

THE Welcome Visitor

"Surely I Come Quickly. Even So. Come. Lord Jesus."

VOL. 11

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THE OHIO CONFERENCE

THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD*

ELDER R. R. KENNEDY, 3 P. M., August 10.—I was very much pleased with the texts selected for the discourses that were given in the beginning of our meeting. You remember the first text was, "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." That certainly applies to the Israel of God to-day. The next text was this, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." These are certainly very important texts, and should stir every one of us.

I wish to place beside these texts another one and continue the subject that has been begun, "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 men shall cry there bitterly." Now notice, it is the great day of the Lord, the greatest day ever known to the people of this world. We are told that this day is near.

Now, while the Lord has told us this by the sure word of prophecy, more sure than the sight of the eye, we might be led to ask, What is the condition of the earth at this time? what has God revealed to us? Here in the book of Zechariah I read a statement—a vision that was given to this prophet, that will give us an idea of the condition of the world in these last days. I will read from the first chapter of Zechariah, beginning with the eighth verse, "I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom: and behind him were there red horses, speckled, and white. Then said I, O my Lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will show thee what these be. And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These are they whom the Lord hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth."

*This sermon was unavoidably omitted from the camp-meeting reports.

I should like to ask if God's messengers are not now walking to and fro through the earth with a message. We heard this morning that the Message has encircled the earth, that there is scarcely a land but what has heard something of the Message. Now as these individuals that are represented by the red and the speckled and the white horses went through the earth and preached the Message, they would naturally be expected to report. We were very much interested at our Convention over at Mount Vernon in the report that Elder Irwin gave of the darkened land. And we should be just as intensely interested in hearing the report of these messengers at this time, "And they answered the angel of the Lord that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, 'We have walked to and fro through the earth, and behold, all the earth sitteth still and is at rest.'" That is the condition, the whole world sitteth still and is at rest. They are not agitated over this subject. They are not stirred over this important event.

There is another statement which I wish to read that was revealed by the Lord through the prophet Zephaniah in the first chapter and twelfth verse; "And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil."

What is the light of the world? "Thy word, O Lord, is a light unto my path." And so, "I will search Jerusalem with candles." I will send the light of the Third Angel's Message throughout the world. And I am going to do something else besides that, I will punish the men that are settled on their lees. Now some are going to be settled on their lees. They say, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil. They may belong to some church, be professors of the faith of Jesus, or pride themselves in the founders of their church who were God's servants. I might mention Calvin, Luther, Wesley, and others, who walked in the light. God gave them a message for the earth at that time. The people have simply settled on the lees of that great Reformation. They have not received the light of

the Third Angel's Message. They are saying, The Lord will do nothing, he will neither do good nor evil. You may preach to me about keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. You may tell me the transgression of the law is sin. You may say to me that the wages of sin is death. But I say that the Lord will do neither good nor evil; we mean to go on and transgress a part of the commandments of God.

He says to these people that have settled on their lees that "their goods shall become a booty and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them." Yes, we are in the building period of the world's history. Borrow some money and build a home. And if there is a man that comes along with a doctrine that would seem to interfere with this, simply let it pass and say that the Lord will do neither good nor evil. But the Lord says that "they shall build houses and not inhabit them." "And they shall plant vineyards and not drink the wine thereof." All is lost, the whole thing lost. My dear brethren and sisters, there is only one thing that will win out in the end, and that is the Third Angel's Message.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy describes very vividly the condition of the world at this time. "In the last days perilous times shall come, men shall be lovers of their own selves." Do you ever meet and deal with people who seem to be lovers of their own selves? O let us pray God that that spirit may not creep in among us!

I will go now to another text of scripture that describes the condition of the people at this time. "For she said, I will go after my lovers that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink." When you go to them with the truth they say, "If I should keep the commandments of God, all of them, I would probably lose my position. I am going after my lovers that give me my bread. God has promised his people that their bread and water shall be sure. But here are a people that turn away from God, They say, 'I will go after my lovers that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax.'"

"Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths." You who are going after your lovers to get these things will find your way hedged up. It is possible that you might with suffering get through the hedge of thorns, but the Lord says that he will make a wall that they shall not find their paths. These are solemn truths. We cannot afford to let these things pass without some thought. The only way that we can keep these things in our heart is to say that we will not go after these lovers. We must stand for the truth; we must stand for righteousness, then we will not find the way hedged up with thorns.

"Then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now." But it may be to late to return. You may delay until the door of mercy is closed forever. The people in the days of Noah waited too long. God gave them the evidence that he would destroy the earth by flood. The wise men thought they knew better. They thought it was impossible for a flood to envelope and destroy the earth. God has told us that not many wise, not many noble after the flesh are called. Many people stumble to-day because of the great men. Why do not the statesmen, the lawyers, and the learned men see this? At the same time God is saying, "She did not know that I gave her corn and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal." They actually did not know that God gave them all they possessed. They had forgotten that God gave it all. They were worshipping Baal; and we have Baal worship now in Sunday. We are asked to bow down to Sunday. Let us turn from Baal to the Lord, and be faithful and true to him. This will require more than our power.

We will need to ask the Lord to help us in this matter, to create within us a clean heart and renew within us a right spirit. It may be that we have been keeping the Sabbath, it may be that we have been taught this Message, but there must be a deeper work. The Lord said, "Ephraim is a cake not turned." Now if you are a cake that has not been turned, if you are not baked on both sides, it is time you were turned.

The natural heart is the carnal heart, and speaking of it Paul says, "Who shall deliver us from the body of this death?" Suppose you were lashed to a corpse, and could not get free from it, what would the result be? Death. So Paul says, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this

death?" I am bound to this body of death, I have tried to free myself. Now if we are bound to sin, can we free ourselves from sin? No, it is the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Jesus will make you free. You need not perish in your sins. Thank the Lord for that. Jesus will deliver us from the body of this death. He will cut the shackles and let us go free.

In the times of the apostles a spirit of selfishness crept in among them. Although they had been with Jesus, the greatest teacher that this world ever knew, yet there was a spirit of selfishness that seemed to predominate in their lives. They were very desirous to know who would be the greatest in his kingdom, and even the mother of those two sons asked Jesus if one might sit on the right hand and the other on the left. At one time there was a passover at hand, and people from far and near came to hear the Saviour. He went over to the other side of the lake that he might rest with his disciples, and when they found that he had gone, they went after him. Though he was tired and weary yet he taught them all the day through, and as it began to grow dark, Jesus said to Philip, "Give them to eat." Simon answered that there were only five loaves and two small fishes in the whole multitude, but the Saviour said, "Give them to eat." And Jesus said, "Make them sit down in companies of fifties and hundreds." And they gave to the people, and they ate till they were all filled. Now when the disciples saw the control he had over the people, how thousands of people were ready to do his bidding, they said, "This is an opportune time for us to proclaim him king. Now is the time for him to say, I am king." And they said, "You must do it." Jesus constrained them to get into the boat and go over to the other side, because of the spirit that took hold of them. He was not ready to set up his kingdom at this time. They went away murmuring. Whenever people begin to murmur and complain, it means, I could do better if I had the doing of things. They thought they could do better, and so they went down reluctantly to the boat, not daring to go back, because his word was imperative. And the Lord had to permit a great tempest to come on them to stop the spirit of murmuring. What caused all this trouble? It was this spirit of selfishness that wanted to have the supremacy in this world. We need to learn the lesson of meekly abiding at the foot of the cross. We need to talk with Jesus. You remember there was a proud Pharisee, a great man in his

day, who felt a little too proud to talk with Jesus in the day time, so he came to see him by night, and expressed himself as thinking that the Saviour was a man of God, for no man could do the works of God except God be with him. But the Saviour, who knows the heart of everyone, came immediately to the point and said, "Except ye be born again, ye cannot see the kingdom of God." That message did its work: in due time this Pharisee gave his heart to God and embraced the message for that day, and lived to the service of God.

Now what are the characteristics of his people? I read in the fourteenth chapter of Revelation, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Those people who are going to get the victory will keep the commandments of God, every one of them, not ignoring a single one. "And have the faith of Jesus." "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." But dear brethren and sisters, how do we get faith? If you would have faith in God, read his word, study the prophecies, and see his dealings with his people, how he has protected them and kept them.

I will read from Isaiah, the thirty-third chapter, beginning with the fourteenth verse, and see who it is that gets the victory, "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: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him, his water shall be sure." Thank the Lord. Let us go forward, brethren, in faith, let us not waver or falter. Let us keep our eyes on the blessed Saviour. Some of our brightest men may sink, but what does that signify? Set your eyes upon him, and he will give you the victory. Brethren and sisters, soon this controversy will be over, and I expect to meet many who are here this afternoon in the kingdom of God by his grace. Let us hope in God, and may his grace sustain and support us in every trial and in every temptation. Let us hold fast until he comes.

THE sum of \$15.08 for the India Mountain-Home Mission has been forwarded through the *Signs of the Times* Office and grateful acknowledgment received.

GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE

"WHERE there is a will there is a way." This statement is emphatically true when the "will" is God's will; for then he will provide the "way." Now it is a well known fact that there are hundreds, and even thousands of young people among us who desire a training in our schools, many of whom have not the means to attend. It is equally certain to those who believe the Message for this time that these young people should have this privilege, in order that they may do effective work for the Master. In fact the Lord has made known his "will" in this matter. He also has opened up the "way" that this may be done for those who will consecrate their powers to him. During the past year scores of young men and women have earned a scholarship in our schools by selling our subscription books. The various conferences and schools have an arrangement whereby you will be given a year's scholarship if you will sell \$150 worth of subscription books, turning the whole amount into the Tract Society treasury; you to do a certain number of hours' work each day during the school year in addition. By corresponding with the principal of the school you desire to attend, or the field agent of your conference, you can be informed as to the exact details of their plan.

By looking over the record of those who have worked on this plan during the past summer, I see one who has earned enough for more than two, and another for over three, one young girl earned hers in three weeks, another in four weeks, another in six weeks. And now that we have come to the time of the year when many people buy books who would not at any other time, it occurs to me that scores of our young people should take hold of this plan to earn a scholarship for next year, or for the last half of this year. Why not take hold of it at once and by the time of your holiday delivery have a scholarship earned? Do I hear you say, "I can't?" Or, "I was not cut out for a canvasser." Hear what the Lord says to you:—

"Who will go forth now with our publications? The Lord imparts a fitness for the work to every man and woman who will co-operate with divine power. All the requisite talent, courage, perseverance, faith and tact will come as they put the armor on." "Manual for Canvassers," p. 68.

Come, my young brother and sister, take hold of this work in the strength and courage that he will give, get all the help that the field

agent can render from his long experience, and shall we not hope to see you in school by another year? It would do you good to hear the testimonies of those who have been out the past year and had the blessed experience of not only earning their way through school, but of getting the precious truth into the homes of the people. Write to your field agent at once in regard to this matter. Let him help you about the book you should work for and the territory you should work, for now is the opportune time to do it.

J. B. BLOSSER,
Lake Union Conference Field Agent.

"WE WOULD SEE JESUS"

"AND there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: the same came therefore to Philip, who was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus."

These Greek worshippers had left their homes with the sole purpose of coming up to the temple of God at Jerusalem to worship, for it was said in those days, that "Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship;" and again, "Salvation is of the Jews." Undoubtedly they had heard the fame of Jesus in their own country from travelers who had returned from Jerusalem; and now, as they walk the streets of this favored land, they hear from the lips of the rich and poor, the educated and the illiterate, the wonderful miracles of Jesus of Nazareth repeated. With eager hearts and a great desire to be acquainted with this wonderful personage, they approached his disciples with this humble request,— "We would see Jesus."

"We would see Jesus." What simple language! and yet how sincere. They gave utterance to that great feeling which has been the desire of all ages since the fall of Adam. Yes, even from the time that Abel offered up his first offering to the time when Simeon took him up in his arms, him who was the antitype of that offering, and exclaimed, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Job desired to see him; and when convinced of the fact that he could not see him at his first appearing, he said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Abraham saw him and was glad.

Symbolically speaking, on every sacrifice offered by Jewish priests was

written, "We would see Jesus;" for the sacrifice was not only a type of Christ, but also an expression of that heart-felt desire,—to see Jesus. He has come. On the banks of the beautiful Jordan is assembled a great multitude from Jerusalem, and all Judea. A stranger approached the scene. With an inspired voice John the Baptist presents him to the gazing multitude as the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world; they see him of whom Moses and the prophets did write. And now, after all his wonderful deeds, he is nailed by cruel hands to a cross which is made to stand on Calvary's summit, surrounded by a multitude of ribald scoffers: but even now there is life for all who would see Jesus. He is dead He is buried. He is risen! To-day the Desire of Ages is in heaven: but he will come again, and that coming is not far distant. But what will his coming mean to those who would not see him, those who care not to look for him?—a beating of breast, as the Hindi version reads, "Behold, he cometh on clouds, (as it were sitting or riding on clouds) and all the kindreds of the earth shall beat their breasts because of him."

But to the Israel of God his coming means a consummation of that great desire which is expressed in their every day conversation,— "We would see Jesus." And when he shall appear, then shall we with kings, patriarchs, and prophets, join that joyful exclamation, "Lo! this is our God, we have waited for him, and he will save us:" for then we shall see Jesus.

CHARLES C. BELGRAVE.

TO THE FRIENDS IN OHIO

WE are apparently at the end of the hot part of a long, hot summer. The evenings now are very pleasant and the days are not so extremely hot. We have closed our third series of tent meetings with gratifying results considering that almost every man, and a great many women use tobacco and swine's flesh, and the work is only half completed when the people are brought to accept the Sabbath. As a result of the meetings, seven have united with the church and seven more expect to in the near future, and still others are keeping the Sabbath.

I am sure you who have so generously voted your tithe to sustain the work here will rejoice with us not only in the salvation of these dear souls, but also that the church here has been greatly strengthened, as nearly all are excellent people. One was a deacon of the Baptist Church.

C. C. WEBSTER.

Birmingham, Ala.

The Welcome Visitor

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BESSIE E. RUSSELL - Editor

Entered as Second Class Matter September 6, 1916,
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Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Sabbath begins Oct. 4 at 5:41 P. M.

ELDER H. H. BURKHOLDER spent last Sabbath with the Clyde church.

Do not forget the collection for the colored work in the South next Sabbath, October 5. Let us donate generously to this needy field that lies just outside our door.

THE many friends of Brother Carl Weeks will be glad to hear that he is convalescing as rapidly as can be expected, and expects soon to be able to get out of doors in a wheel chair.

SABBATH, September 21, Elder H. H. Burkholder baptized eight persons at Derwent who had recently embraced the Message through the efforts of Brother W. C. Moffett.

THE church at Charloe extends an invitation and hearty welcome to all the neighboring churches to be present at their Harvest Ingathering which will be held October 27 and 28. They are expecting and arranging for good services. The Lord always accepts the invitation to be present with his people.

THE Hamler church will hold a Harvest Ingathering service October 12 and 13. A cordial invitation is extended to all the neighboring churches to be present and have a part in the expected blessings. The Hamler brethren spare no effort to make these special services a success, and the Lord appreciates the offering and blesses accordingly.

CHANGES

At a recent meeting of the Conference Committee, Elder A. C. Shannon was elected Religious Liberty Secretary to take the place made vacant by Brother C. A. Pedicord. All communications designed for this department of the Conference should be addressed to Elder A. C. Shannon, 1366 Grand Avenue, Toledo, O.

BESSIE E. ACTON has also been elected Educational Secretary to fill the unexpired term of Elder James E.

Shultz, who tendered his resignation to answer a call from the General Conference to take up work in Korea. Matters belonging to this department should be sent to Bessie E. Acton, Mount Vernon, Knox Co., O.

H. H. BURKHOLDER.

CANVASSERS' REPORTS

(For week ending Sept. 20, 1907.)

Isaac R. Harden, Brown Co.—Daniel and Revelation: 1 hour; value of helps, \$1.

E. J. C. Sharp,* Pike Co.—Bible Footlights: 118 hours; value of orders, \$141.

N. O. Coffman, Lima.—Coming King: 7 hours; value of orders, \$4; helps, \$2.25; total, \$6.25; deliveries, \$5.90.

Mrs. S. E. Reagon, Cleveland.—Coming King: 4 hours; value of orders, \$1; helps, \$4; total, \$5.

L. H. Waters, Wayne Co.—Coming King: 33 hours; value of orders, \$24.50; helps, \$1.75; total, \$26.25. deliveries, \$1.

Bertha Carter, Zanesville.—Coming King: 5 hours; value of orders, \$4; helps, \$1; total, \$5.

Clara Saam, Collinwood.—Coming King: value of orders, \$15.50; helps, \$1.25; total, \$16.75

Arthur Cooper, Logan Co.—Coming King: 29 hours; value of orders, \$20.50; helps, \$1.25; total, \$21.75.

A. L. Bassler, Richland Co. and Crestline.—Miscellaneous; 16 hours; value of deliveries, \$28.50.

Total value of orders.....\$210.50
Total value of helps 12.50

Grand total\$223.00

Total deliveries.....\$ 35.40

*Three weeks.

BIBLE READING SERIES

Twenty-five Special Numbers

BEGINNING with the great Missions Number, October 30, there will be published a series of twenty-five special numbers of the *Signs of the Times* which will be of peculiar interest to all. A very prominent feature of these numbers will be a series of illustrated Bible readings covering all the leading themes of the gospel. These readings will occupy the two center pages of the paper and will appear under the heading of Home Bible Studies for Winter Evenings.

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tory bearing upon the subject. They will be illustrated by diagrams, drawings, and unique little illustrations that will explain the lesson and make it simple and comprehensive. The topics will include:—

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8. The Everlasting Covenant.
9. Man: His Nature and Destiny.
10. Spiritual Gifts.
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