

PLASTOGRAPHIQUE



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LET US HAVE THE PROPER FEAR!

While it is possible that Armageddon may begin next spring, yet it is purely speculation to attempt to say just when. We see, however, that there are parallels between the close of the Jewish age and this Gospel age. These parallels seem to point to the year just before us—particularly the early months.

The Scriptures indicate that the Gentile governments will receive from their own peoples their first notice that their lease of power has expired. The people will take note of the sign of the Son of Man in the heavens. The judgements of the Lord will begin to be manifest in the world, and will run counter to many of their interests. This manifestation of his presence is Scripturally called the *epiphania*, the shining forth, the revelation, of the King of Glory. "He shall be revealed in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." As a result, the nations of earth will be broken to pieces like a potter's vessel.

The prophetic forecast tells us that the trouble will begin in the ecclesiastical heavens, and later will proceed to the social element. The picture given of the end of Gentile times is that of a stone striking the image of Gentile supremacy in its feet. The impact will be so sharp and so thorough as to leave nothing of them. Having had their day, they will cease to be—"become like the chaff of the summer threshing floor." The next event in order will be the Messianic kingdom of which it is written, "The desire of all peoples shall come."

In this time of the greatest crisis in the world's history, a time of the worst shaking yet known, a time of petty trials and fiery experiences that have come upon the Lord's people, if we keep in mind the glories of the kingdom we shall be enabled to endure; and forgetting the things behind, and looking to that wonderful thing before, to press forward along the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Beloved, let

us think it not strange concerning these fiery times through which we are passing, but rather, receiving them as a strengthener to our faith, let us with calmness and sobriety meet them, keeping a pure heart toward all; and soon we shall be forever with the Lord.

ADMONITION FOR PREPAREDNESS

The evidence about us everywhere shows that the institutions of this world are going to pieces. Seeing, then, that this is "the end of all things," we should expect a shaking in the church; and if there should be no shaking, there might be reason for doubt as to the nearness of the Lord's kingdom. Instead of these trials bringing to us discouragement, let us look up and lift up our heads, because our deliverance draweth nigh.

To be forewarned means to be forearmed. The apostle admonishes those who are to engage in this fight and who are looking for entrance into the kingdom to take heed, fully fortifying themselves against this time of great testing. Knowing that some will become discouraged, faint-hearted, hang down their hands and be weak in their knees, the apostle said: "Lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." The consecrated, being forewarned of the dangers besetting their pathway, are to take heed to the course they pursue and to be of good courage.

There can be no peace on earth so long as Satan is in control of the affairs of men. Satan has now been cast out of heaven, and sees that his power on earth is in jeopardy. The vicious beast of Rome served his purposes in the past. Now he brings forth the image of the beast in the form of the League of Nations. But "he that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision". We may not be surprised to hear in the near future the prophets of Satan saying more loudly than ever before: "'Peace and Safety'; then sudden destruction cometh upon them."

No power aside from God's can now avert Armageddon, and he will not. The Devil's organization must fall to

make way for the kingdom of righteousness. God's prophet, describing the great and terrible day of the Lord and the waves of that trouble dashing to pieces Satan's institution, says: "They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distress."

The great tribulation will so humble the hearts of men that they will cry unto the Lord and he will lift them up and establish peace, lasting peace, on earth. The prince of Peace in charge, and with the government upon his shoulder, there shall be no end of peace. Then shall the people be led forth with peace and they shall rejoice and be glad.

The King is here and has begun his reign, and soon the people must take sides either for evil or for good. The great battle of Armageddon is approaching. Those of honest heart, who therefore possess a measure of good will, should be advised of God's plan that they may take the right course.

WARNED OF THE STORM

Graciously and lovingly our Father warned us of the storm coming upon the earth at the close of the age, to the end that we might be prepared for it, having our faith strong in him and in the power of his might. Wonderfully he has led us from time to time in greener pastures, and lovingly fed us upon the precious promises, giving us a clearer vision thereof, that we might grow stronger in him. Through his chosen servant, he time and again placed before us the meat in due season.

DOOR CLOSING—WINDS BLOWING

The evidence seems to point strongly to the fact that the door is closing. We are also seeing evidence of the winds being somewhat loosened, and these we may expect to be fully loosed and the great storm or whirlwind soon to be upon the world.

Glorious is the great Prince of Peace, taking unto himself his power to reign. Glorious his kingdom of peace and blessings to all who enter it; whose foundations, laid in justice, can never be moved; whose builder and designer is God. It is in the light which

will shine forth from this glorious kingdom of God that the nations and peoples of earth will walk up the highway of holiness, up to perfection and full harmony with God. By the eye of faith beholding the blessings that await us, with confidence and joy will we, by the Lord's grace endure for a little while, until we shall see him face to face.

With bated breath and joyful heart the watchers in Zion behold the closing of the harvest. Next the dark night, followed shortly by the glorious sunburst of everlasting happiness. Wonderful is the present privilege of the faithful watchers.

A WORD OF CAUTION

The door which by the way, our Lord calls a gate—represents the way of entrance into a certain condition or privilege. In this instance it represents entrance into the race for the prize of the heavenly calling to joint-heirship with Christ Jesus in his kingdom. That door opened at Pentecost. It must be closed some time. It must remain open until all the "wise virgins" have been sealed in their foreheads. While open, it means that those who enter have the blessed privilege of sacrificing and suffering, but such suffering as results from faithfully walking in the footsteps of the Master in loving devotion to the cause of righteousness, and in joyfully defending the truth, which is unpopular, and in exposing errors which are popular. It means a zealous and energetic promulgation of the truth as we have opportunity, at all hazards. It means to be true, loyal and faithful to the Lord under all conditions, even unto death. Such privileges are the greatest ever afforded to any creature. The ceasing of such privileges to any and all persons would seem to mark definitely the closing of the door. "The night cometh when no man can work." That time will mark the closing of the door.

THE GLORY OF THE WONDROUS PLAN

Full of rejoicing because of having come to a knowledge of the marvelous light now shining from the presence of our Redeemer, who has showed me the unfathomable riches of our heavenly Father's character through his glorious Plan of the Ages, I am writing you these few lines to express my sincere appreciation of the work the Lord has placed in your hands. Continually do I pray that he will bless you richly, filling you more

with his holy Spirit, in order that you may continue in the precious way which he has shown us and which, though strewn with difficulties and dangers of all kinds, is the most sublime way ever opened up, or ever to be opened.

Perhaps we shall very soon be compelled to give our testimonies with our lives, or rather with those of our Lord; for we have consecrated our lives unto death. How great will be the privilege of dying as loyal soldiers of the great Captain, not having rejected the teaching of the cross, but confessing before the blinded world the name of him who redeemed us from sin and death and whose we have been from birth! May the Lord give us grave and strength to die at the side of our Savior and our beloved brethren in the precious faith, so that thus we shall see one another face to face beyond the veil, having gained the crown of life and being forever freed from the power of Satan, of the world and our poor, weak, fallen nature!

I cannot find words with which to express to the Lord my deep gratitude for the "meat in due season" which he gave us!

THE TIME IS SHORT

The evidences daily increase that the "dark night" is fast settling down. The new dispensation is coming in. It seems appropriate, therefore, to announce the kingdom, and to call the people's attention to the fact that millions now living on earth may never die, because the "times of restitution" will soon begin.

When asked what would be the evidence of the end of the world (age), the great Master Teacher enumerated many things that would come to pass at that time, providing that we had reached the end of the world. He admonished his followers to watch the development of these evidences, telling them, "When these things begin to come to pass then look up, lift up your heads, for your deliverance draweth nigh." It seems fitting that we here, from time to time, make note of these events as they transpire, which were foretold by the Lord Jesus, that we might be strengthened in faith and hold fast that which we have received and be better prepared to enter into the kingdom.

Now all the nations called Christian are preparing for a war more terrible and bitter than ever was before known. A gruesome cloud appears on the horizon.

From all the leading nations in the four quarters of the earth come fleet upon fleet of airships bristling with guns fore and aft, above and beneath, and laden with bombs filled with poisonous gas and pestilential germs for the spreading of disease and death. No longer is malicious hatred or ill will in war limited to the fighting men aboard battleships and in the trenches, but now the purpose is to express it against every class in every walk of life. The women, the old men, the cripples, the infirm, the insane, the prisoners behind the bars, the deaf and dumb, the blind and halt, the defenseless children, yea, even the babes in the mother's arms, are now to be made victims of warfare. Killing is no longer to be confined to the armies facing each other on the battlefield, but whole cities with their millions of civilian population are to be wiped out in a few hours.

While the storm against God's little ones increase in fury, those who are anxious to see the heavenly Father's face are setting things of their house in order, that in due time they may be presented faultless before the presence of his glory. That will be the climax of all Christian experience. The child of God loves to contemplate that blessed time. At the moment of awakening in the morning, the first thought is: "Dear Father, keep me this day so near to thee that, if this be my last on earth, it may please thee to permit thy child to see thy glorious countenance." And when the day's tasks are done, when we have squared our accounts with the Lord and know that all is well, then, as we are folded in the embrace of sweet rest, our last thought is: "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness."

REVEALED IT UNTO BABES

The day approaches for the presentation of the bride before the throne of God, and the Apostle informs us that to Jesus is granted this honor. In vision we behold an innumerable company of angels assembled before the throne of the all-wise, all-loving, eternal God. The trumpets of the heavenly heralds announce the approach of the Bridegroom with his bride. Music of surpassing sweetness fills the heavenly courts. Behold the conquering Hero approaching with his bride upon his arm! All honor and praise is due to him. Every knee in heaven is bowing to him and every tongue is

singing his praise. He presents before God his bride whom he has redeemed and blest. She is garbed in her robes of glory and beauty; “her clothing is of inwrought gold. She shall be brought to the King in raiment of embroidered work.” Thus the prophet in symbol describes her immortality and inherent beauty. “Faultless before the presence of his glory, with exceeding joy,” shall he present his bride. Then the union is made complete.

THE BODY OF SIN TO BE DESTROYED

As I am sure the realization of our glorious hope is very near and I make ready to leave at any minute my beloved Master may call me, I want to thank you for all the grand spiritual blessings I have received during the many years I have enjoyed the wonderful truth. Oh, what would life have been if it were not for the truth, the light, the joy of the Lord! I am rejoicing because I see my deliverance draws near. I want to be faithful and strong in the Lord, no matter what shall be required of me.

JUST WHAT THE ADVERSARY DESIRES!

Amongst the subtle theories of the adversary, none seems more deceptive than Christian Science, falsely so called; for it is neither Christian nor scientific. Backed by the power of the evil one, it is able to promise its dupes that if they will affirm an untruth and stick to it, they shall have relief and cure of certain ailments and bodily afflictions. Those who have not learned to endure patiently all that the Lord permits them to experience in the way of pain and sickness—all that cannot be relieved by rational and reasonable methods—will be ready to accept almost any relief which the adversary may bring to their attention. And as they learn to deceive themselves in respect to pain and sickness, and gradually pervert words from their real meaning, and to ignore and deny facts, they become in time so confused in their minds that truth appears to them to be falsehood, and falsehood appears to be shining truth. These deluded ones are led into this deception partly through curiosity. It seems so strange to them to hear one say, “There is no death; all is life! There is no pain; all is health! There is no evil; all is good!” They say to themselves, “These statements are certainly very inconsistent, yet I am curious to know how people

reason them out. What is their philosophy?” This is just what the adversary desires. He wishes thus to attract their attention, that step by step he may lead them from one falsity to another, until the whole brain and conscience are subverted. They have accepted darkness for light, lies for truth. For this they are rewarded with physical relief—small recompense!

SPECIAL BRIDLES FOR THE TONGUE

We should be very careful in our use of language. If we were to say to the majority of people that we believe that only the elect will have immortality, they would misunderstand us altogether—they would misunderstand us to mean that all the remainder of humanity were to perish like brute beasts. Therefore we should be sure that we make the thought clearly understood. Everlasting life is a life that needs to be sustained; immortality is that divine degree of life that needs not to be sustained.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Truth, like a modest little flower in the wilderness of life, is surrounded and *almost* choked by the luxuriant growth of the weeds of error. If you would find it you must be ever on the lookout. If you would see its beauty you must brush aside the weeds of error and the brambles of bigotry. If you possess it you must stoop to get it. Be not content with *one* flower of truth. Had one been sufficient there would have been no more. Gather ever, seek for more.

NO PROVISION FOR GOD'S ENEMIES

Notice now that God has never purposed or promised blessings upon *willful enemies*. Eternal life and kingdom favors are not for such. Had all the race been such characters, no redemption and no restitution would have been provided. God foresaw, however, that many (the vast majority, we doubt not) would, after seeing clearly and in some degree experiencing both good and evil, right and wrong, and their respective consequences under God's law, be glad to recognize and serve God and the *right*—with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. It was because God foresaw these would-be *friends* in the Adamic race that for *such* he provided redemption and reconciliation through the blood of the crucified one.