
Coming Events in the Light of Prophecy

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A STUDENT of the Bible and one who closely watches world events recently challenged the ministry of the Church of God with these words: "It seems that the Bear of the North is about to awake, but on the wrong side of the fence. Come on, you watchmen, and tell us, 'What of the night?'" This question is in the minds of many, and should not be ignored by the shepherds of God's flock. It is a question that should be answered with definite proof from the inspired Record and from definite historical facts.

Russia in Prophecy

We shall first call attention to Ezekiel 38: 1-4, where we learn that the Lord is against Gog, the "chief prince of Meshech and Tubal." All Bible commentators seem to be agreed that Gog is prophetic of Russia. Meshech is said to be the prophetic word for Moscow—one of the chief cities and the capital of Russia. The prophetic Voice says: "I will turn thee back" (v. 4). In the last two hundred years, Russia has ten times attempted to gain the city of Constantinople. This has been unsuccessfully attempted since the days of Peter the Great, the greatest Czar that ever ruled the Russian people, who, before his death, left a will telling the Russian people how they could become masters of Europe and, possibly, the whole world. Among other things, he indicated they should gain possession of the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora, Constantinople, and the Dardanelles. These objectives gained, the Mediterranean Sea would become a great Russian lake. Since the day of Peter the Great, Russia has consistently tried to follow out his will, but so far the Bear of the North has failed to gain her objective.

The nearest Russia ever came to capturing Constantinople was in 1877. The Turks were then persecuting the Bulgarians — brutally

massacring thousands of them. Europe was otherwise at peace at the time. Russia proposed to the other nations that she, with their permission, would go down to stop the persecution. She was told to go. The Turks were defeated, and the Russians came within sight of Constantinople (now Istanbul). Lord Beaconsfield was premier of England at the time. The Russians saw the British battleships out in the Golden Horn, ready to defend the city. The Czar received a telegram signed by six European powers stating that the Russians should not enter the city, that the persecution had ceased, and that they would be amply repaid for their trouble. Russia had to withdraw and was never paid for the trouble and expense of the campaign. England took the Isle of Cyprus for her trouble. All this, however, is in the past. Now, what of the future of Russia, mighty Bear of the North?

The prophetic Voice again says: "I will . . . put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen (it is said that three fourths of the horses of the world are in Russia), all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company . . . all of them handling swords" (Ezekiel 38:4). (A recent news dispatch claims that the Russian Cavalry destroyed a whole detachment of Axis soldiers.) Verse 5 foretells that Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya will be with Russia. Persia is now under the domination of Russia. The British and King Haile Selassie's army have driven the Italians out of almost all of Ethiopia, and Germany (Italy's ally) has attacked Russia. This throws England and Russia together. Consequently, Ethiopia and Russia are against Germany — throwing Ethiopia (Abyssinia) and Russia together exactly as the Prophet Ezekiel foretold. No matter how the nations are lined up at one time, they always turn about

and do just what the Word of God says they will do.

Germany and Russia

Let us next consider "Gomer, and all his bands" (v. 6). Gomer is considered to refer to Germany. Thus, Gomer has already collected "his bands"—the countries he has overthrown. "Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands" (v. 6) probably refers to the "north quarters" of the Scandinavian countries.

Germany and Russia had a nonaggression pact signed some time ago, meaning they were pledged not to attack each other. Germany's invasion of Russia now shows how little dependence can be put in Hitler's word—or in any of the rest of them, for that matter. In Daniel 12:10 we read, "None of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." Also, in Isaiah 8:9, 10, we read: "Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, and it shall come to naught; speak the word, and it shall not stand." I recently heard over the radio that Germany and Russia were like two men sleeping peacefully together in one bed. Suddenly, they threw off the covers and grabbed each other by the throat.

The Devastating Confederacy

The sure word of prophecy foretells that a great confederacy of nations will swoop down upon Palestine when the Israelites have returned to their land. (Ezek. 38:1-12, 16.) The Turks held Palestine until General (now Lord) Allenby drove them out. Then the League of Nations gave England a mandate over that country for twenty-five years—commencing in 1922 and to end in 1947. True. England and Russia are now fighting against

Germany, but when Russia attacks Palestine it is almost certain that England and her allies will "kick the covers off" and resist Russia and her huge army.

Ezekiel prophesied of Gog and other devastating powers, saying: "Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud (many airplanes) to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: and thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and, having neither bars nor gates" (Ezek. 38:9-11). There are now in the land of Palestine more than three hundred unwalled villages, some of which are large cities. Tel Aviv, the largest of them, has a population of more than two hundred thousand. It is an all-Jewish city, where the Hebrew language is the language of its citizens. In Jerusalem there are more than one hundred thousand Jews, and they are dwelling safely because the Arab riots, which were caused by foreign propaganda, have ceased. The Arabs and Jews are now dwelling in harmony.

Continuing, we read, "To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish (England), with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (vv. 12, 13.) The "young lions thereof" would be her colonies, as: Australia, New

Zealand, India, Canada, and all the rest of them—possibly including the United States which was once a young lion, but in 1776 separated from the mother country.

The Spoils

As the land of Palestine is comparatively a very small country, the question naturally arises, What wealth is there in that small country that would cause a great army to invade it? Following are some figures given by the "New Palestine" in answer to that question. "Last year the land produced three hundred thirty-four thousand tons of threshed grain—corn, barley, wheat, and rye. In addition to this, the people would have exported forty million crates of oranges, and other citrus fruits, if there had been no war to prevent the shipments. The Dead Sea has long been considered a valueless expanse of salt water. Scientists, however, have discovered that it contains, in solution, all the salts and bromides which are found anywhere in the earth. A company has been formed, led by British and Jewish engineers, to remove these valuable products from the Sea. Men have dug shallow vats covering more than one thousand acres of land. The Sea water is run into these vats. In a short time the water evaporates, leaving a heavy deposit of the precious product. This is taken to large factories where the ingredients are separated, and there is a world market for the products. It is estimated that the Sea contains, in solution, at least \$1,270,000,000,000 worth of these precious substances—more valuable than all the resources of the United States of America. So, this may be the incentive that will cause Gog (Russia) and her huge army to come up against the "land of unwalled villages," where there are now more than five hundred fifty-five thousand Jews living under the protection of the British government.

Though England has not carried out all the terms of the Balfour Declaration, which gave the Jews the right to buy and settle in any part of Palestine, many thousands of young Jews from Palestine have joined the British forces and are fighting against the Axis Powers. The British government has not allowed the Jews to buy land east of the Jordan River (Transjordan) for fear of offending the Arabs of that land, although it was included in the Mandate. The Jews have protested against this action of the Mandate government, but they have been helpless to effect any change in the decision—just as they had no power to resist the barbarism of Adolf Hitler who, in his book “Mein Kampf,” declared that the Jews should be exterminated. (Please read Isaiah 51:17.)

“How Long Shall It Be?”

In every country that he has conquered, the Jews have received the same merciless, harsh treatment, robbery, and persecution. They are as “a wild bull in a net.” If the Jews struggle, the cords are drawn tighter until they become absolutely helpless at the mercy of their tormentors. Will this condition continue forever? The answer is found in Isaiah 51:22, 23, saying: “I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: but I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.”

The governments of the world see how the Axis Powers, with Hitler as their head, have conquered many nations in such a short time. They have been filled with fear that he desires world conquest; now that he has attacked Russia, they are sure of it. All the nations of the world are preparing for war in feverish

haste, as never before in the history of the world. Do we know what is going to happen—what the result of the conflict will be? Will all nations be involved? And, what will be the final result? These are questions which man, with all his wisdom, cannot answer. However, in the days of Daniel when Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, none of the king's wise men could tell his dream, but it was revealed to Daniel by the God of heaven. The God of Daniel is still in heaven, and He tells us in Amos 3:7: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." We read in 2 Peter 1:19-21, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. . . . For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The world is truly a dark place today (Isa. 60:2, 3), but we have God's promise of better days to come.

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napoleon Bonaparte with an army to conquer Egypt. The Egyptian army was no match for the French, so the Egyptians made only a feeble resistance. Napoleon took a number of their cities, including Alexandria, but he received word that the German and British armies were pressing the home forces too closely, and that he must return at once. So the mighty general had to withdraw his army from Egypt. A huge army of Turks had invaded Egypt, and Napoleon had to fight a rear-guard action to protect his army from them. The Turks took possession of Egypt, but the Sultan said to the Khidive of Egypt: "I do not care to rule over you, but if you will pay me an annual stipend of gold, silver, barley, and corn, I will withdraw my army, and you may rule yourselves." This agreement was made, and Egypt paid this annual stipend to Turkey until 1914, when in the first World War it seemed uncertain for a time which way the Turks would go—whether with the Allies or with the Central Powers. England then compelled Egypt to cease those annual payments to the Turks.

Going back further in history, we would mention that after the death of Alexander the Great his kingdom was divided among his four leading generals: Seleucus had the north-east portion, and was known as "King of the North," while Ptolemy had Egypt, and the balance of the territory once held by Alexander was divided between Lysimachus and Cassander. Later, the Turks conquered the territory that had been held by Seleucus, and from that time forward the Turkish government, in accord with the prophecy of Daniel, was known as the "King of the North." In Daniel 11:38, we read of a king of whom it is said, "In his estate shall he honour the God of forces (the God of munitions, marg.)." In verse 39 we read that he "shall divide the land for gain."

Napoleon Bonaparte was ambitious to conquer the world, and, like Adolf Hitler, he invaded Russia with a large French army. The Russians retreated before him, but they burned the towns and cities behind them. The French army soon ran out of supplies and had to retreat. It was winter. Many of the French soldiers perished of cold and hunger, and wolves devoured many of those who wandered away from the main body. The Russian army followed the retreating army, and the retreat became a rout. However, Napoleon, all undaunted, hurried back to France. He had no funds to further carry on the war, so he confiscated the estates of the nobles, who at that time owned the greater part of France in the form of large estates. Napoleon sold the land in small tracts to the common people. In this way he secured funds to further carry on his wars of conquest. It was a blessing for the peasantry to secure homes of their own, instead of being tenants of the former owners of the land. Thus, he did "divide the land for gain," as the Prophet said he would.

In Daniel 11:40 we read: "At the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him," which, as already stated, was Egypt, whose resistance to the French army was very feeble. "The king of the north shall come against him"—the Sultan of Turkey and his invading army. After the Turks had conquered Egypt, they pressed their war of conquest into Europe, but were finally checked in Austria by united European armies.

The Prophet said that he would enter into the countries, and "overflow, and pass through." Moreover, "He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown." In 1798 the Turks captured Palestine ("the glorious land"), which clearly identifies Turkey as the King of the north. He also, as already noted, took over Egypt,

and put that land under tribute, fulfilling the words: "He shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps" (v. 43). The Prophet further told, however: "Tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he (the Turk) shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many" (v. 44). Though the Turk is said to be a good neighbor and normally of a good disposition, when aroused by imaginary or real wrongs, or by religious fanaticism, he becomes a fiend incarnate, and spares neither age, sex, nor conditions—as proved by the Armenian atrocities, and other massacres of innocent peoples, which caused him to receive the name of "The bloody Turk."

Turkey's Fall at Jerusalem

In Ezekiel 38, we read that Persia will be one of the countries which will come with Russia against the land of Palestine. Persia is east of the present capital of Turkey, Ankara, and Russia is due north of Ankara, just across the Black Sea. The Turks claim to have two million men under arms to resist any enemy who may attempt to take from them a foot of their land. What will happen to the Turk is prophesied in Daniel 11:45: "He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace (his capitol) between the seas (the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea) in the glorious holy mountain (Mount Zion); yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." When Gog and all his allies come down from the North against the Holy Land, Great Britain and her provinces and the United States will resist them. Who could or would help the Turk, when he had just gone "forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many" (v. 44).

When the Turk comes to his end at Jeru-

salem, what will then happen? The first four verses of Daniel 12 tell us: "At that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people." Who were Daniel's people here mentioned by the angel? Daniel was an Israelite according to the flesh, but he was also a member of the body of Christ (the saints) which includes the faithful from righteous Abel to those living at the second coming of the Lord. "There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

The Book of Life

Daniel here spoke of the book, a particular book that has no counterpart, of which there is only one in existence. In Exodus 32:32, 33 we read, "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." What book is the Lord keeping in which the names of His people are recorded? In Revelation 3:5 we read, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." In Philippians 4:3, the Apostle Paul spoke of his "fellow-labourers, whose names are in the book of life." Where is that book in which the names of the righteous are written? Jesus said, "Rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). What will become of those whose names are not written in this book? Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15). How important, then, that your name and mine should be recorded

in the book of life in heaven, and how important it is to keep it there by living a true Christian life! There is no place in the Bible where it tells that there is a book being kept where the names of the children of Israel, according to the flesh, are being kept.

So, Daniel must have been referring to those whose names are written in the book of life, when he said: "Every one that shall be found written in the book." What follows in the next verse confirms that conclusion. "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (12:2). Some have concluded that because the two classes are mentioned as coming up in the same sentence, that both the righteous and the wicked will come up at the same time, but in Revelation 20:4-6 we find it stated, speaking of the righteous: "They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished (the rest of the dead would be the rejected ones of the human family). Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." This proves conclusively that none of the wicked will be resurrected at the first resurrection.

Reward and Punishment

Now, returning to Daniel 12:3, we read: "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." What a glorious reward is in store for the humble, faithful Christian who meekly follows in the steps of the Master, refusing to take part in anything that is contrary to God's Word, though he might forfeit this present life by doing so! (Read Matthew 16:24-27.)

Let us now turn back to Ezekiel 38:18-20, where it is written: "It shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come up against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; so that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground." In the business part of the city of New York it is estimated that there are as many people going up and down in elevators, as there are thronging the streets. It would be impossible to estimate the loss of life, not only in New York, but in any large city, when "every wall shall fall to the ground." Now, what will happen to Gog when these terrible shakings occur? "I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone" (vv. 21, 22). How many of this vast army of Gog will escape death? The Prophet Isaiah said: "Come near, ye nations, to hear: and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly **destroyed** them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with

their blood. . . . For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion" (34:1-3, 8). So every man that goes into that army will lose his life.

Will the present conflict involve all nations of the world? This is a question which man cannot answer, but the Word of God gives the answer to that question. Read Jeremiah 25:15 to the end of the chapter. The Lord gave to Jeremiah the "wine cup of this fury," saying: "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" (vv. 15, 16). Jeremiah said: "Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me: to wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day."

In Ezekiel 21:25-27 we read: "Thou profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him." The Lord sent the Prophet Ezekiel to the king of Judah, Zedekiah, with the foregoing message. Chapter 22 gives the reasons why Jerusalem was to be destroyed, and the kingdom to be overturned "until he come whose right it is."

In Jeremiah 39, we have an account of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem. The great majority of the people were carried away to Babylon, where they were kept in captivity until the days of Cyrus, the king of Persia. He granted the Jews, under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, to return to the

Holy Land and rebuild the city, the walls of the city, and the Temple. However, since the days of Zedekiah, the last king to sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem, the Jews have had no king of their own, but they have been ruled by Gentile kings.

In 70 A.D. Titus, the Roman general, besieged Jerusalem, during which siege one million one hundred thousand Jews were slain, and the city was destroyed, and the rest of the Jews were sold as slaves and dispersed throughout the world. This was a fulfillment of Amos 9:9, saying: "Lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth." The ten northern tribes had been carried away by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, 721 B.C., after their capital city was besieged and taken, following a siege of three years. Samaria was taken during the reign of Hoshea, the king of Israel. The king of Assyria carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt" (2 Kings 17: 6, 7). Today, they are known as the ten lost tribes of Israel. They await their promised King.

Who is to be Israel's future King of whom it is said, "It (the Kingdom) shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him"? The answer is found in both the Old and New Testaments.

Jesus, the Coming King

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the

increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Who is this child that was to be born to Israel, who was to "reign over the house of Jacob for ever"? In Luke 1:26-33 we find the answer. The Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary, a virgin "espoused" to Joseph. "The angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." So, Jesus is the one who is to restore the throne of David, and the one who will restore the Kingdom to Israel.

When will that throne be restored? When will Jesus reign over the house of Jacob? "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" (Matt. 25:31). So, when Jesus comes He will restore that throne and the Kingdom of Israel, and will "reign over the house of Jacob for ever."

All Nations Will Drink

The prophecy concerning Jerusalem and her people, the Jews, the first nation to drink of the "cup of fury from the Lord," will be literally fulfilled and finished when Jesus comes. We can be sure, though, that as literally as the Jews are being punished, whatever is said about the other nations drinking of that cup will also happen to them. God mentioned Egypt, Jeremiah 25:19, as being the next nation to drink of the cup of His fury. Then,

He named many other nations who will drink of the cup, and in verse 26 we read, "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: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them."

The question naturally arises, If all the kingdoms upon the face of the earth drink of that cup of fury, who then is **Sheshach** who is to drink after them? The term is used only once in all the rest of the Bible, in Jeremiah 51:41, where it is applied to Babylon. The term has the same meaning as Babel or Babylon, that is, confusion or tumult. The king of Sheshach would refer, therefore, to the leader of a great tumult or confusion that will come upon the armies of the nations when they drink of the cup of fury from the Lord.

In Jeremiah 25:27-29, we read about the effect drinking of the cup of fury will have on all the nations. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, 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 upon 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." From these statements, we can be certain that the present conflict will spread until all nations of the earth are engaged in the deadly conflict. So, once more the world will be "filled with violence as it was in the days of Noah (Gen. 6:11).

"As It Was in the Days of Noe"

In Matthew 24:37-42, we have a comparison between the days of Noah and the days

to precede the coming of Jesus. "As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." In Mark 13:36, Jesus added, "Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping."

Noah built an ark: "Being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." If he had failed to obey God, and had not built the ark, he would have been drowned as were the other people of the world. Now, "perilous times" of the "last days" are here (2 Tim. 3:1). Men are "lovers of their own selves." Has not God warned us, and provided a way by which we can escape these perils of the last days? In 1 Peter 3:20, 21, we read that as "few, that is eight souls were saved by water" in Noah's day, salvation is now provided for those who accept the gospel—Noah's salvation being "the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." As Noah warned the wicked people of his time that the Flood was coming, the true ministry today warns of Christ's coming to judge the earth. Baptism into Christ is the present ark of safety. Someone might ask, "How do you know that Noah warned the people of his day that the Flood was coming?" In 2 Peter 2:5 we read that God "spared not

the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." This "preacher of righteousness" showed his faith in God's Word by building the ark while he was warning the people. Later, the ark floated upon the surface of the water, and so saved the "eight souls" from drowning; but all others perished by the water.

"Repent and Be Baptized"

If Noah and his family were saved by the ark, what will now save men from the destruction that is coming upon the world? Peter's reply is: "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us." Then, it is an absolute necessity for one to be baptized to be saved—as necessary as it was for Noah to enter the ark.

Baptism, though, is not all that is necessary for one's salvation? In Hebrews 11:6 we read, "Without faith it is impossible to please him (God)." Then, in James 2:20 it is written, "Faith without works is dead." So we must have both faith and works. Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16). Thus, one cannot be saved without believing the gospel. In Acts 8:12 we read, "When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." So, there is something very definite in which one must believe before he is baptized. He must believe in the prophecies about the coming Kingdom!

In Acts 2:38 the Apostle Peter, when the Jews cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" said to them: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." So, to repent is also necessary to salvation. Ananias

said to Paul, "Now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Then, in order to be saved, one must believe the gospel of the Kingdom of God and in the things that relate to the name of Jesus Christ, he must repent of his sins, and be baptized for the remission of his sins.

Christian Growth

What is one to do next? Beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:5-11). These are the characteristics which one must cultivate to be successful in the race for eternal life. If they are not built into his character he will fail to gain an entrance into the Kingdom of God.

Escaping God's Wrath Upon the Nations

The Flood did not commence until seven days after Noah went into the ark. We believe the saints will likewise be in a place of security when the Battle of Armageddon is fought, in which Battle the armies of the world will be destroyed.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 we read of the coming of the Lord from heaven "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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." This describes the resurrection of the righteous dead, and the translation of the righteous living. They will arise "to meet the Lord in the air."

Now, let us turn to Isaiah 26:19-21, where we read of the resurrection of the same class, the righteous: "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust, for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." The next verses tell us what the Lord will say to the saints when they meet Him in the air: "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity."

So, the saints will stay in this place of refuge, between heaven and earth, "a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." How long this "little moment" will be, during which "the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth," is not revealed, but the saints will stay there until the punishment is finished.

The Wrath of God

Now, we shall see how the Lord will punish the people on the earth, and the result of that punishment. Turn to Revelation 19:11-13, where we read: "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. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his

head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God." In John 1:14 we read, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us," so the expression, "the Word of God," refers to Jesus. "The armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And 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 on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh" (vv. 14-21). These passages clearly teach the absolute destruction of the armies of the world, which armies will resist the Lord when He comes.

Who are they that will compose the "armies of heaven," who will come with Jesus? We find the answer in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10: "To you who are troubled rest with us, 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: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe . . . in that day." So, the angels of heaven are the ones who will compose the army which will come to the earth and destroy the armies of the world.

In speaking of the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the righteous dead, we read in 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3: "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." When the Armistice was signed November 11, 1918, the world shouted with joy, many claiming there would be no more wars in a thousand years, and that all disputes would be settled by arbitration. The League of Nations was formed, and the Kellogg Pact was entered into, but today we can see how futile all of men's efforts have been to maintain peace among the nations. God's Word has said: "Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly" (Isa. 33:7).

We read in Zephaniah 1:14-18: "The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: The mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and **thick darkness**, a day of

the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." These verses need only little comment. The distress and trouble we see coming upon the world is because of the sinfulness of the people—they have forgotten God, and are destroying one another. In the place of sending a flood of water, as in the days of Noah, these evil conditions are coming upon the people of the world.

Again, in Zephaniah 3:6-9 we read what the Lord intends to do with the nations of the world: "I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant. I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, and corrupted all their doings. Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent."

In Zephaniah 2:1-3, the Lord gives advice to His people, telling them how they should conduct themselves in these evil times to be

under His protecting care: "Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." Isaiah has already told us where they will be hid, when they arise to meet the Lord in the air (Isa. 26:19, 20).

Before the saints are caught away to meet the Lord in the air, all nations will be engaged in a world war. Great Britain and her allies will attempt to hold back Gog (Russia, Germany, and all their allied forces) from invading the land of Palestine. (Ezek. 38:10-16; Dan. 12:1-3; Jer. 25:29; Gen. 6:11; Luke 21:25-27.)

Herod, a Type

The Wise Men came from the East, following the star of Bethlehem which guided them to where Jesus was born, and they came "to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matt. 2:1, 2). When Herod the king heard these things, "he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he

sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also" (vv. 3-8). When they found the child, and offered their gifts, "being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way" (v. 12). Joseph was also warned in a dream, so he took the child and its mother and departed into Egypt.

Why was Herod so anxious to find out just where the young child was? Did he really desire to worship Jesus? We find the following account in Matthew 2:16: "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men." An estimate has been made of the number of little children that were slain by order of Herod. It is placed, in the least, at twenty thousand. What was his object in having so many little children slain? He believed the little Child, if allowed to live, would take his position as ruler in Judea. Although Herod believed enough in the Scriptures to go to the priests to find out where Christ was to be born, he thought he could thwart God's plan of having Christ rule Judea by destroying Him when He was only a little child.

The foregoing is a type of what the present rulers of the world will do when they learn that living righteous people have disappeared instantly, Jesus having prophesied: "Two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left" (Matt. 24:40, 41). How quickly will the one disappear who is taken? "In a moment, in the twinkling of an

eye, at the last trump" (1 Cor. 15:52). There will then be no time for a change of character, so the Saviour warns: "Watch . . . lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping" (Mark 13:35-57).

The rulers of the world will then learn from the Scriptures, and from those who faithfully believed in His coming and who were, therefore among those rejected, that Christ's judgment will soon begin. Christ is coming "with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds" (Jude 1:14, 15). "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth" (Psalm 72:8). "The Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. . . . In that day . . . the Lord shall be king over all the earth" (Zech. 14:5-9). "Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously" (Isa. 24:23). So, the nations will soon know—in these days of radios and telephones—that Christ and His saints are to rule the world in righteousness, and that "in the days of these kings, the God of heaven shall 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" (Dan. 2:44).

A Plea to the Nations

Let us now turn to Psalm 2:1-9 to learn what effect this knowledge will have upon the warring nations. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away

their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. . . . Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potters' vessel."

Strong nations are today fighting for territory. When they learn that the object of Christ's coming is to be King over all the earth, they will cease fighting against each other and "imagine a vain thing" (Psalm 2: 1), namely, that they can overcome Christ by uniting all their forces against Him. They will learn from the Scriptures that He is coming to the Mount of Olives, the very place from which he ascended when He was here before. (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:12.)

Nations, Beware of Jerusalem!

So, in Zechariah 12:2, 3, 8, 9 we read: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. . . . In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."

Let us see what the result of the conflict will be, as told in Zechariah 14:1-5: "Behold,

the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. (See Judges 7.) 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; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee."

In Isaiah 26:20 we learned that when the saints arise to meet the Lord in the air, they will be told: "Enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." The armies of the world will be destroyed when Jesus comes to the earth with His saints.

In Zechariah 14:8, 9, we read: "It shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former ("eastern," in margin) sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one." The next verses further tell us how the armies are to be destroyed. "This shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people

that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour. And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague. And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles" (14:12-19).

It is an established fact, that it never rains in the land of Egypt, but up at the head of the Nile River, in Abyssinia, there are torrential rains. This water comes down the Nile River, and as the River rises, the people move back, and as it recedes, they follow up, and plant their crops. The British have built the Assuan Dam near the point where the River forms a delta, just above where it divides into seven streams; so if there is not

sufficient rise in the River, they can close the dam and raise the River to any height desired. Nevertheless, all this work of man will avail nothing, unless there is worship of the Lord.

In Revelation 14:19, 20, in giving the results of the battle of Armageddon, we read in verse 20, "The winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs" (or a river of blood two hundred miles long). Can anyone feature such destruction as that? God's Word, though, always proves to be true. Jesus said, in praying to the Father for His disciples, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

In Jeremiah 25:31-33 we read: "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 end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." In Ezekiel 39:4, 9, 10, we read of the doom of the armies which fight against the Lord when He comes: "Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. . . . They that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years. So that they shall take no wood

out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord God." In verse 12, we read of the bones being buried in the valley of Hamongog. "Seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land." Read the balance of the chapter, where it shows that the house of Israel is gathered back unto their land, and settled there.

Jesus Will Reign in Jerusalem

Will the Lord, personally, dwell in Jerusalem? Some deny that He will. Please, let us read from Zechariah 8:3: "Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth." In Matthew 5:35, we are told to not swear "by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King." Then in Joel 3:20, 21, we read: "Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion."

What will be the conditions upon the earth during Christ's reign of one thousand years (Rev. 20:4, 5)? David prophesied: "He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire" (Psalm 46:9). Isaiah likewise prophesied: "Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish (England; thus, she will not lose all of her ships in the present conflict) first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for

in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. (Isaiah is here speaking of the city of Jerusalem.) Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces (wealth) of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted" (Isa. 60:9-12). Read all the chapter.

In Isaiah 11:6-9, we have a good view of the conditions during the reign of Christ and His saints on the earth: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the coatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain (kingdom): for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

What a beautiful picture of contentment and real happiness is here portrayed! No more wars among men! The animal creation will dwell at peace, one with another—even the poisonous reptiles, vipers, all deadly creeping things, and stinging insects will no longer be harmful. Surely that will be paradise restored!

In Luke 19:10 Jesus said: "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." What did Adam lose by sinning? First, though, let us consider what was given to him when he was created? "God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over

the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:26).

Jesus Will Remove the Curse

The earth and all the animal creation is now in revolt against man, and the man himself is subject to death. Not only did the man who sinned lose his life, but his posterity was included in the death sentence. The sentence pronounced upon Adam was, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:17-19). In Romans 5:12 we find how death came upon mankind: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Death not only is passed upon all men, but also upon the whole animal creation. Even the ground is cursed; so trees, flowers, and all the products of the ground are subject to decay and death.

Christ will redeem all from this curse, however, as it is written: "Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 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. 9:26-28). "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Then, those who believe in Christ will receive everlasting life, and those who do not believe in Him will perish. If

Jesus had not taken our sins upon Himself, we would all have perished. In the sentence on Adam, there was no future life promised—he would simply “return unto the ground.” What, then, has the death and the resurrection of Jesus secured for the family of Adam? We read in 1 Corinthians 15:21-23: “Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.” The expression, “every man in his own order,” is a military phrase, and means, in his own band or company. The phrase, “as in Adam all die,” we know means the whole race, but to every rule there may be exceptions, and this one has exceptions.

In Hebrews 11:5 we read, “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death.” Elijah, too, was translated in the days of the prophets of Israel. (2 Kings 2:11.) Jesus said to Martha in John 11:26: “Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” He was speaking to her of those who would be living when He returns to the earth, at the time of the resurrection of the just. (1 Thess. 4:17; Acts 24:15).

In John 5:28, Jesus said: “All that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” Here is mention of two resurrections. In Revelation 20:4-6, in speaking of the resurrection of the righteous, John said: “They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead (the unworthy ones) lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of

Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." The rest of the dead would refer to all who had ever lived and died. It would mean that every one of Adam's race will live again after the first death. In proof of this statement, let us turn to Romans 5:18, saying: "Therefore as by the offence of one (Adam) judgment came upon all men to condemnation (resulting in the first death); even so by the righteousness of one (Christ), the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life"—clearly proving that every one of Adam's family will live again.

Jesus Will Restore the Davidic Throne

In Matthew 19:27, 28, the Apostle Peter asked Jesus a question: "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me (in this life), in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Men are generated into life by natural birth, and death takes life away. Then "in the regeneration" would mean, when we live again at the resurrection day. That will be the time when the apostles will "sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

If the apostles are to judge the twelve tribes of Israel, when will the tribes be gathered out from among the nations where they are scattered? Will it be before or after the coming of the Lord? and if after, what will be the conditions in the world when they are gathered back to their own land? That they will be gathered back is abundantly proved by passages in both Old and New Testaments. (See Ezek. 36; 37; Luke 1:32, 33; Rom. 11:25-27; Rev. 7:1-8.)

Hosea 3:4, 5 reads: "The children of Israel shall abide many days without a king,

and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days." Likewise, in Jeremiah 32:37, 38 we read, "Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place. and I will cause them to dwell safely: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God."

Could there be any better proof than these testimonies from God's Word? We see some of the Jews, more than 550,000, are now in the land of Palestine, but this is only a tithe of what the land could support, when properly tilled. The rebuilding of the Kingdom indicates the coming of the King, as we read: "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory" (Psalm 102:16).

In Isaiah 11, we read of the conditions that will be brought to pass upon the earth under the rule of Jesus and His saints when He shall be King over all the earth. "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day shall there be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious" (vv. 9, 10).

The Regathering of Israel

When the Kingdom of God has been fully established upon the earth, "it shall come to pass . . . that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time (the first time was from Egypt in the days of Moses) to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and

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from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel (the ten tribes), and gather together the dispersed of Judah (Judah and Benjamin) from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dry shod. And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt" (Isa. 11:11-16).

Here we have a perfect view of the restoration of the whole house of Israel: the two tribes, designated by the term "Judah," and the ten tribes by the term "Ephraim," or Israel. So, we can clearly see that while a small portion of Judah has now returned to the Promised Land, as we read they would do (Ezek. 38), the great regathering of the twelve tribes to the land will be after the Lord has perfectly established His Kingdom on the earth.

In Ezekiel 20:33-38, we learn that the Lord will not lead the now scattered people of Israel directly into the Promised Land, but, as in the days of Moses, He will take them through a course of training and discipline. "As I live, saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over

you: and I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people and there will I plead with you, face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord God. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: and I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord."

We read, moreover, "In mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God; there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered: and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers. And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings. O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord God" (Ezek. 20:40-44).

From these verses we learn that the whole house of Israel is now scattered among the nations, and will be brought out from among them; definitely proving that no nations on earth are now Israel, or any part of it; for Israel is scattered among them. "The Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other: and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but, the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: and thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life" (Deut. 28:64-66).

Zion's Peace and Exaltation

In Micah 4:1-8, a beautiful picture is presented, showing conditions to be on the earth when Jesus comes. "In the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. . . . In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halt-

eth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; and I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion: the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem."

Here, again, we learn by the Scriptures that the complete restoration of Israel will be after all wars have ended, when the world is in peace and security, as it was in the Garden of Eden before the fall of man. Every man will have a home where he can raise his living with no fear of it being taken from him. Then "all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." (Isa. 11:9; Num. 14:21). Then "the kingdoms of this world (will have) become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Gross Darkness to Precede the Day

Today, the very opposite conditions prevail upon the earth. Jesus prophesied there would be "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: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:25-27). So, we must be on the threshold of that time.

When men fear danger, and there seems to be no other way of escape, the natural thing for them to do is to provide weapons and arm men to resist the enemy. That is what the whole world is doing today. Man is "making" business, and the chief business is found in huge manufacturing plants where men turn

out war materials in the greatest possible speed. Millions of men are being trained for war: in the army, in the navy, in the air, and even under the sea—to destroy their fellow men who are engaged in the same business to destroy their fellow men! Millions of men are now engaged in mortal combat, where not only the men of war, but thousands of non-combatants—men, women, and children—are being slaughtered by explosives showered down from the heavens, upon cities and towns. Men are mining the seas with deadly explosives, and sinking thousands of vessels with the deadly submarines. Such is a very mild picture of war, as it is being waged today by the leading nations of the world. So dreadful is the situation that many of the Bible writers were inspired to warn God's people of its coming, and to tell the results.

“Multitudes in the Valley of Decision”

In Joel 3:9-21, we read: “Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare (or sanctify, or make a business of) war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the

heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord . . . Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land. But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion.”

The Lamb Will Be the Lion

Judging from what the prophets have said, God has left man in control of the earth about as long as He intends to do so. Man has shown his unfitness to rule over his fellow man, so God intends to send His Son to this world to bring peace and order out of the present chaotic condition that now exists. Soon the Lamb will reign as the Lion.

In Daniel 2:44 it is expressed in this way: “In the days of these kings (our present rulers) the God of heaven shall 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 for ever.” This will be the fifth universal kingdom on earth. Those that preceded it were: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The Roman Empire was divided into ten kingdoms by the year 476 A.D., and many of them have been subdivided since that time, yet in the Scrip-

tures they are reckoned as ten kingdoms till the end of their history under mortal rulers.

We find this truth further indicated in Revelation 17:12, which reads: "The ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet: but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings."

"Seducing Spirits"

In 1848, in the city of Rochester, New York, there lived a family by the name of Fox. In this family there were three sisters, afterward everywhere known as the Fox Sisters. They were the leaders in spirit manifestations in modern times. They were supposed to receive messages from people who had died; first, by spirit rappings; then by independent slate writing where the spirit, all invisible, would guide the hand of the writer; then by seances, when the medium would be locked up in a cabinet, and the spirit would appear in material form before the audience to answer questions anyone would ask. In a short time the movement became very popular, and seances were held all over the United States. It spread to other countries, and multitudes of the people consulted spirit mediums for information and advice concerning their affairs in life: business, marriage, and other things of vital interest. It soon spread to certain rulers of governments. They held seances, and had spirits dictate their policy of dealings with other countries.

In 1870, Louis Napoleon sent to the United States, having nine American mediums come to Paris. A seance was held in the royal palace. Louis Napoleon wanted to know whether or not he should make war on Germany at

that time. The spirit answered, "Yes! Now is the time; you will be successful." Emperor William of Germany heard what Napoleon had done; so he sent to the United States and had some mediums come to Berlin. The spirits told him that he would be successful, that he would humiliate Napoleon Bonaparte. So the War of 1870 between France and Germany was fought. France was defeated. The spirits told Emperor William the truth, but they lied to Napoleon. Today, it is said that the policy of the rulers of the world is largely dictated by communications from the spirit world. What is the world doing today? Every nation on earth is prostrating all of its resources in preparation for war—making that its chief business.

Where do these mediums get their information? Does it come from God, or from some other source? For an answer, let us turn to the "sure word of prophecy" which tells us: "The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the waters thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. . . . There were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell:

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and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found" (Rev. 16:12-20).

In Haggai 2:6, 7, we read, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while and I will shake the heavens, and the earth and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come. . . . In this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts."

A Shaking—Then the Millennium

What a dark picture for the wicked nations is here given as the result of man's misrule and wickedness on the earth! The nations deserve a "shaking." We have seen how impotent man is to bring peace to the world! World conditions are getting worse, and will continue to do so until the Lord comes. When Jesus comes, He will reward His faithful servants by first giving them eternal life, as promised in 1 John 2:25: "This is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life"—to be given "at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:14). To one, Christ will say, "Because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities." To another who was faithful, but had done less, He will say, "Be thou also over five cities." (Luke 19:1, 7-19.) In harmony with those promises is the one in Revelation 3:21: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

How long will Jesus reign? "He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Cor. 15:26). Then death is not a friend in disguise, as is sometimes claimed!

How long will the saints reign with Him? Throughout the Millennium! "They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4). Where did they reign with Him? "We shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 5:9, 10.) How beautifully all parts of the Bible harmonize when it is "rightly" divided! (2 Tim. 2:15.)

What changes will be made in the earth, itself, during the one thousand years of Christ's reigning with His saints? We have already mentioned some of them, but here are others: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice; and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon 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" (Isa. 35:1, 2). (Please read the chapter.)

In Isaiah 55:13 we read: "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier, shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." The Apostle Paul tells us, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:9, 10).

The Saints to Be Like Christ

Jesus said, "They which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection" (Luke 20:35, 36). In this mortal state of existence, the blood is the life of every creature, including man. (Gen. 9:4; Lev. 17:14; Acts 15:29.) (Therefore, in all

ages man has been forbidden to eat blood.) In the resurrection life, man will be born of the Spirit of God, and will be a spiritual being like Christ. In 1 John 3:2, 3, we read, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God. (by begetting; 1 Cor. 4:15), and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. Every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

What was Jesus like after His resurrection? He asked the disciples: "Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet" (Luke 24:38-40). He also ate a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb," proving that He was the same Jesus whom the disciples had seen nailed to the cross.

When Jesus first appeared unto the apostles after His resurrection, Thomas was not with them. When they told him that they had seen the Lord, he said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). After eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then said he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, "My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me (not a body he had manufactured for the occasion), thou hast believed: blessed are they that have

not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20: 26-29).

Thus, in the resurrected state, God's people will have flesh and bones, the same as Jesus had after His resurrection.

The Binding of Satan

It has been said, "It is a shrewd device of the Devil to persuade the world that there isn't any." In Revelation 20:1-3, John 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."

Next, John saw the righteous dead live again, and "they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." During this time Satan is to be bound. Now, if Satan is only sin in the flesh, and if he is to be bound during the thousand years, there should be no sin during that time. In Isaiah 65:20, however, the Prophet telling the length of life among the mortal nations upon the earth, said: "There shall be no more thence and infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner, being an hundred years old shall be accursed." So, there will be sin during the thousand years, and so-called "sin in the flesh" could not be Satan.

At the close of the thousand years, Satan will be released from "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. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Rev. 20:7-10).

The term "for ever" does not always mean eternal or unending duration, but, sometimes, it is qualified by the connection in which it is used. In this case the qualifying term is "day and night." Will day and night cease? If so, the torment will also cease, for the torment was to continue "day and night, for ever and ever." In Revelation 22:5, we read, "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 for ever and ever." In Revelation 5:10, we learn that they "shall reign on the earth." In Revelation 20:4 it says, "They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." So the "for ever and ever" is limited by the period of time—a thousand years. A still shorter time where the term "for ever" is used is in Jonah 2:6. After the "great fish" had swallowed Jonah, he said: "I went down to the bottom of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever." He was in the whale's belly "three days and three nights" (Matt. 12:40).

In Psalm 37:10, 20, we read, "Yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be . . . the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away." In 1 Corinthians 3:17, the Apostle said: "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy." Also, "The wages of sin is death (not torment);

but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Judgment

In Revelation 20:11 we read, "I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." In Isaiah 2:19-21 we read: "They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth." So, when the Lord appears in the presence of men, they will be filled with fear. In Isaiah 34:1 we read: "Come near, ye nations to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come of it." Here, the earth and the world are called upon to hear, meaning, of course, the people and nations dwelling on the earth, and not the earth itself. Likewise, 2 Peter 3:6, speaking of the effect of the Flood, says, "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." What was it that perished? The literal earth? Genesis 7:21, 22 tells us, "All flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: all in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land died." Hence, "the earth and the heaven" of Revelation 20:11 refers to beings, not to places.

The balance of Revelation 20 has reference to the second resurrection, the judgment scene, and the final result to those then resurrected from the dead: which will include the wicked of all ages of the world's history and those who were righteous during the one-thousand-year reign of Christ and His saints, but who died at the age of one hundred years. (See Isa. 65:20.)

Kingdom Probation

Probation will be extended to the mortal nations of the earth during the one-thousand-year reign, as shown in Acts 15:14-17, where we read: "Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, after this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down: and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: **that the residue of men** (those who are left here upon the earth after the Battle of Armageddon) **might seek after the Lord**, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things." This probation will apply to those only who will be alive during the thousand years, as none will be raised from the dead between the first and second resurrections. This life is given us to prepare for eternity, and no future probation is promised to one beyond this life.

In Proverbs 11:7, 8 we read: "When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth. The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead." Also, in 2 Corinthians 6:2, the Apostle said: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

The Second Death

The next verses of Revelation 20 read: "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works—(that is, according to what they had done in this life). And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (the grave) delivered up the dead which

were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works—(for what they had done in this life). And death and hell (the grave) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” The first death comes upon man because of Adam’s sin, but if one dies the second time, it will be because of his own sins.

In Jude 1:12, in speaking of the fate of the wicked, we read: “Trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.” Then the second death is final; there is no hope beyond it. “Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:15). “He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (2:11). So, the second death will be the final result to all the rejected ones of Adam’s family.

Where will be the place of execution? where will the second death be inflicted? We have already found that it will be after the day of judgment, at the end of the one-thousand-year reign of Christ and His saints. Now, where will it be? In Psalm 37:9 it says, “Evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.” Obviously, sinners will be destroyed on the earth, not in an underground oven. “The upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it” (Prov. 2:21, 22).

Literal Fire

Let us turn to 2 Peter 3:5, 6, where we read of the Flood in the days of Noah. God, through Noah, warned the wicked world that it would come unless they repented. They did not repent, so the Flood came and they were

all destroyed, except those who were in the ark—"whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." The Flood was a type of something that is coming upon the earth in the future, and Peter in verse 7 tells us what it is: "The heavens and the earth, which are now (as we see them today), by the same word (by the Word of God) are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." As surely as the Flood covered the whole earth and drowned all the ungodly and disobedient in it, there will be a flood of fire in which all ungodly and disobedient will be destroyed. "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away (the atmospheric heavens around the earth) 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" (2 Peter 3:10). The fire will destroy not only every mortal creature in it, but will also burn the thorns and the thistles and their seed, which the Flood of water did not do. The curse pronounced upon the earth because of Adam's transgression will be removed, and the earth will be pure.

Beware of a Forked Tongue

The Apostle gave the following admonition concerning the conduct of Christians who know these things: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?**" How important, then, that the Christian should be careful that his conversation is above reproach! In Matthew 12:36 Jesus said: "I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy

words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." "How forcible are right words!" (Job 6:25.) How important that we should choose our words with the utmost care, and avoid all slang expressions and words that contain suggestions of evil!

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Prov. 15:1). Did you ever try using soft words when replying to one who is angry at you, and is loudly condemning you? If not, try it. It works. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Prov. 25:11). With what care we should choose the words that we speak, lest they harm some innocent person! In Psalm 15, David asked a question, and gave the answer: "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour." Backbiting is a very prevalent evil. By it, friends are separated and houses are made desolate. When it is practiced in the church, soon there is suspicion, hatred, envy, and strife. The workers become discouraged, and the church loses its influence in the community where once a good work was done. So, it is something to be avoided as a contagion, for it does decrease the membership and leaves wounds that are almost impossible to heal.

If a brother has a fault, Jesus tells us how to approach him. Even if we know that he has wronged us, are we to tell the other members about it so they can point the finger of scorn at him? Jesus told us what we should do, and if we follow His commandments we shall make no mistake. "Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy

brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican" (Matt. 18:15-17). If these directions would be followed, even though he would not hear you, the witnesses nor the church, only the man himself would become a castaway. The church would not be disrupted, and you would be justified in the sight of God and man.

Divine Protection

We have found from God's Word that the wicked will be destroyed by the fire that purifies the earth. Where will the righteous be while the purifying fire is doing its work? In Psalm 37:34 David said: "Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it." Then Isaiah added his testimony, "The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high. . . . Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty" (Isa. 33:14-17). The fire that purifies the earth cannot hurt the saints. They will have "lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years" before the burning day. Fire cannot affect them, for they will be immortal, and "equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."

In Judges 13, we read of an angel appear-

ing to Manoah and his wife, before the birth of Samson. He instructed them about what the woman should eat and drink before the birth of the child. Manoah offered a sacrifice upon a rock, a kid and a meat offering. "The angel did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar." The fire could not injure the angel of the Lord, nor will fire injure the saints of God when they are "equal unto the angels."

Neither did the fire injure the three Hebrew children when they were cast into the fiery furnace by the king of Babylon, and the furnace was heated "seven times more than it was wont to be heated." They were thrown into the furnace, bound hand and foot, and the fire did not hurt them. "The princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them" (Dan. 3:27). These men were not immortal, but God had protected them.

Now, when the fire has done its work of destruction, there will be reconstruction. "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13). There will be no sin there, because the sinners will have been burned in the fire. Malachi referred to this same fire in chapter 4: "Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, 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. . . . Ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your

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The Restitution Herald, as its name implies, heralds the great restitution which will result from the second coming of Christ and His reign upon earth. Many talented and experienced writers contribute to its pages, making it one of the leading periodicals advocating the Second Coming and the establishment of the Kingdom of God. It contains sixteen pages, is published weekly (fifty-one issues per year), and is the official organ of the General Conference of the Church of God whose headquarters are at Oregon, Illinois. The subscription price is \$1.00 for nine months or \$1.50 per year to new readers, and \$2.00 per year for renewals.

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"The Restitution Herald advocates: the near return of Christ (Acts 1:11), and life only through Him (Col. 3:3); the literal resurrection of the dead (John 5:28); the immortalization of those in Christ (1 Cor. 15:53, 54); the destruction of the wicked (Rev. 21:8); the final restoration of Israel as the Kingdom of God under the kingship of Christ (Luke 1:32), the church to be joint-heirs with Him (Rom. 8:17), and Israel to be made head over Gentile nations (Isa. 60:13); the "restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). It also firmly advocates repentance and immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and a consecrated life as essential to salvation."

