in their fulness. It was not his purpose to reveal only a part of the truth and then have that part made into a creed for the formation of some denomination. "The path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18. As a Christian walks in the light which he has, more light is given him. His knowledge of the truth increases and grows as he practises that which he already knows. And God designed by beginning the Reformation that the light of his truth should break over the world just as quickly as men should make themselves ready for it, until the very fulness of the gospel should again be proclaimed to the people of the earth. The light of truth was meant to advance until the truths regarding the true God, the true Saviour, the true redemption, the true mediation between God and man, the true priesthood, the true sanctuary, the true forgiveness, the true sacrifice, the true baptism, the true

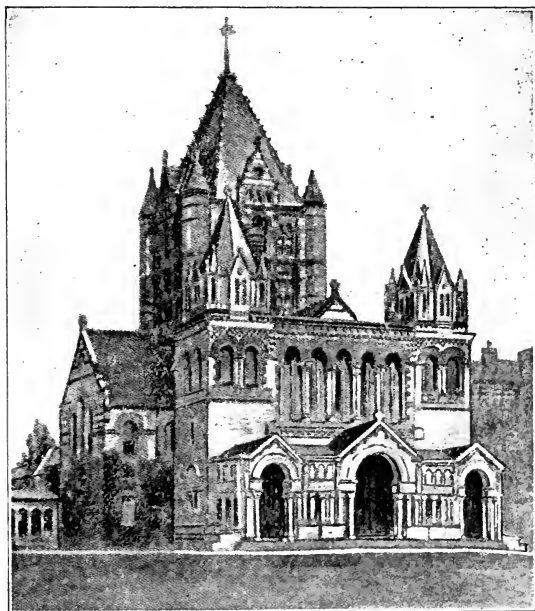
communion, and the true ordinances of God, all of which had been hidden for so many centuries by the great system of counterfeits, should be known and preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then the end of all things was to come. Matt. 24: 14.

Advancement of Truth Retarded

This glorious consummation has been delayed by the formation of creeds and denominations upon only a part of what the Bible teaches. Thus the advancement of the truth has been retarded by those who have been content to follow great leaders to whom God had given only a partial revelation of truth. They have shut themselves out from all the advanced light which God had still to break forth from the Bible.

Today the creed-power is the greatest menace to the

progress and growth of Christianity. It is true that we are constantly informed that this is an age of great liberality and breadth of mind in intellectual and religious matters, but it is also true that the people permit their preachers to do their thinking for them,



MODERN PROTESTANT CHURCH EDIFICE

resulting in the inability of thousands of people to give an intelligent reason for the things that they believe other than they were so taught by their preacher. Thousands are thus becoming fastened in the chains of error because they are reluctant to investigate for themselves.

Creed above Bible

Thus some have departed so far from the teachings of the Bible that it is considered unsafe to follow what the Bible teaches. The creed of the church is placed above the Bible. If Peter and James and John were to return today, poverty-stricken, cold, and hungry as they once were when they wandered over the hills of Galilee, it is doubtful if they would be permitted to preach the gospel of their Master until they had submitted to be questioned as to whether they were in good and regular standing in this or that church, and had given their assent to creeds which they had never heard before.

The Doctrine of Christ's Second Coming

One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths in the Scriptures is that of the second coming of Christ to this world to complete the great work of human redemption. This wonderful truth is the key-note of the Bible, and this glorious event is the consummation of all the hopes of the church of Christ. The time for its proclamation has fully come.

It was the purpose of God to reveal this great doctrine to, and have it preached by, those whom he had called to be leaders in the work of reformation. But by their course in making creeds they had shut themselves away from this new truth. Therefore, when the time came to have the message of the second coming of Christ preached to all the world, he found it necessary to go outside the established religious bodies and raise up another movement which would take this message to the very ends of the earth.

The Final Message of the Gospel

And, connected with the message of his coming, God designed that all the truths which had been perverted and hidden during previous centuries should again be made clear to the human family, so that at his coming the fulness of his truth might be revealed to the world. This was to be the last message of the gospel, and it was to contain all the truth of the gospel. In it was to be taught every truth that had been lost or perverted. Every form and ceremony and error of the spurious church was to be rejected in this last message, and the truth of God in its fulness and in its purity was to be presented again to the human race.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matt. 24: 14.

Before the first coming of Christ John the Baptist delivered to the people of God the message of his coming. This message was based on the prophecies of the Bible, and was designed to “make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1: 17.

Before the second coming of Christ another message will be delivered to all the world, warning the people of the coming of Christ. This also will be based upon the prophecies of the Bible and will be designed to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. This will be the final message of the gospel, and, as it will so fully prepare those who receive it to meet God that they are said to be “without fault before the throne of God” (Rev. 14: 5), it is evident that this final message will contain all the truth of God. It is “through the truth” (John 17: 17) that the people of God are sanctified, and if those who are translated become fully sanctified, it will be because they have the full truth of the gospel.

“This gospel of the kingdom,” the message of the coming kingdom, will “be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations,” not for their conversion,

but "for a witness," "and then shall the end come." That is, a people will be raised up, as was John the Baptist, who will take the message of the coming Saviour, and the fulness of the truth of the gospel, to all the world just before the second coming of Christ. And when they have completed that task, when they have warned the world, and given it the truth, and the world has rejected the message, "then shall the end come."

Satan's Anger against the Remnant

It is to be expected that Satan will manifest special anger against this last church of Christ, the remnant church. In the message which it will bear to the world will be uncovered all the deceptions which he has practised upon the world; all the truths which he has caused to be perverted will be preached again in their purity, and the great counterfeit system will be unmasked and held before the world in its true light, as only and altogether a counterfeit. This will stir the wrath of the dragon.

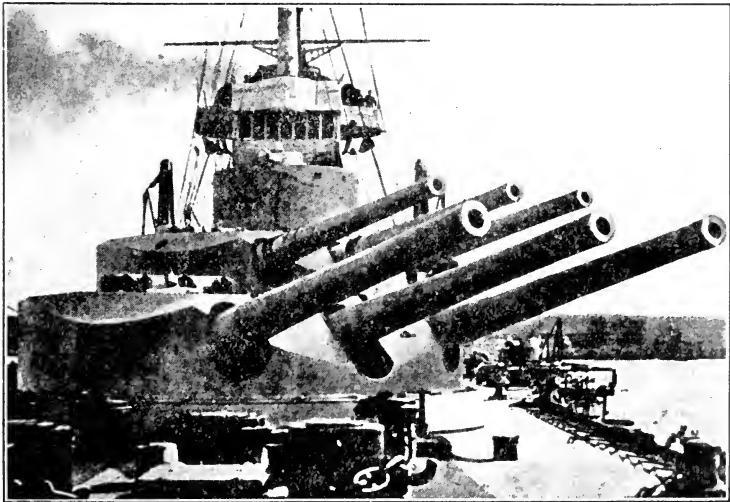
"And the dragon [the devil] was wroth [angry] with the woman [the church], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed [the last church, or last end of the church], which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12: 17.

This last church, which will be the full fruitage of the Reformation, will have revealed in it all of the truths which are contained in the gospel of Christ and which Satan has so successfully hidden under his great counterfeit system during the centuries of the dark ages. And, connected with these truths, it will proclaim the second coming of Christ.

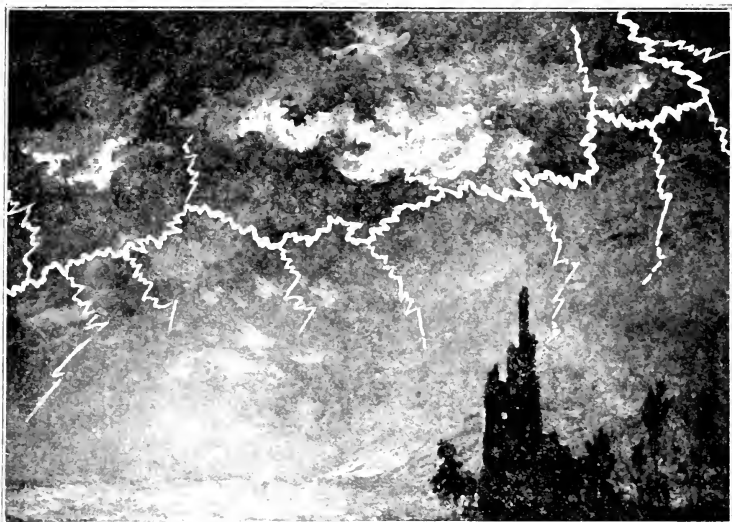
Inasmuch as this last church of Christ will be the exact opposite of the system which Satan has designed shall take the place of the gospel, it is not to be wondered at that "the dragon" makes special war against this "remnant" which "keeps the commandments of God" and delivers the last message of God to the world.

This last message, containing, as it does, the very fulness of God's truth, will not be preached in a corner to just a few people, but will be taken to the ends of the earth, "preached in all the world as a witness to all nations," with the additional truth that Jesus is soon coming. When it has been taken to all the earth, Jesus will come the second time, and the great controversy between Christ and Satan will come to an eternal end.

Let the reader be admonished and search diligently for this great final message of the gospel, for in it is salvation and light and comfort for the people of the earth in this generation.



AN INSTRUMENT OF WARFARE IN THE LAST DAYS



"AS THE LIGHTNING COMETH OUT OF THE EAST, AND SHINETH EVEN UNTO THE WEST; SO SHALL ALSO THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN BE"

CHAPTER NINE

THE MANNER OF HIS COMING

THERE is no doubt but that before the second coming of Christ Satan will attempt to counterfeit this great event by appearing himself in the assumed character and likeness of Christ. This counterfeit Christ will be accepted by multitudes as the true Christ.

The prediction that Christ's second coming will be counterfeited is made in several places in the New Testament. In this connection let the following passages be considered:

"Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matt. 24: 5.

"If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Matt. 24: 23-26.

"Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ." Luke 21: 8.

From these passages it is clear the Bible teaches that the coming of Christ will be preceded by the appearance of a false and spurious Christ; that great multitudes, not having studied the Scriptures regarding the manner of the coming of Christ, will be led astray by this false Christ; and that there is sufficient truth in the Bible regarding the manner of Christ's coming to guard the people of God from being carried away by this delusion. "Behold, I have told you before."

A False Christ

The appearance of this false and counterfeit Christ must of necessity, in order to deceive, be very like the appearance of Christ himself. The appearance of the deceiver has been described by a deep and qualified student of the Scriptures in a book which for profound understanding of the prophecies of the last days cannot be surpassed, a book which I earnestly commend to the reader of these pages, and which can be secured from the publishers of this volume.

"Persons will arise pretending to be Christ himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing, and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the Scriptures.

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look for the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. (Rev. 1: 13-15.) The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed his disciples when he was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. . . .

This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying, This is 'the great power of God.'"—"*Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan,*" page 624.

While multitudes will be swept off their feet by this final deception of Satan, those who have made the Word of God the man of their counsel need not be deceived. Christ said, "Behold, I have told you before." Therefore it is clear that by a study of the Bible one can so completely understand the exact manner of Christ's return to this earth that he will not be deceived by any attempt to counterfeit it.

He Will Appear

Concerning the manner of Christ's coming, the Bible declares:

"Unto them that look for him *shall he appear* the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

Attention is directed to this word, "appear." Christ, when he comes the second time, will come in an open, public manner; there will be nothing secret about it; there will be nothing hidden from the eyes of men; he will "appear." That is, he will be seen by the people dwelling on the earth.

Notice, too, the following expression:

"Looking for the blessed hope, and *the glorious appearing* of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

The second coming of Christ will be an appearing, not at all a secret, hidden coming at death, as many today preach; nor that spiritual, invisible coming, unrecognized by the world, that Russellism teaches. Christ will *appear*. His coming will be literal, personal, visible. It will be a real coming, not the coming of a "spirit being," an "invisible Lord," but of the very same Jesus who walked with his disciples on the hills of Galilee.

The Bible emphasizes this thought that the Lord will *appear* when he comes. There is no need of any misunderstanding here.

“When Christ, who is our life, shall *appear*.” Col. 3: 4.

“When the chief Shepherd shall *appear*.” 1 Pet. 5: 4.

“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall *appear*, we may have confidence.” 1 John 2: 28.

“We know that, when he shall *appear*, we shall be like him; for *we shall see him*.” 1 John 3: 2.

“Be found unto praise and honor and glory at the *appearing* of Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet. 1: 7.

“Until the *appearing* of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Tim. 6: 14.

“Who shall *judge* the quick and the dead at *his appearing* and his kingdom.” 2 Tim. 4: 1.

“And *they shall see the Son of man* coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matt. 24: 30.

A Personal, Visible Coming

Surely these passages are sufficient to forever settle the point that when Christ comes the second time his coming will be a literal, personal, visible, public coming.

And it must be pointed out in this connection that this appearing of Christ is a world-wide appearing. He will be seen and will appear to all the world, not merely to a certain class which may be expecting him, not merely to the church, not merely to the righteous, but to every living soul on the earth. This is very clearly stated.

“And then shall *all the tribes of the earth* mourn, and *they shall see the Son of man* coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matt. 24: 30.

Notice that it is “all the tribes of the earth” which shall see Christ when he comes. And this truth that the coming of Christ will be witnessed by the entire world is made still stronger by John, who says:

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and *every eye shall see him*, and they also which pierced him.” Rev. 1: 7.

The idea, then, that Christ will come secretly, taking one here and one there, and that this information will become known to the rest of mankind only by the absence of those who have been taken away, is untrue.

A Demonstration of Power and Glory

The coming of Christ will be accompanied by such a demonstration of power and glory that nothing in all

the annals of history will compare with it. The Lord will not even come in silence, for we read:

“The Lord himself shall descend from heaven *with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.*” 1 Thess. 4:16.

And his coming will be visible:

“As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24: 27.

His coming will be overwhelming in glory and majesty. We read:

“They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven *with power and great glory.*” Matt. 24: 30.

“He shall come *in his own glory, and his Father’s, and of the holy angels.*” Luke 9: 26.

In Like Manner

A description of the exact manner of the second coming of Christ was given by the angels who spoke to the disciples at the time of Christ’s ascension. The record is:

“While they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*” Acts 1. 10, 11.

Notice the expression, “in like manner as ye have seen him go.” He went away visibly; he will return visibly. He went away personally; he will return personally, “this same Jesus.” He went away literally; he will return literally. He went away with clouds, “a cloud received him out of their sight” (Acts 1: 9); “behold, he cometh with clouds” (Rev. 1: 7), and “they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven” (Matt. 24: 30).

He Will Come with Wrath

And when Christ comes the second time he will come with wrath to destroy his adversaries. He will not come to reign as king over a world that has been converted, and which has laid down its arms. His wrath will blaze



CHRIST'S ASCENSION

forth against the nations, and they will be consumed by the brightness of his coming and overwhelmed by the glory of his presence. When wicked men shall see him

coming they will call for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of him that sitteth upon the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb. Rev. 6: 15-17.

And this will take place because "the Lord hath a controversy with the nations." Jer. 25:31. We are not left to vague conjecture and speculation regarding the reason for this controversy. It is a controversy between



"THEY WILL CALL FOR THE ROCKS AND THE MOUNTAINS TO FALL ON THEM"

right and wrong. The world will be unconverted when Christ comes, and will be found fighting against God.

"The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Hos. 4: 1, 2.

Sin, then, is the cause of the controversy between God and man. The transgression which first inter-

rupted the harmony existing between Creator and creature brought a curse upon this revolted province of the divine dominions and a curse upon the rebellious race. And that curse has continued and has been the cause of all the woe, the strife, the unrest, the war, and the death, both of nations and men; and it will finally overwhelm this world.

From the beginning until now, as a result of sin, the nations have sat in darkness; not because it was necessary, but because they willed it so. Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light. Not only individuals, but nations, have been rebellious. Beneath the "glory of nations" there is shame and crime. There is not a nation that has not established iniquity by law; not one in which the blood of murdered innocence does not cry out. Blood is in all their palaces of pride and power. In them all is the gain of wrongdoing, the wages of oppression, the hire of sin, and the price of blood. In them all the cry of oppression has ascended to God. Not one can stand justified before him.

Commutations Rock the World

As a result of sin, commutations rock the world; turmoil reigns everywhere; black clouds hang with evil presage on all earth's political horizon; mutual hatred embitters the relations of nations with each other; self-destructive infatuation pervades the councils of the mighty; feverish restlessness pervades the world; men's fairest schemes result in failure; there is distress of nations, with perplexity; men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; and the nations are heaving in restless fury, like the roaring of the sea in a great storm.

And the reason for it all is that the world is at war with God. It is at war with his truth, his holiness, his justice, his people, his purposes, and his law. It is this

that poisons all earth's banquets, that dislocates its machinery, that stains its pride; and it is this that will eventually, and before very long, utterly wreck the world. Yes, wreck the world. Utter ruin lies in the near future. Let no mistake be made here. God himself has spoken concerning the destiny of the earth, and what he has said bears upon this thought of the manner of Christ's coming.

The Wine Cup of God's Fury

God used the prophet Jeremiah, who in his youth had been set "over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, to build, and to plant" (Jer. 1:10), to inform us of the outcome of his controversy with the nations. Anciently it was the custom of the king to inflict the death penalty on criminal characters by a cup of poison, and in speaking of God's dealings with the nations, the prophet uses this figure.

"For thus said the Lord God of Israel unto me: Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me." Jer. 25:15-17.

The prophet then enumerates by name the nations of that time who were treated as guilty criminals, deserving of God's wrath. Then his vision widens and covers unknown nations and empires of the future until it involves all the earth, for he says:

"And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, *and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth:* . . . Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spew, *and fall, and rise no more,* because of the sword which I will send among you. And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink. For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: *for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the Lord of hosts.* Therefore prophesy



Photo by International Film Service

ITALIAN HOWITZER IN THE ALPS

end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.” Jer. 25: 26-33.

thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, *against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other*

God's Fearful Malediction

This prophecy covers the record of the entire controversy between God and man, forewritten by Jeremiah. The judgments of God which began upon Jerusalem and Israel and the surrounding nations because of their rejection of his authority and truth were to overspread all the earth. The nations named, upon which the wrath of God was pronounced, have disappeared, but the prophet did not stop with them. He takes God's fearful malediction and hurls it down to the very end of time, fastening it upon "all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth." The noise of this conflict is to "come even to the ends of the earth, for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations."

It is evident from this passage that the great war in Europe is an additional sign of the nearness of the coming of Christ. It is the beginning of that "great whirlwind" that will bring ruin to all the earth. And the outcome of the great conflict is very clearly revealed in the words, "He will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword." God's wrath "shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked," and this work of desolation shall take place "in the latter days." Jer. 23: 19, 20.

The Tempest of the Wrath of God

As a result of this great tempest of the wrath of God, which is to come "in the latter days" upon all "the kingdoms of the world which are upon the face of the earth," the earth from end to end is to be strewn with the slain of the Lord, ungathered, unlamented, unburied. It is at this time that the prophet saw the earth, "and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. . . . The fruitful place was a wilderness,

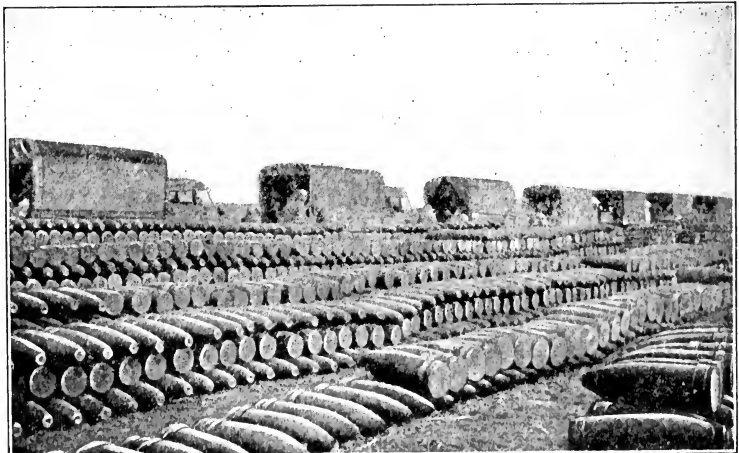


Photo by American Press Assn.

SHELLS UNLOADED FROM AUTOS AT THE WAR FRONT

and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger." Jer. 4:25, 26.

The Death Warrant of the Race

The utter depopulation and ruin of the earth — such is the terrible destiny which overhangs this world. Not since the waters of the flood overwhelmed the human race has such a terrible and widespread destruction been known to man. In history there has been no fulfilment of this prediction. The war which humanity has been waging against Jehovah has not reached its final issue. But the end is hurrying on apace. The wrath of God, like a pall of darkness, overhangs the impenitent world. It is the death-warrant of a godless and impious race. Nothing but slaughter as wide as the world can fill in the terrible picture. And when the time has come for God to pronounce judgment, "behold, the Lord will come with fire and with his chariots, like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many." Isa. 66:15, 16.

In this manner the Lord will close his controversy with the nations. In this manner he will come. This will be Armageddon. When the nations of the earth unite against God, against his people, against his truth, against his law, and "give their power and strength unto the beast," and "make war with the Lamb," then "the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings." Rev. 17:13, 14.

God himself will fight in the great battle of Armageddon. For this reason it is called "the battle of the great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16:14. In the nineteenth of Revelation we are given a wonderful picture of the manner in which Jesus will come and fight with the nations. The heavens will open, and down the parted skies the white war-horses come marching. The great

Captain of salvation marshals the hosts of the Lord. Like a flame of fire are his eyes. Following him are the warriors of heaven all clothed in spotless white. They go forth to decide the controversy of God with man. The King travels in the greatness of his strength. "Out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath in his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Rev. 19: 15, 16.

The Warriors of Heaven

These warriors of heaven, the army which will fight for God at Armageddon, are wonderfully described in the following passage:

"A great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, like strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: and the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" Joel 2: 2-11.

This is the great event which lies in the immediate future, in this very generation, and this is the manner of its occurrence. Let the reader yield his life to the Lord that he may be hid in this time of trouble, and may be prepared to meet the Lord in peace.



“ THE CITIES OF THE EARTH WILL BE BROKEN DOWN ”

CHAPTER TEN

THE MILLENNIUM

IT IS at the coming of Christ that the thousand years of the millennium begin. At this time Satan is bound so that he will be unable to deceive the nations. After the millennium he will be loosed from his bondage and will again enter upon the work of deception for a short time. The only passage in the Bible which makes definite reference to the thousand-year period of the millennium is as follows:

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. but the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.” Rev. 20: 1-5.

The word "millennium" comes from two Latin words, "mille," meaning a thousand, and "annus," meaning year,—a thousand years. There is no other meaning to the word. It does not mean what its perverted use has come to convey to the minds of many people—a thousand-year period of great peace, prosperity, and salvation upon this earth. This has been the generally accepted meaning of the term, but there is no such meaning in the term itself. It means merely a thousand years, without specifying anything at all as to the character of that period.

This thousand-year period, the millennium, begins, as has been said, with the second coming of Christ. During the thousand years Satan will be bound in some place called "the bottomless pit." This is for the purpose of restraining him from deceiving the nations, and to partially punish him.

World Not to Be Converted

From the fact that Satan is bound it has been concluded that the millennium will be a very happy, glorious time of peace among the nations, that all the nations will be converted to the gospel, and as a result disband their armies, dismantle their navies, and learn war no more. This theory has been taught so long that it has come to be widely accepted, but it has absolutely no foundation at all in the Scriptures.

There is nothing in the Bible which would lead any one to suppose that before the end of the world the nations will all be converted to the gospel and cease to fight each other. The Bible teaches just the contrary. The theory that the world is becoming better and better is not based on the teaching of the Bible. This theory of a millennium of peace and safety on this earth is but another of the deceptions of Satan, and has been invented by him in order to lead the people of God to believe that Christ will not come until the world has been brought to a con-

dition of conversion to the gospel (to which it will never be brought) and as a result lead them to say, "My Lord delayeth his coming."

The verse upon which much of the teaching of the world's conversion is based is that in Matt. 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." But this verse does not teach at all that the world will be converted. It teaches merely that the gospel will be sent to all the world, not for the conversion of the nations, but "for a witness" unto all nations.

The Bible nowhere teaches that the whole world will be converted. In the parable of the wheat and tares, recorded in Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43, it is made very plain that both the righteous and the wicked are to "grow together" until the "harvest," which is explained to be "the end of the world." At the end of the world, instead of the wicked all being converted, they are to be cast into a furnace of fire, where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

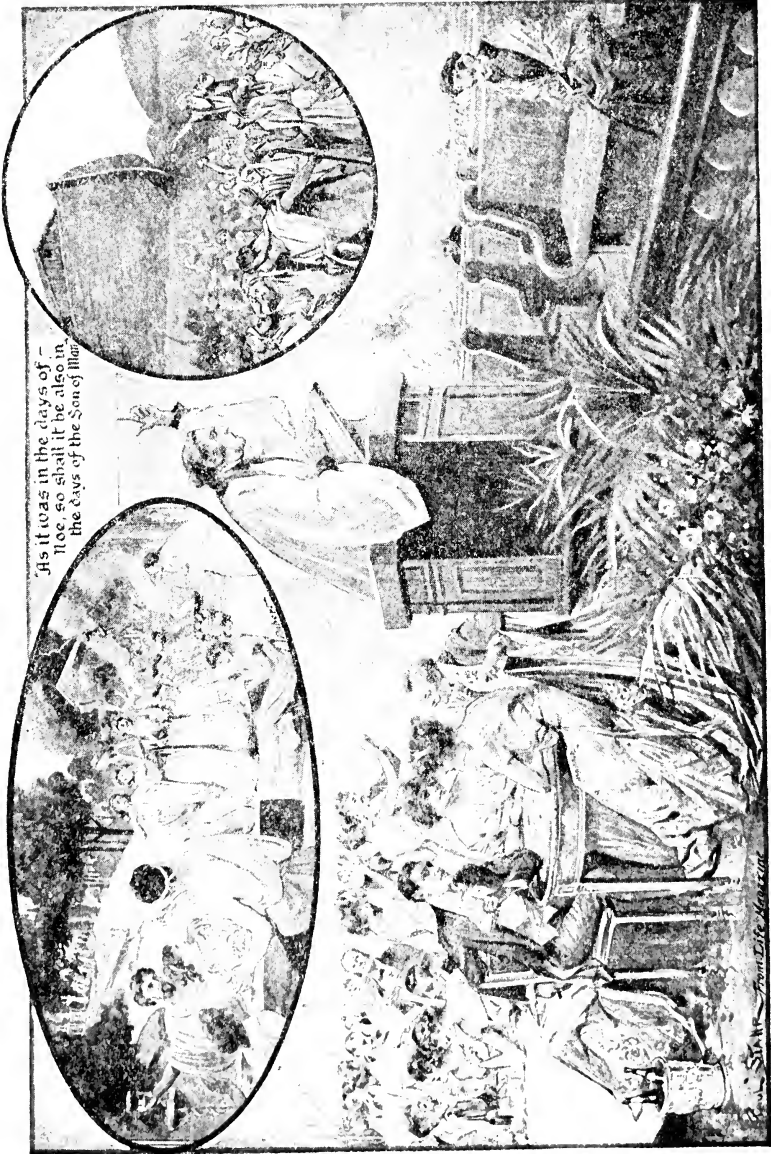
World Growing Worse and Worse

Instead of the world growing better and better as the exponents of the world-conversion theory teach, we are plainly told in the Bible that "evil men and seducers *shall wax worse and worse*, deceiving and being deceived." 2 Tim. 3:13.

Jesus himself, in speaking of the days immediately preceding his second coming, declared:

"As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. *Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*" Luke 17:26-30.

As it was in the days of —
Noe, so shall it be also in
the days of the Son of Man.



"THE WORLD GROWING WORSE AND WORSE" AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

Hence, all that it is necessary to do in order to discover the character of the days just before the coming of Christ is to refer to the history of the days just before the flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Concerning the conditions prevailing on the earth in the days of the flood, we read:

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Gen. 6: 5.

So will it be in the days of the coming of Christ the second time.

An Age of Peril

We have a picture of the last days of the history of this earth, painted by divine inspiration. It is in 2 Tim. 3: 1-5, and has already been commented on at length in the chapter on the signs of Christ's coming. Surely from this description, which is not a description of the world in general, but rather of the church, it does not appear that the world is to be converted in the last days. And if the professed church of Christ in the days of the second coming of Christ can be so described by divine inspiration, then what must the world at large be?

Nor are we left in ignorance by the Lord even of the rise of the movement which is teaching the world's conversion and a millennium of peace upon the earth.

“Of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them.*” 1 Thess. 5: 1-3.

It appears, then, that this very movement which is proclaiming the world's conversion and predicting peace is a sign in itself of the rapidly approaching destruction of all things.

Prophecies Misapplied

But, it will be asked, does not the Bible teach somewhere that all the world at some time in the future will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, and all nations

serve him? Yes, the Bible does teach just this. But the mistake has been made in not seeing that this is taught with reference to the earth in its regenerated condition, when all things are made new, and not regarding the earth as it is now.

“The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Isa. 11: 9.

“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.” Isa. 66: 23.

These passages clearly foretell a time when all the earth will be acquainted with Jehovah, and will worship him. But they have reference solely to the new earth, not to the earth in its present condition. And this condition of universal worship is to be brought about, not at all by the conversion of the nations of the earth, but rather by their destruction. Thus Peter informs us:

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” “Nevertheless, we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Pet. 3: 10, 13.

Order of Millennial Events

Now let us study briefly the order of the events in connection with the beginning and closing of the millennium. It is to begin, as we have seen, with the second coming of Christ. At this time there are four classes of people on the earth; namely, the righteous dead and the righteous living, and the wicked dead and the wicked living. Let us notice what becomes of each class.

At the coming of Christ all the righteous dead will be raised from their graves to be taken to heaven with the righteous living, who are to be translated.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: *and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*” 1 Thess. 4: 16, 17.

Thus the righteous dead and the righteous living are taken together to be with the Lord. Where they then go is very clearly revealed in the following passage:

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, *and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*” John 14: 2, 3.

The Righteous Taken to Heaven

It is plain from this that when the righteous dead are raised at the second coming of Christ, and all the righteous living are translated, they are then removed from the earth and taken to heaven to those mansions which Christ has been preparing for them. And there in heaven “they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Rev. 20: 4. The righteous are all in heaven during the millennium.

The wicked dead are not raised at the second coming of Christ. They are left unmolested in their tombs. Their sleep is not broken at this time.

“But the rest of the dead [the wicked] lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” Rev. 20: 5.

There are two resurrections, a resurrection of the righteous at the second coming of Christ, and a resurrection of the wicked one thousand years later, at the close of the millennium. Thus the millennium opens with a resurrection and closes with a resurrection.

The Living Wicked Destroyed

The living wicked will be destroyed at the second coming of Christ, and will remain dead until the second resurrection, at the close of the millennium. It is the living wicked at the coming of Christ “whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.” 2 Thess. 2: 8.

From what has now been said it will be clear what becomes of all four classes on the earth at the second

coming of Christ. The righteous dead will be raised, the righteous living will be translated, and together these two classes will be taken to heaven to live and reign with Christ for a thousand years; the wicked dead are left in their tombs, the wicked living are all brought to death, and together these two classes will remain in the prison-house of death until the close of the millennium.

The Earth Depopulated

Thus it is plain that at the coming of Christ this earth will be entirely emptied of its inhabitants, all the wicked being dead on the earth and all the righteous having been taken to heaven with Christ. It follows that during the millennium this earth will be depopulated.

A description of the condition of the wicked in that day will be found in the book of Jeremiah:

“And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.” Jer. 25: 33.

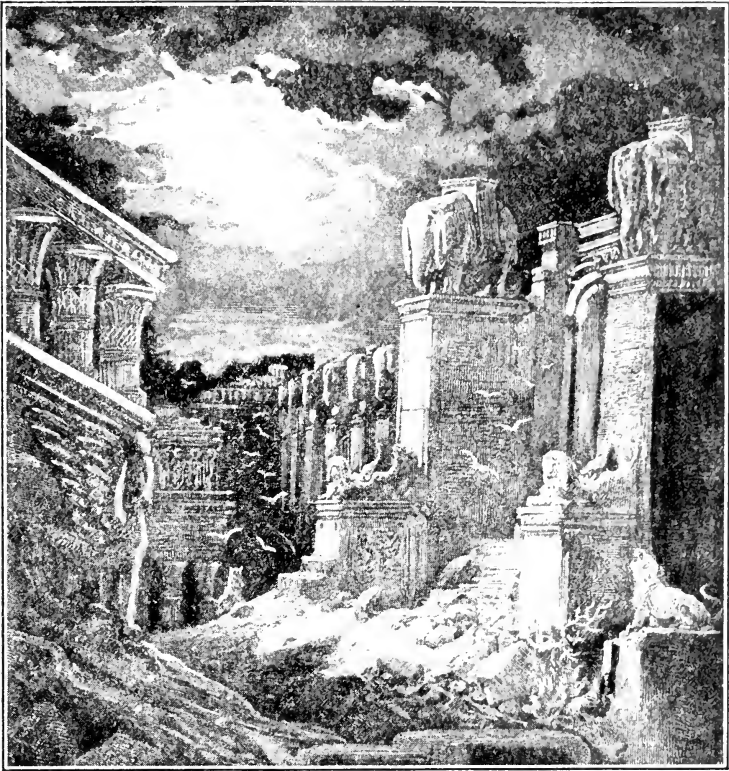
A description of the condition of the earth during the millennium will be found in Isaiah:

“Behold the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.” “The land is utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word.” Isa. 24: 1, 3.

God also gave Jeremiah a view of the earth during the time of the millennium:

“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.” Jer. 4: 23-27.

From this we see that the condition of the earth during the millennium will be that of a waste, desolate wilderness. There will be no man here. The righteous will



“THE WHOLE LAND SHALL BE DESOLATE”

be in heaven. The wicked will all be dead. The cities of the earth will be broken down at the presence of the Lord. All the works of man will be destroyed. Darkness will cover the earth. The bodies of the dead will be from one end of the earth to the other end. There will be no one to lament them or bury them.

The Bottomless Pit

It is the earth in this condition which is called the “bottomless pit,” into which Satan is cast and bound. The term “bottomless pit” is used in Rev. 9:1 and 2, and

is there applied to the Arabian desert, from which issued the hordes of Saracens and Turks which are described in that chapter. The term means any place of darkness, desolation, and death. And when the earth, during the millennium, returns to its original condition of chaos, "without form and void," it becomes the "bottomless pit" of Satan's captivity.

Here, in this desolate earth, with its cities broken down, and its whole expanse become a great wilderness, without any of the human race left, Satan will be compelled to stay for one thousand years. He is bound with a great chain. This chain is not a literal chain, but a chain of circumstances. He is unable to do anything. He is out of work. He cannot deceive the righteous, for they are in heaven, out of his reach. He cannot deceive the wicked, for they are all dead. There is nothing that he can do. By the very circumstances of his position he is bound, and he must of necessity remain bound until some change is brought about either in the condition of the righteous or the wicked.

A Just Punishment

While this is not Satan's final punishment, it is a just preliminary to it. It is sin which causes the wreck of the world. It is sin which causes the cities of the earth to be broken down. It is sin that slays the wicked. It is sin that makes the earth a desolate wilderness. All this is the work of Satan. This is the result of the rebellion he started in heaven and continued upon this earth. And now, during the millennium, he is made to understand what it all means, what its results have been. This ruined world is his handiwork. And he is compelled to view the results of his work for a thousand years. He is compelled to live in the conditions which he himself has brought about. His work of deception has been made impossible. The righteous have at last escaped his grasp and are enjoying the delights of heaven at the court

of the King of the universe. The wicked are before him, but they are cold in death.

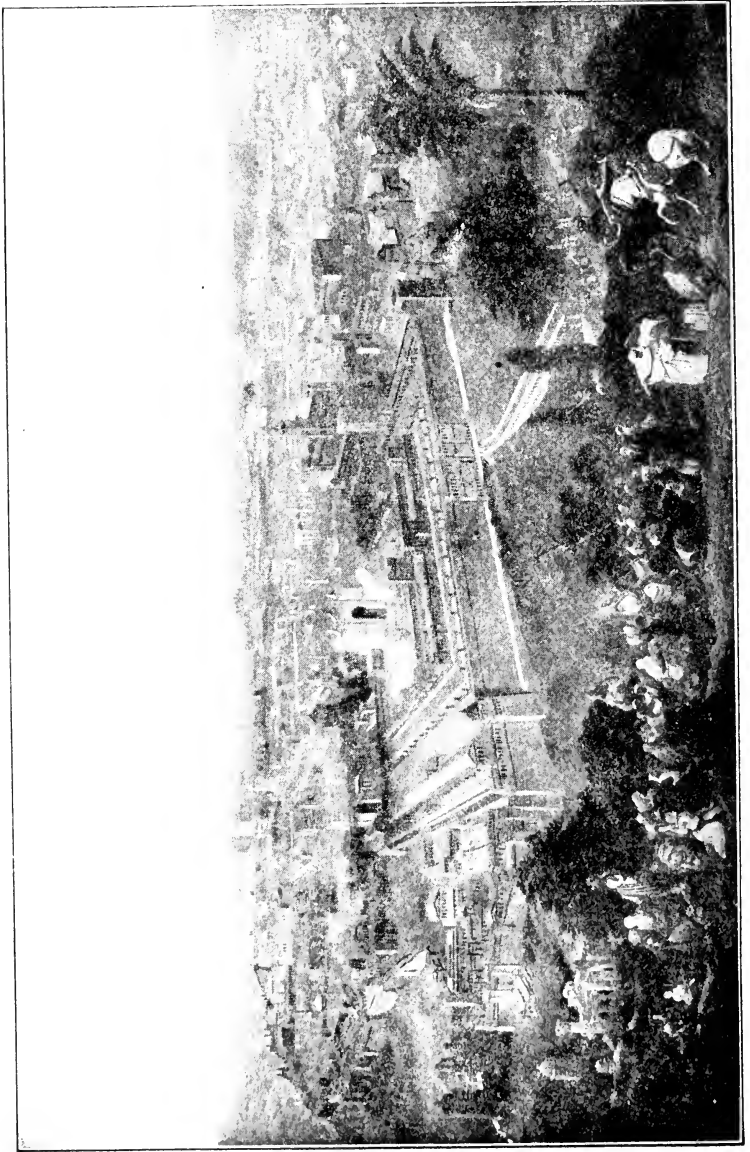
Resurrection of the Wicked

The great chain which will bind Satan will be broken by the resurrection of the wicked.

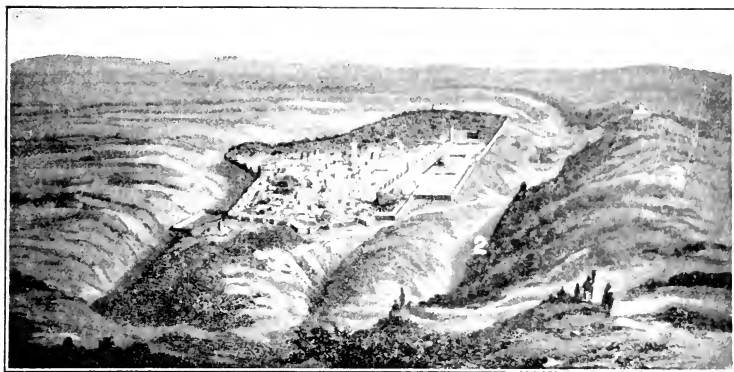
“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” Rev. 20: 5.

Now, if the rest of the dead lived not again *until* the thousand years were finished, then when the thousand years *are* finished the rest of the dead will live again. The resurrection of the wicked takes place at the close of the millennium. This releases the devil and provides him some one to work with again and deceive. It was the emptiness of the earth of all human inhabitants which constituted his binding, and now the resurrection of the wicked effects his release.

And no sooner are the wicked raised from the dead than Satan begins to plan for his last great attempt to overthrow the government of God. When the wicked are raised he has a greater host at his command than ever before in the entire history of his rebellion. All the wicked who have ever lived upon the earth are now under his full control and ready to do his bidding. The great generals of ancient and modern warfare are there. And all the angels who were cast out of heaven are still with him, and are now in such desperation as to be ready for anything. Satan lays before them a great project, and they agree to it and lay plans to bring it to pass. They are led to hope for success, but instead they meet their eternal destiny in oblivion.



JERUSALEM FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES IN THE DAYS OF CHRIST



1. CITY OF JERUSALEM. 2. VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT. 3. MOUNT OF OLIVES.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE THIRD COMING OF CHRIST

JESUS came the first time to this earth nineteen centuries ago; he will come the second time in this present generation; and he will come the third time at the close of the thousand years of the millennium.

It is at the close of the millennium that the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, comes down from God out of heaven and rests upon the earth. Christ also, attended by the great host of the saved of all ages, and by a company of glorious angels, returns to this earth.

“And the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.” Zech. 14: 5.

“And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley.” Zech. 14: 4.

“And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.” Zech. 14: 9.

As Christ comes down from the heavens the third time, his voice rolls through all the earth, and in response to his call the mighty hosts of the wicked awake from their sleep

of death and stand up upon the earth. And then in the sight of the wicked the New Jerusalem settles down upon the place prepared for it by the cleaving asunder of the Mount of Olives. Christ and the redeemed take their place in the city, which is to become the capital of a glorified new earth.

“And I John saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”
Rev. 21: 2, 3.

Satan is released from his captivity by the resurrection of the wicked. Around him are gathered the vast hosts of his own evil angels, and now this great company is joined by the innumerable throngs of the wicked, “the number of whom is as the sands of the sea.” Some of them are the giants who lived on the earth before the flood. The great captains and famous generals of the world’s great wars are there, just as eager as ever to destroy their opponents.

As Satan sees himself joined by this great host, and beholds before him the New Jerusalem containing the righteous and the holy angels with their loved commander, the Son of God, he determines that he will not yet yield his struggle. He points out to his angels and the mighty men of the earth that the city is unprotected, and would doubtless be unable to resist attack. He inspires them with the hope that after all they may be able to overthrow the government of God and take the city.

The Attack against the Holy City

Led by this delusive hope the wicked prepare themselves for the last great struggle for the supremacy of the world. Weapons of warfare are prepared; companies, battalions, regiments, and corps are formed and drilled; and then the great host of the lost is led forth by Satan to take the Holy City.

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Rev. 20:7-9.

As the great host of the wicked surround the Holy City the fire of God falls from heaven, and the vast multitude of evil men and fallen angels are overwhelmed. This fire does not perpetuate the wicked, but devours them. This is the second death, from which there will never be any recovery.

The Destiny of Satan

The fire will have the same effect upon Satan and his angels that it has upon the wicked. They will also be brought to nothing and be as though they had not been. This is very plain from the words which God spoke to Satan.

“I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. . . . I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. . . . I will bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and *never shalt thou be any more.*” Ezck. 28:16-19.

The destiny of Satan is also referred to in the book of Malachi.

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Mal. 4:1.

Thus the end of the great conflict of the ages between Christ and Satan will result in the utter destruction of Satan and his angels and all who ally themselves with him. The fires of the last day will consume them and leave them neither root nor branch. Satan is the root, and the wicked are the branches. The universe is to be cleansed from every stain of sin.

The Earth Purified by Fire

The fire which consumes the wicked will also purify the earth. Great billows of flame will burn the ruined works of men. The last remnants of sin will be consumed. "The elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Pet. 3: 10. The long controversy against God is closed. The last foe, death, has been destroyed. 1 Cor. 15: 26. The warring world has at last been overthrown, and all is now at peace with God. The first heaven and the first earth, the great theatre of sin, the scene of strife and rebellion, have passed away, and when they have been purified by the fires of the last day which come down from heaven, then by the word of the Lord there is brought into existence "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Pet. 3: 13.

Upon the billows of flame which have purified the earth, the Holy City, with the righteous nations of the saved within it, has ridden safely. And when the flames subside, having accomplished the work of purifying the earth, the city settles into its place to become the eternal capital of the universe of God. God will dwell in it, and the throne of the Lamb will be in it, and it will remain for all eternity the center of the entire universe.

After the desolation of the millennium and the purifying fires at the close of the millennium, the earth will blossom again and become the home of the redeemed of the Lord. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Matt. 5: 5. Then shall be fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them [the redeemed]; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Libanus shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. . . . For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of

dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there; . . . but the redeemed shall walk there; and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35.



"AND THEY SHALL HAVE NONE TO BURY THEM." JER. 15:16.



"THEY WILL NOT SPEND ETERNITY IN HEAVEN, BUT ON EARTH"



CHAPTER TWELVE

THE HOME OF THE SAVED

THE purified new earth will be the home of the saved throughout eternity. At the second coming of Christ his people will go with him to heaven, but they will remain there only a thousand years, and at the close of the millennium they will return to this earth to make it their eternal home. They will not spend eternity in heaven, but on earth.

There is no promise in the Bible that those who are saved will be given heaven as their eternal reward. But there are numerous promises of a glorious inheritance for the saints of the Lord. What that inheritance is, and where it is, the Scriptures make very plain.

We are informed by David that "the heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath he given to the children of men." Ps. 115:16. And in Isa. 45:18 we read that God formed the earth "not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited." It is inconceivable that God created the earth to be inhabited under its present conditions or by its present inhabitants. His purpose involved its being inhabited by a race of pure, holy, and righteous beings. He planned for just such a race when he placed our first parents here in the garden of Eden. That race was to fill the earth, live forever, ever remain

as pure and holy as when their parents came from the hands of God, and constitute the kingdom of God on earth. This plan has been delayed for a while by the entrance of sin, but God will yet have his way.

Earth to Be Redeemed

This earth was given to the human race at the time of its creation, and although it has been captured by Satan, this lost inheritance will yet be brought back to the children of God by the great plan of redemption, which includes the lost dominion as well as the lost race. Mankind lost possession of the earth by sin, but it will be restored to the people of God through the gospel of Christ. And everything else which the race lost by sin will be restored by Christ.

The first specific promise of the future inheritance recorded in the Bible is that given to Abraham.

“Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.” Gen. 13: 14-17.

This promise was repeated to Isaac, the son of Abraham, in Gen. 26: 1-4, and to Jacob, the son of Isaac, in Gen. 28: 12-15.

Earth Promised to Abraham

All that is included in this promise in the way of territory is not apparent on the surface, and a divine explanation is therefore required concerning it. This inspired explanation is given by Paul in Rom. 4: 13, where he declares that this promise made to Abraham included the entire earth.

“For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”

It is evident from this that God made Abraham and his descendants a promise that they should inherit the earth forever.

Promise Not Fulfilled

But this promise has never yet been fulfilled. Abraham is dead, and he died without having seen the fulfilment of this promise. His son Isaac died, and still the promise was not fulfilled. Isaac's son Jacob also passed away, and the fulfilment of the promise still tarried. It is not yet carried out, though it was made thousands of years ago by One whose word never fails.

The martyr Stephen, in speaking of this matter, says of Abraham, in Acts 7:1-5, that God "gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on." And Paul, in speaking of the men to whom the promises were made, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their descendants, declares in Heb. 11:13, that "these all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

The Resurrection a Part of the Promise

Inasmuch, therefore, as God promised the earth to these ancient worthies, and they died without having had the promise fulfilled to them, and as God's promises do not fail, it is evident that there must be involved in that promise the resurrection from the dead. In order for God to fulfil his promise made to Abraham, the father of the faithful must be brought again from the grave and live upon this earth once more. The resurrection from the dead is therefore involved in the fulfilment of God's great promise.

To this thought agree the words found in Ezek. 37:12-14.

"Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I

shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord."

God will bring his people into their own land, the land of promise, the land of Israel. This he will do by bringing them up from their graves. At that time it will be seen by all that not only has he spoken it, but he has also performed it.

Our Part in the Promise

It will probably be inquired, What have Christians to do with these ancient promises to the fathers of the Israelites? Much every way. All Christians should be intensely interested in the promise to Abraham, for Paul, in Gal. 3:7, informs us that "they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." And in the twenty-ninth verse of the same chapter he says, "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

The only promise, then, that we as Christians have of a future inheritance, is this ancient promise made to Abraham. We become heirs to that promise by becoming Christ's, for we then become Abraham's seed, to whom the promise was made equally with Abraham. The promise of God, then, to all Christians, is not that they shall inherit or spend eternity in heaven, but that through Christ they with Abraham become joint heirs with the Lord in the earth. They will spend eternity on this earth in its regenerated condition.

Additional Promises

And with this agree the following promises:

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Isa. 65:17.

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Pet. 3:13.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth." Rev. 21:1.

"But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Ps. 37:11.

At that time also will be fulfilled the wonderful promise given to Micah:

“And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion [the church], unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion [the earth as it came from the hand of God]; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.” Mic. 4:8.

The Earth Regenerated

From the fearful ordeal of fire through which the earth will pass when the wicked and all sin are burned out of it, it will emerge fully cleansed from every stain of sin. The Holy City will then become the capital of the regenerated earth, and the whole earth will become again like the garden of Eden. As “the wilderness and the solitary place” shall “blossom as the rose,” and “the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon,” the earth becomes what it was first intended to be, the eternal home of the people of God. Thus “the first dominion” is to be restored to the church.

To Build Homes

After the destruction of the wicked and the cleansing of the earth, the righteous will go forth from the Holy City, and “they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.” Isa. 65:21. The whole earth will be populated with the redeemed of the Lord. They will build homes which will never be destroyed. There will be no fear of fire or earthquake. Sin has passed forever. There will be none to make afraid. All will be peace and contentment, and unspeakable happiness will fill every heart.

Every month and every Sabbath day the people of the new earth will gather at Jerusalem to engage in the worship of the King of kings. Isa. 66:22, 23. Here in the city of God the redeemed will partake of the fruit of the tree of life. Here also they will wander through the groves which border “the river of water of life,”

which proceeds "out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." Rev. 22:1, 2.

Never Again Any Sin

"And there shall be no more curse." Rev. 22:3. Sin has been destroyed and will never return. Every one of the created intelligences on the other worlds, all the angels, and every soul which has been redeemed at such an infinite cost, have fully decided that God is righteous altogether. They have had enough of sin. Thank God for the promise of the Word that when the Lord destroys sin "he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9.

In that glorious land "my people shall dwell in a peaceful habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isa. 32:18. "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise." Isa. 60:18. "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree." Isa. 55:13. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things have passed away." Rev. 21:4. "And the inhabitants shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." Isa. 33:24.

And the New Jerusalem shall be "a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God." Isa. 62:3. "Her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Rev. 21:11. "The nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it." Rev. 21:24. "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord

God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever." Rev. 22:5.

Loved Ones Reunited

And in the new earth I shall know "even as also I am known." 1 Cor. 12:12. Friends and loved ones long separated by death will there be reunited, and they will know each other there just as they have known each other here. Their love and their sympathy for each other will be increased and will continue throughout the ages of eternity, never again to be broken by death. All the faculties of the human mind will be developed there, and our capacity for knowledge will be constantly increased. There will be no enterprise into which we can enter there that will be too great to be carried forward to completion. There will be no aspiration which cannot be reached. There will be no ambition which cannot be realized. There will be no end to the acquirement of knowledge. It will be possible then to travel from planet to planet and from system to system in the study of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge of the universe of God. Our companions will be the angels of God and the unfallen intelligences of the other worlds.

The Life Everlasting

And to all this there will be no end. As the ages of eternity unfold there will never be any fear that the years to come will bring an end to the happiness of the redeemed. When myriads of ages have rolled by, still all beyond stretches eternity.

The time of the coming of Christ is near at hand. We may doubt it, dispute it, deny it now; but at that time we shall be compelled to meet it. Can the reader meet it with composure? Do you tremble when you think of it? Are you ready for that day? Are you in Christ? Are you safe? Have you obeyed God? Have you heard the great final message of the gospel? It has been sent to you—through this book, if in no other way—that it

may prepare your heart to meet God. Have you brought your life into harmony with it, and thus permitted the Lord to prepare you to meet him in peace? If not, let me plead with you to seek the Lord while he may be found. Before the door of mercy is shut, and while probation still lingers, believe the message he has sent to you and give him your heart.

It may be, however, that you are a Christian. If so, God speed you on your heavenly journey. Christ's love for you is very great, and your zeal for his work and glory should be proportionate thereto. The Master is about to come with rewards. What reward will he bring you? Be diligent. Remember the work of God. Strive to save those about you from the wrath which is to come. Give them the message of his coming. Be zealous in giving the message, for in it is salvation. The time is too short for half-hearted work. God is calling for laborers now. Oh, give yourself to him for the finishing of his work in the earth.

The kingdom of God on the new earth will soon be established. It will not be long until sin and sinners will be no more. The day of the Lord hasteth greatly. Do not be deceived by the wiles of Satan. He will take you captive if he can. The message of the coming of Christ is even now in the earth, and is being proclaimed far and wide. There is salvation in that message for you, and a preparation to meet the Lord in peace. Come, then, to Christ, who rescues the perishing, who saves the lost. Seek for his mercy. Cast away the sins which offend him, forsake the thoughts which insult him, and take him for your Redeemer and Friend. He has given his life that you may have an everlasting part in the glorified new earth. Oh, delay no longer. The time is short. The Lord is at hand. May he say to you who read these words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

A FURTHER STUDY

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