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## What Do These Things Mean?

By George B. Thompson

### The Great World War

In the year 1914 there suddenly burst upon the world the most terrible war which has ever been known in the history of the race. Ever since sin darkened the world there have been wars and rumors of war, but at no period has the earth been so convulsed with war. We indeed look out on a troubled sea. About fourteen nations, marshaling the greatest armies, equipped with the most destructive implements of death ever brought upon a battle field, are today locked in a death grapple. The toll of men and money is appalling.

For years the nations have foreseen a bloody and calamitous contest. Diplomacy has apparently averted the cataclysm for a time. But the volcano has continued to smolder, threatening international eruption. While diplomats have been at work, the nations have been arming for the inevitable.

### Years of Preparation for War

Preceding the present war, one writer says, "Every war office in Europe went over its plans of strategy. Every plan of mobilization was scrutinized. Every nation took account of its stock, of its munitions of war, and of its financial strength. The nervous strain of keeping the peace, with millions of soldiers ready to fight at any time, seemed to be exhausted, and the people began to ask if it were possible to prevent the flames of international jealousy and hate from bursting forth into strife, with practical anarchy and chaos as the price to be paid for it."

The earth is being drenched with the blood of the flower of manhood among all the nations. A suspense and dread grips the world, and men are asking what these things mean. Has this unprecedented condition a special meaning? Is it Armageddon? Is it a herald of the day of God?

### The Outlook

Conditions are indeed strange and dark and perilous. The affairs of the world are turned out of their regular channel. Men are standing dumb before the tremendous and sudden changes which have come into the affairs of the world, and there is a grave apprehension in the minds of men that we are on the verge of some terrible and hitherto unknown events which will overturn the very foundations of society, and usher in a new order of things. The situation is such that the editor of the *Springfield Republican* was led some time ago to say:—

"Writers who can tell a stupefied world what this fearful portent means, who can throw light on the great fundamental problems of the race, and give some hint as to its destiny, will have an attentive and even anxious hearing."

Five years ago Sir Edward Grey, addressing the members of the House of Commons, said:—

"It is really as if, in the atmosphere of the world, there were some mischievous influence at work which troubles and excites every part of it. . . . Some countries are in revolution, others are at war. . . . Really it is as if the world were indulging in a fit of political alcoholism, and the best that can be done by those of us who are in positions of responsibility is to keep cool and sober."

### A War of Extermination

Now the great war is on, a war toward which so many have looked with almost stupefied apprehension. The magnitude and spirit of the world-wide struggle is not paralleled in the history of man.

Writing of the devastating struggle now going on, Mr. Taft, ex-President of the United States, says: "Nothing like it has occurred since the world began. It is a cataclysm. The future looks dark indeed."

*Harpers Weekly* declares: "The most critical moment in the world's history is upon us. That is the stark truth. . . . Events are transpiring to stun the stoutest mind. We are at time's meridian."

President Wilson said recently that "the world is on fire," and no man "knows what a single week or a single day or a single hour may bring forth."

Of the present war Rudyard Kipling says: "This is not a war of victories, but a war of extermination. . . . Universal ruin awaits us."

### Civilization Committing Suicide

What a change has come over the earth in a few short years! Thrones have been overturned. Kings have fled as fugitives to other kingdoms for protection. Millions who were enjoying the blessings of family and national life have been plunged into poverty, sorrow, and mourning. All the values of modern civilized life have undergone an amazing change and shrinkage. The grip of the human race on the world has been greatly loosened. Civilization seems to be committing suicide. A dread and a pall hang over the hearts and minds of men.

### What It All Means

What does all this mean? Is this the last great war foretold in the Scriptures, which ushers in the second coming of Christ? Is the great day

of God at the door? Everywhere—on the street, in the drawing-room, in the hotel lobbies, on the trains—we hear the questions repeated, "What do these things mean?" "Is this Armageddon?" "Is this the fulfillment of the Scripture?"

We are glad that while the heavens are lurid with the flame of war, while horror grips a stupefied world, and a dread of what may yet come to pass unnerves humanity, the Lord has told us the meaning of all these things. We are indeed entering into that dim twilight zone where time will soon dissolve into eternity. Man's day of probation and of preparation for eternity is drawing near to its sunset. The coming of the Judge of all the earth draws nigh. These things tell us that Armageddon is not far in the future. The terrible conditions which trouble the world are forerunners of the day of the Lord, and speak to us in the clearest tones that the history of this planet, cursed by sin, is almost finished, and that Christ will soon come, when God's people will experience the realization of that blessed hope which is to be fulfilled in the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Dan. 2:31-35.

In Daniel's interpretation of this great metallic symbol, the head of gold was said to represent Babylon. This would be followed successively by the universal monarchies of Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Notice the decline, beginning with gold and ending with iron mixed with miry clay. The mixture of iron and clay indicated division. The iron monarchy of Rome, the fourth and last universal empire, between the years 351 and 476 A. D., was divided into ten parts. What is next? "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Dan. 2:44. The book of authentic history shows that we have been living for more than fourteen centuries in the feet of this image, waiting for the stone to smite the image and Christ's kingdom to be established. Must God's people wait much longer?

### The Four Beasts of Daniel 7

In Daniel 7 the history of the world is again outlined from the days of the Babylonian Empire till the history of the world is finished. In this chapter not only the four successive monarchies, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, are foretold, but also the terrible history of the papal power which should arise, blaspheme God, seek to change his law, and wear out his saints. For more than a millennium of years this terrible power waged its relentless warfare. It almost extinguished the light. Day was turned into night—the world's midnight. For exercising the right to think, and to worship the God of heaven as their conscience dictated, millions of God's faithful people were slain by every means that the minds of men inspired by devils could invent.

"But the judgment," says God, "shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." Dan. 7:26, 27. Blessed judgment!

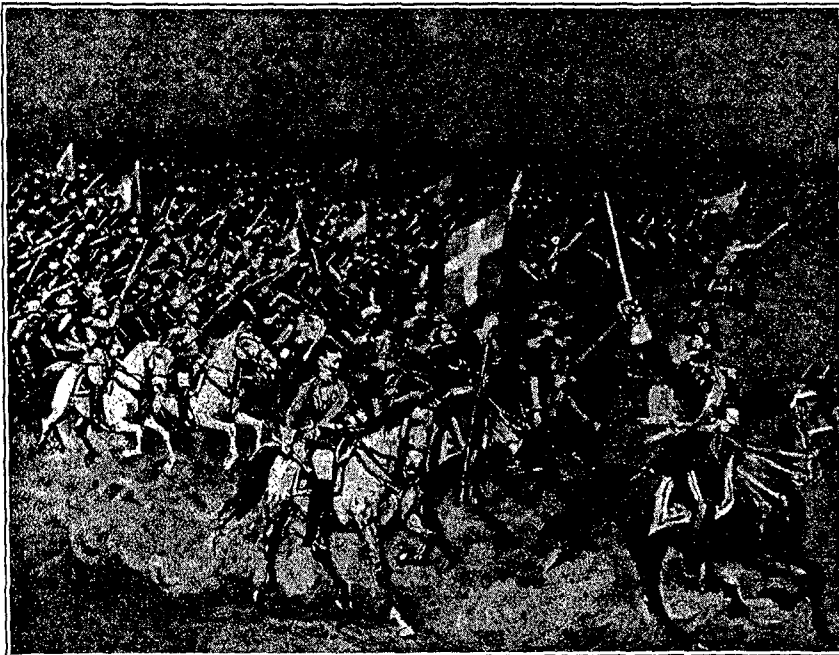
This line of prophecy also is complete. We are waiting only for the beast to be slain, and for the saints of the Most High to take the kingdom and reign forever.

### Time of the Judgment

In Daniel 8 we have the prophecy of the 2300 days, or years, beginning in 457 B. C. and ending in 1844 A. D. This prophecy fixes not only the birth and the crucifixion of Christ, but locates as well the beginning of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, or the investigative judgment. The prophet gives the following sublime description of the opening of this heavenly tribunal:—

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool; his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Dan. 7: 9, 10.

Since 1844, or for more than the allotted span of human life, this work of the investigative judgment has been going on, and the final work of Christ as priest has been carried forward. This work must soon end. In the type the cleansing of the sanctuary was a comparatively short work. Then probation will close, and the Lord will descend to receive to himself those who through faith in the merits of Jesus' blood have been found worthy.



THE MARSHALING OF THE NATIONS

## Great Lines of Bible Prophecy That Focus Their Light on Our Day

### God Will Send a Warning

HITHERTO when a great event was about to take place or some judgment to be visited upon the people, the Lord has seen fit, as a token of his love and care, to send a warning to the world. He warned the antediluvians that the flood was coming. He sent a warning to Sodom and Gomorrah before the rain of fire fell from heaven and blotted them from the earth because of their sins. When the first advent of our blessed Lord was impending, the voice of the forerunner was heard in the wilderness of Judea in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah. So again, when the greatest of all events is near at hand and a final period is about to be placed upon all earthly things, the Lord will once more, in his mercy, send the inhabitants of the world a warning, calling them to repentance and to make preparation for this great event. And the wise will understand, and be looking for his appearing.

"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, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." 1 Thess. 5:2-5.

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

Just as the Lord sent a message warning the people of the coming deluge, so will he send a warning of the coming of the Son of man. "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." Joel 2:1. We fully believe this solemn warning is now being heralded to the world, and is fast gathering out a people who are to look for and be ready to welcome the Saviour's return.

### Prophetic Utterances

The prophets of God through all the ages have spoken of the coming of Jesus. Through them the Lord has unrolled the scroll of history, and made known the rise and fall of empires, bringing us down through the ages to the time when Christ would come and the everlasting kingdom of righteousness be established. On this great event all lines of prophecy focus.

### A Prophetic History of the World

To Daniel, the seer of Babylon, the Lord made known the history of the world to the time when nations shall be no more. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, while lying one night upon his bed, was pondering on the future. By means of a dream there was unrolled before him the history of the world down to the end. In answer to prayer, this dream, which the king had forgotten, was made known to Daniel. It was this:—"Thou, O king, sawest, and beheld a great image. This great image, whose brightness was

In Rev. 14: 6-14 is found that great threefold message, announcing the opening of the judgment, the fall of Babylon, and the warning against the beast and his image. This message has already girdled the earth. It calls upon all to worship the true God, to render obedience to his precepts, and to prepare for his coming.

#### • The Eastern Question

Then there is the Eastern Question,—the driving of the Turk from Europe, and the consequent scramble for his territory. The prophecy concerning this power is found largely in the eleventh chapter of Daniel. Speaking of this power, the revelator says, "The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared." Rev. 16:12.

For many years the drying up of the power here symbolized by the river Euphrates has

been going steadily forward. Today she holds but little territory in Europe, and ere long will be forced to remove her capital from Europe. Eventually she will plant the tabernacles of her palace between the seas, in the Holy Land.

And what is the next great event? "At that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and 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." Dan. 12:1. The eternal reign of Christ and the deliverance of his people come next.

This line of prophecy, which is so fast fulfilling, brings us to the time when the kingdoms of earth are destroyed, and Michael begins his reign over a kingdom which shall have no end. Earthly kingdoms will then be carried away like the chaff, and the kingdom of Christ will fill the earth.

## The Signs of Christ's Coming Fulfilled and Fulfilling

### Distress of Nations with Perplexity

SPEAKING of the signs of his second coming, the Saviour foretold a time when men's hearts would fail them "for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Luke 21:26. Notice that just before the coming of Jesus there is to be "distress of nations, with perplexity." Look out on the world. Which nation is not distressed? What nation is not perplexed? There has never before been such distress of nations as today. The world is on fire, and no nation is fireproof. The present war may stop, from exhaustion if for no other reason, but it will be the spawn of wars. Nations are keeping a record of things for which they will demand a settlement. Of what was to follow this very condition of things, the Saviour said: "Then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Luke 21:27.

Unprecedented distress and perplexity of nations, then the coming of Jesus! Behold he cometh!

### "The Alarm of War"

An ancient prophet, looking down the ages, said: "My anguish, my anguish! I am pained at my very heart; my heart is disquieted in me; I cannot hold my peace; because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is laid waste; suddenly are my tents destroyed, and my curtains in a moment." Jer. 4:19, 20.

Truly the alarm of war is here, and the gathering clouds indicate a still greater and more terrible storm. "Destruction upon destruction" is indeed drawing nigh. The seer of Patmos foretold this same time: "The nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth." Rev. 11:18.

Truly the "nations are angry," and the next great event is the judgment, the giving of reward to the servants of God, and the destruction of those who destroy the earth. This warlike condition of the world is a fulfilment of God's word, and is a mighty call to all to prepare for the end of the world and the coming of the Lord.

Angry nations, then the Saviour coming with all the armies in heaven!

### Preparedness

This word is seen everywhere. The great question for the nations at peace as well as for those at war is that of national preparedness, getting ready for a struggle which is inevitable. This, too, is in striking fulfilment of prophecy. "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles: Prepare 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 pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, I am strong." Joel 3:9, 10.

"Prepare war," said the ancient seer, in the time when "the harvest is ripe," and when "the day of the Lord is near." With startling accuracy the nations are fulfilling these divine utterances.

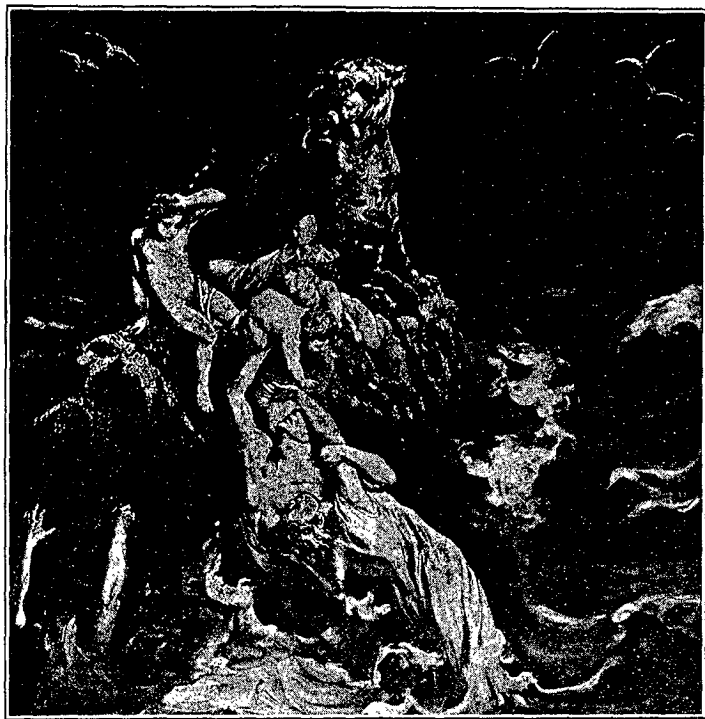
### Increase of Knowledge

The angel Gabriel, speaking to the prophet Daniel, said, "Thou, O Daniel, shut up to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Dan. 12:4.

This prophecy is meeting a remarkable fulfilment. We are living in an age of knowledge. For centuries the world made little progress in this direction. But with the beginning of the last century, or the "time of the end" here mentioned, there was a general awakening. Scriptural and scientific knowledge has increased with rapid strides. The knowledge of God's Word has been widely diffused. The past century has witnessed the most marvelous achievements in the field of scientific discovery. Within the lifetime of men now living, most of the marvelous inventions we see have been brought into existence. I quote a few paragraphs from the introduction to a volume called the "Progress of Invention in the Nineteenth Century:"—

### Milestones in a Century of Progress

"As we make the backward run of one hundred years, we have passed by many milestones of progress. Let us see if we can count some of them as they disappear behind us. We quickly lose the telephone, phonograph, and grapho-



THE FLOOD — A TYPE OF EARTH'S FINAL DESTRUCTION

phone. We no longer see the cable cars, or electric railways. The electric lights have gone out. The telegraph disappears. The sewing machine, reaper, and threshing have passed away, and so also have all India-rubber goods. We no longer see any photographs, photo-engravings, photolithographs, or snapshot cameras. The wonderful octuple web-perfecting printing press, which prints, pastes, cuts, folds, and counts newspapers at the rate of 96,000 an hour, or 1,600 a minute, shrinks at the beginning of the nineteenth century into an insignificant prototype. We lose all planing and woodworking machinery, and with it the endless variety of sashes, doors, blinds, and furniture. There are no gas engines, no passenger elevators, no asphalt pavement, no steam fire engine, no triple-expansion steam engine, no Giffard's injector, no celluloid articles, no barbed-wire fences, no time locks for safes, no ice-binding harvesters, no oil or gas wells, no ice machines nor cold storage. We lose air engines, stem-winding watches, cash registers, and cash carriers, the great suspension bridges, the tunnels, the Suez Canal, iron-frame buildings, monitors and heavy ironclads, revolvers, torpedoes, magazine guns and Gatling guns, linotype machines, all practical typewriters, all Pasteurizing, knowledge of microbes or disease germs, and sanitary plumbing, water gas, soda water fountains, air brakes, coal-tar dyes and medicines, nitroglycerin, dynamite and gun cotton, dynamo-electric machines, aluminum ware, electric locomotives, Bessemer steel with its wonderful developments, ocean cables, enameled ironware, Welsbach gas burners, electric storage batteries, the cigarette machine, hydraulic dredges, the roller mills, middlings purifiers and patent-process flour, tin can machines, ear couplings, compressed-air drills, sleeping cars, the dynamite gun, the McKay shoe machine, the circular knitting machine, the Jacquard loom, wood pulp for paper, fire alarms, the use of anesthetics in surgery, oleomargarine, street sweepers, Artesian wells, friction matches, steam hammers, electroplating, mail machines, false teeth,

artificial limbs and eyes, the spectroscope, the kinoscope or moving pictures, acetylene gas, X-ray apparatus, horseless carriages, and — but, enough! the reader exclaims; and indeed it is not pleasant to contemplate the loss."

But even this extract is antiquated. Since it was written, wireless telegraphy, aeroplanes, and many other marvelous inventions have startled the world. What is the meaning of all this? This wonderful increase of knowledge tells us that the time of the end is here, and that the Lord is at the door.

The "time of the end," the increase of knowledge, then the coming of the Lord!

### The Gospel to All the World

In response to the question of the disciples as to what would be the sign of his coming and the end of the world (Matt. 24:3), Jesus told them there would be wars and rumors of wars, that nation would rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, that there would be famines and pestilence and earthquakes in different parts of the earth. But all these were to be but the beginning of sorrows. Then he said: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14.

Little was done to evangelize the world till the "time of the end" began. But when this time was reached, Bible societies were organized, and they began to print God's Word and send it everywhere. The attention of men was turned toward the great Gibraltors of heathenism. Today we find the gospel preached in all lands. There is an open door into every nation, and a Macedonian cry for help. Then, too, the gos-

pel, being shortened by the power of the Reformation, ended some years earlier. So "in those days, after that tribulation," the sign in the sun, as our Lord foretold, was seen. Of this the most authentic history bears solemn witness.

The following night the darkness was well-nigh impenetrable, and the moon, which shines with borrowed light, when seen had the appearance of blood. Of this, too, history bears testimony.

### The Star Shower

On Nov. 13, 1833, occurred that magnificent and awe-inspiring meteoric shower which so many writers mention. For hours the whole firmament seemed to be in fiery commotion, and no other celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in the memory of man which caused such dread and occasioned such widespread alarm. There are those living today who witnessed this marvelous exhibition of falling stars. The people who beheld this sign in the heavens were impressed then that it was a herald of the approaching end of the world.

### The Next Event

Of what are these signs a mighty portent? What is the next event to take place, following these signs?—"Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matt. 24:30, 31. Signs in the heavens, then the coming of Jesus!

### The Last Generation

That all might clearly understand, the Saviour illustrated the meaning of his words by a parable: "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh; so likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." Matt. 24:32-34.

The onward march of time has carried us far past the fulfilment of these ominous signs of the coming day of God. The last generation is here, and although no man knows the day nor the hour when the opening heavens will reveal the King coming with all the angels of heaven, the words of Jesus, the greatest of all prophets, stand sure, and the Son of man is truly at the door.

"The coming King is at the door,  
Who once the cross for sinners bore;  
But now the righteous ones alone  
He comes to gather home.

"The signs that show his coming near  
Are fast fulfilling year by year,  
But soon we'll hail the glorious dawn  
Of heaven's eternal morn."

### Like the Days of Noah

While some are lulling the people to sleep with the unscriptural doctrine of the world's conversion, the Saviour has given us a very different picture. It is thus: "As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:26, 27. What folly to advocate the fable of the world's conversion in the presence of such a statement!

In the inspired record given us of the days of Noah we read: "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. . . . The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." Gen. 6:5-12.

Man's mind was evil continually, and the earth corrupt; and as it was then it will be again!

This is indeed a dark picture. But a careful and impartial survey of the present condition of things in the world leads us to conclude that we are in the time when these words are being literally fulfilled. Violence and corruption filled the earth in Noah's time. How is it today? Think of the murders, lynchings, suicides, bold outrages, and the inhuman and shocking details of unmentionable crimes and violence which are brought to our attention daily.

In the present dreadful war waged by the nations that have stood for culture and the highest type of civilization, the few details which are allowed to filter through from the front, show that with fire, poisonous gases, and every contrivance that can be devised for killing, maiming, and mutilating, the most violent and inhuman deeds are committed, rivaling, it would seem, anything that history records among barbarians. Men are indeed violent and cruel.

A Chicago daily some time ago, speaking of increasing crime, said: "Not only are robberies increasing in number in Chicago, but the highwaymen are more bold and more desperate than formerly. There has been a marked and significant change in the character of these crimes during recent years. Formerly the footpad rarely resorted to violence save as a means of avoiding arrest. Today the robber's weapon is used to injure, maim, and kill." And what is true of Chicago is true of scores of other places.

The earth is indeed filled with violence, and beyond question the condition which the Son of man said would immediately precede his

pel of the kingdom, heralding the glorious news of the second coming of Christ, is also preached in all the world. Not all who hear the gospel will believe and be saved, but it will gather out of the nations a people for his name. When this gospel of the kingdom is preached in all the world, the end will come. The open door and the proclamation of the gospel everywhere constitutes signs of the end of the world and the close of probation.

The gospel to all the world, and then the end, and the coming of Jesus!

### Signs in the Heavens

Replying further to the question of his disciples, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world," Jesus said: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." Matt. 24:29. The evangelist Mark in writing concerning these signs, said they were to take place "in those days, after that tribulation." Chap. 13:24. The "tribulation" here mentioned, without doubt refers to the 1260 years of papal supremacy, beginning A. D. 538 and ending in A. D. 1798.

Signs in sun, moon, and stars — these are all the places in the heavens where the Lord could hang a sign. A darkened sun, and a moon appearing as blood, and falling stars, — surely such startling and supernatural manifestations as these could not be hung out by the hand of God in the celestial bodies, and no notice be taken of them either by the historian or by those living when the events took place!

### The Dark Day

The same faithfulness and accuracy, however, which are ever seen in the fulfilment of the predictions of the Lord in other scriptures, are seen in the signs here foretold. On May 19, 1780, the sun was supernaturally darkened. The time of the papal supremacy ended in 1798,

second coming is here, telling us that the end of the world is near. When the earth becomes as wicked as it was in Noah's time, the Lord will cleanse it with fire, as he did then with water.

**Like the Days of Lot**

Continuing, the Saviour said: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17: 28-30.



THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN CAPITAL AND LABOR

The world to be like Sodom and Gomorrah! What a picture!

It is sad to be forced to look upon such a condition in the world. But it is the harvest of sin. Wickedness and moral corruption abound. Paul warned us that evil men and seducers would "wax worse and worse." These words are fulfilling before our eyes. The outbursts of sin are seen in all the walks of life, among the rich as well as the poor. A Methodist clergyman has well said: "Old Rome in her worst days never harbored such conditions of vice as are prevalent in our highest social orders. Never at any period of the world's history has the moral stratum been so thin."

A recent exposure of blackmail showed that among the rich many have been paying over large sums of money to keep their immorality from being exposed. Think of the shocking exposures that would be made if the curtain should be lifted, and all be seen as God beholds it! White slavery and prostitution are doing a terrible work. The wrecks of moral depravity are strewn on every land. The divorce courts are choked with the cases of those who hold the marriage vow as a thing of little worth.

Sin is capable of talking on a high polish, and in theaters and gilded halls of amusement and vice it is set forth in its most alluring form. A refined and educated member of society was interviewed some time ago concerning what is called fashionable dances. She spoke of the low, bestial dances which are coming into society. She was asked if she had noticed that they had changed. "Have I?" she replied. "I should say I have—these wretched, vulgar dances! This 'turkey trot' business which I have seen during the last winter is too disgusting for words. It only shows that our whole country is becoming materialistic and vulgarized." She said further that she remembered—and "I am not a very old woman"—when to be invited to certain great houses in New York was a social privilege and an honor. "Today," she said, "there isn't a house in New York which means anything in a great social way. The same laxity and vulgarity have been brought about through the popularizing of divorce. Young girls marry and trip lightly into the 'tie that binds,' with a sense of liberty which can be theirs if they choose, and change their minds after marriage."

The trend of things in this direction is woefully downward. We wish it were otherwise. Sin is indeed ripening for the harvest, and the mighty Reaper with the sickle is soon to come, and gather the wheat into his garner and cast the tares into the great wine press of God's wrath.

The earth like Sodom and Gomorrah, then the cleansing, and the coming of Jesus!

**Piling Up Fortunes**

An ancient prophet speaks of a time when the land would be full of silver and gold, and there would be no end of treasure. Isa. 2: 7. James speaks of a time when men will pile up vast fortunes. "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." James 5: 1-3.

The increase of wealth in recent years is phenomenal. At no other period in the history of the world has there been such an accumulation of wealth in the period spanning the life of one man, or one generation. Tremendous fortunes are created in a very brief period.

One writer says: "Such colossal fortunes, such hoarding of treasures, such combinations of wealth, with such rapid increase of poverty, was never witnessed before. Our age alone fits the prophetic mold."

Bishop Potter is reported as saying: "The growth of wealth and of luxury, wicked, wasteful, and wanton, as before God I declare that luxury to be, has been matched step by step by a deepening and deadening poverty which has left whole neighborhoods of people practically without hope and without aspiration."

Near the close of the Civil War the wise and sagacious Lincoln is reported to have said: "I

"Is it any wonder that there is an ominous condition of unrest against the accumulation of vast wealth, and that Socialism is menacingly on the increase?"

For protection against the grinding power of the combination of capital, labor has sought to unite, forming unions and various combinations, having originally in view the betterment of the working classes. Their requests for shorter hours and increased pay are denied, and their demands must be enforced in some way; so disastrous strikes and lockouts are resorted to. The history of these things is so well known that we need only to refer to it. But while the working classes stand up against what they believe to be injustice, trade unions in many instances exhibit a tyrannical power and a destructive spirit which spreads dismay and terror throughout the land. The United States Congress was forced recently, in order to avert a threatened strike which would tie up all the main lines of railroad and entail untold suffering, especially in cities, to take quick action, incorporating into law some of the demands of the unions. The President in a recent speech is reported as saying that "the chief cloud that is upon the domestic horizon is the unsatisfactory relation of capital and labor." The menacing attitude of these labor combines may well make us afraid.

It is clear to every impartial observer that there is a time of great trouble before us, trouble between the power of capital, organized into trusts and various commercial enterprises and combines, and the organized forces of labor. Enough of the cloud can already be seen above the horizon to indicate a storm which may lead to social revolution and bring a veritable reign of terror. To those living at this time the Lord says: "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5: 8. Our only hope is in God.

This ominous unrest in the industrial world is another of the many conditions which indicate the near return of the Lord Jesus, who alone can bring peace to all.

**Worldliness in the Church**

Speaking concerning the prevailing iniquity of the last days, the apostle Paul says: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholly, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but deny-

ing the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Tim. 3: 1-5.

This is a startling list of sins mentioned by the inspired apostle. All these are the outgrowth of the depravity of the natural heart. And the church, instead of triumphing like an army with banners, has lost her power. While a form of godliness is maintained, the power which should be manifested with the form is lacking.

A temple left desolate! A body without the living breath of life!

This is a sad picture. But sad as it is, it is exhibited all about us. Spiritual death is found everywhere. The Word of God is set aside. Infidelity in the form of higher criticism is preached from many pulpits. Prayer is neglected. Theaters are more frequented by church members than is the prayer meeting. Card parties are held regularly in the homes of many professed Christians—"lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." Church entertainments, such as suppers, festivals, and lotteries, crowd the church, the place dedicated to the most high God.

Serious discussion was recently given by one of the largest and most powerful denominations, to the question as to whether it would not be wise to strike from its Discipline the prohibition against dancing. Such prohibitions, however, are usually allowed to be but a dead letter, for many church members are found, in attire none too modest, in the sensual whirl of the dance. Theaters and dance halls filled with those whose names are enrolled as believers in Christ as their Saviour, yet the pews empty at the prayer meeting! Surely we have reached the time when a form of godliness without the power is seen. Worldly pleasure has drowned the voice of conscience, and eaten from the heart the love of that which is holy and upright.

What is the meaning of this marked decline in spirituality which has become so apparent? "This know that in the last days perilous times shall come." It means that the end is near. The world is fast reaching the place where Sodom and Gomorrah stood, and when it becomes like the cities of the plains it will meet a similar fate. "Fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Rev. 20: 9. Because of the abounding iniquity the love of many is waxing cold. Matt. 24: 12. Once the church loses its power, and the Holy Spirit, resisted and grieved, withdraws, there will be nothing to stop the downward trend of the world. It remains then only for the Lord to come, translate his people, and destroy all sin and sinners, and give the earth, all new and clean, to the saints of the Most High.

see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until the wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few, and this republic is destroyed."

What is the meaning of this enormous aggregation of capital? It has a deep significance. This heaping together of treasure was to be "in the last days." James 5: 3, A. R. V. The Book of God declares that there will come a time when there will be such fabulous increase of wealth, such hitherto unheard-of fortunes gathered in such a comparatively brief time, as to attract attention, and constitute one of the signs of the approaching end. This sign of the day of God stands out clearly before us.

The heaping up of riches, the last days, then the end! With a mighty warning voice these things speak to the world, bidding all prepare for the appearing of the Son of man.

**The Millionaire and Pauper**

The vast gulf between the enormously rich and the very poor, between millionaire and pauper, with the greed of the natural heart, breeds an unrest among the laboring class which is world wide, and threatens to lead to such an upheaval as will convulse the world and bring the miseries foretold upon the rich. The corruption of concentrated wealth and the vice and crime of poverty do not tend to the stability of government. Much of this great concentration of capital, these colossal and hitherto unheard-of fortunes, is the result of fraudulent manipulation. After speaking of the miseries and sorrows coming upon the rich, James says, "Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." James 5: 4.

The extravagant luxury of the rich leads to unrest, and in some instances breeds contempt. Many fashionable hotels, apartment houses, and tenements, while admitting dogs, exclude children. Luxurious suppers are given where priceless jewels are worn, and tens of thousands of dollars are wantonly and lavishly squandered. A metropolitan daily speaks of the surpassing magnificence of one of these princely gatherings, as follows:—

"The most sumptuous, brilliant, and costly social function that New York has ever known was the fancy-dress ball given by Mrs. — at the Waldorf last night.

"About eight hundred people were there, of whom more than four hundred and fifty were women. The ball placed about \$500,000 in circulation.

"The ball began at midnight, and ended at five o'clock this morning. Therefore its pleasures cost at the rate of \$100,000 an hour. The cost to the hostess was about \$125,000. It was a superb spectacle. People came thousands of miles to attend it."

Costly garments purchased to be worn on such an occasion, then laid away for the moths to eat, while orphans shiver with cold! Expensive funerals arranged for the burial of poodles, while thousands of children within a few blocks are suffering for the comforts of life! This condition leads a prominent daily to say:—

**The Glorious Appearing of Christ**

"Some" great events have taken place since Adam crossed the threshold of his Eden home for the last time. That was a momentous hour when, because of the wickedness of man, the Lord opened the windows of heaven and with the besom of destruction swept man and his vilest from the earth.

That was a great event when, from the blazing top of Mt. Sinai, amid darkness and thick clouds, the flash and lightning and the roll

minating the mountain top and devouring the sacrifice and the altar stones.

That was a great event when the disciples of Christ were all with one accord in one place on the day of Pentecost, waiting for the fulfillment of the promise. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat



CHRIST TEACHING HIS DISCIPLES CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING

of thunder, the Lord in majesty and power spoke his law to quailing humanity, and handed down to Israel its precepts, traced on stone by the finger of God.

That was a great hour when Elijah, at whose word the clouds had been chained, stood before the four hundred prophets of Baal, and sent out that challenge to settle the question as to who was the true God—Baal, or the God whom Elijah worshiped. That was a tense hour when, the false prophets having failed, Elijah, who had in a sense looked up the treasures of nature, having prepared the altar, looked up into heaven "at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, . . . and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again." 1 Kings 18: 36, 37. The flame descended like a lightning flash, illu-

upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2: 4.

**The Greatest of All Events**

But the greatest of all events will be at that awful and sublime hour when the Saviour returns the second time in all his glory, calls forth the righteous dead, changes the righteous living from mortality to immortality, destroys the wicked, and with the redeemed ascends to the city of God. Before this solemn event, whose glory no pen can describe, all other events pale like the stars before the noonday sun. Inspired writers have spoken of it as follows:—

"Whoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels." Luke 9: 26.

"The Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall



reward every man according to his works." Matt. 16:27.

"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thess. 4:16-18.

Many questions in the social, political, and religious worlds are absorbing the attention of men, but no question that could occupy the human mind is of so great importance as that raised by the disciples as Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matt. 24:3. The coming of Christ transcends all other events, for in it is wrapped up the eternal destiny of the human race, and the conclusion of the history of the world.

A Blessed Hope

When Jesus told his disciples that he was soon to leave them, they were filled with sorrow. To comfort them he said: "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3.

All who believe these wonderful words of the Master, must believe in his second advent. The promise of his second coming is as explicit as the promise of the first advent. And no more beautiful and encouraging theme could be contemplated. Truly the return of the Saviour of sinners will rejoice the heart of every true Christian. He who hung on Calvary's cross for our redemption, and who longs to have his people with him in the heavenly mansions, will return in glory and power. What a glorious hope to every believing, trusting child of God!

The Hope of God's People in All Ages

The return of Christ has been the hope of God's covenant-keeping people in all ages since sin divorced this planet from the continent of heaven. Through all the perplexity, affliction, sorrow, and trouble to which flesh is heir, the trusting children of God, during the six millenniums of the reign of sin, have looked by faith beyond the veil which dims their vision, and have rejoiced in the hope of the fulfilment of the promise that the One who died on Calvary and came forth as a mighty victor over the tomb and ascended to heaven with a retinue of holy angels, will come the second time.

Enoch

Enoch walked with God; but as he saw the human family falling into the tomb, he was troubled concerning their future. To him the Lord revealed the return of the Saviour in glory and the resurrection of the dead. "Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." Jude 14.

Job

Job in his affliction exclaimed, "O that my words were now written! O that they were printed in a book! that they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! For 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." Job 19:23-26 Though forsaken and suffering

affliction, and apparently soon to pass down into the dusty prison house, the grave, yet Job knew that he had a living Redeemer, who at the last day would come again. At that day he expected to come forth from the grave clothed in immortality, to behold the One who had redeemed him.

David

David, the sweet singer of Israel, exclaimed, "Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." Ps. 50:3-5. This was not Christ's first advent, for fire and tempest did not attend him then.

Isaiah

Isaiah, the seer, bids us comfort the hearts of the feeble with a cheering message. He says: "Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you." Isa. 35:3, 4. To every worn, struggling soul, the blessed hope is indeed a comfort.

Then blind eyes will be opened to look upon the surpassing beauty of the new earth: deaf ears will be unstopped to listen to the song of the angelic choir; the lame will walk amid the waving flowers of the heavenly land; and the tongue of the dumb will be unloosed to pour forth praise to him who has redeemed them from the hand of death.

Paul

Paul, that mighty hero of the cross, in the decline of life, his locks gray, his form bent by trials, persecution, and vicissitudes of life, wrote from a Roman dungeon, where he was awaiting his execution, these triumphant words: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

A Crown in Waiting

A crown laid up for him, awaiting that day when Jesus will return! Glorious crown! Triumphant day! Then, too, a crown awaits all those who "love his appearing." The writer was in London when George V was crowned. He saw the king and queen and many of the mighty men of the empire, and witnessed the gorgeous display of national power and greatness. Here in the world's metropolis were gathered the largest number of people ever congregated in one city. Then he thought of all the kings and queens, of all the ages in this world's history, their subjects and their kingdoms, and of the dynasties of the past. Where are they? Time has blotted them out. Over their tombs pass the hurried footsteps of millions. And all these millions will soon be in that land of silence from which no monarch or subject ever returns. From beyond the veil separating between the living and the dead, none return to tell us what is there.

As the writer thought of all this, he rejoiced in the hope of the second coming of the King of kings, for he had the assurance in his heart that he was a citizen of the everlasting kingdom which will be established when the Saviour comes, and that a crown is waiting for him "over there."

from the tomb him who went down beneath the icy hand of death a century ago, and ask him if he sees any changes since he fell asleep. He would perhaps fail to recognize the place of his birth.

Everything earthly shows the mold of decay. Nations pass away. Sand engulfs the monuments of the proud and mighty Pharaohs. There are deserts now where gardens of flowers once bloomed. Babylon has passed away, though once the proud mistress of the ancient

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.



"THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT IS COME"

world. Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome have also gone down under the triturations of time. Nineveh, that great city that Jonah warned, is dug from her grave by the spade of the explorer. Another has truly said:—

"A mysterious curse, created by sin; not part and parcel of the original creation, wastes down and wears out all the workmanship of man's hands; and time rushes along a resistless stream; and floating down its bosom, like drift-wood, are palaces and hovels, are scepters and sythes and crowns; and every voice we hear, and every scene we witness, only authenticates and impresses the solemn aphorism, 'The fashion of this world passeth away.'"

Wealth, which the avaricious heart of man covets, takes wing and vanishes. Costly palaces crumble into ruins. Rulers and statesmen, on whose word the destiny of a nation may have hung, die and are soon forgotten. Nothing endures. Soon everything will be wrapped in the consuming fire of that day when the earth will melt with fervent heat, and everything in it be burned up.

A Better Day

But there is a brighter day beyond, when sin shall be no more, when the very springs of sorrow shall be dried up, when the curse and all that goes with it shall cease to be.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:1-4.

It is not wealth, position in society, or a profession, that will enable us to stand when the Son of man appears. It is a clean heart. It is those who walk uprightly, and work righteousness, and speak the truth in their hearts who will ascend the hill of the Lord. The sweetest words that can ever fall on human ears will be the welcome of the Saviour when he says to the ransomed throng on his right hand, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt. 25:24. The saddest word will be, "Depart."

The Saviour is still our mediator. He still bids us come to him and be forgiven of all sin, to wash in the blood from Calvary and be clean. He will give to us freely that perfection of character which will enable us to stand before him in peace, clothed in his righteousness. In that glad day, some will say: "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord: we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Isa. 25:9. Reader, you can be among this number.

Watching and Waiting

By D. L. Moody

We have the same authority for the second coming of Christ that we have for his birth, his death, and his resurrection. People say it is wonderful. Is it as wonderful as that he should be born of a virgin, live a life of humiliation, and then be spat upon and crucified? I think that is a great deal more wonderful than his second appearing. Look at 1 Thess. 4:15-18: "We which are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep. . . . The dead in Christ shall rise first." And then in 5:1-6: "Of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I should write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. . . . Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

Now, I want to say that no man will ever be disappointed if he does just exactly what the Lord tells him to do. There is one thing the Lord has taught us to do, and that is to watch for his coming. If he tells us to run, we are to run; and if he tells us to stand still, we are to stand still; if he tells us to walk, we are to walk; and if he tells us to watch for his coming, we are to watch.

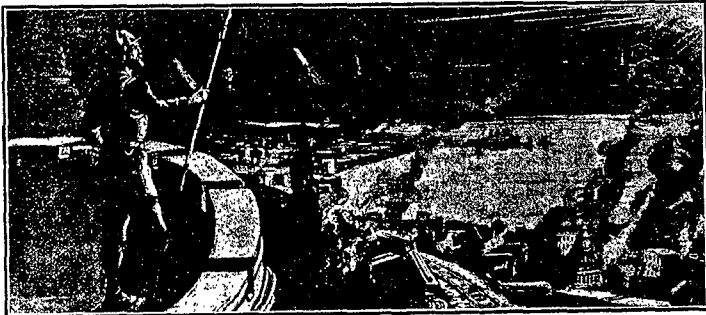
I want to call your attention to this one fact: We are not taught to watch for death, but we are taught to look for the Lord himself. That is the true attitude of every child of God on earth. From Adam clear down to the present time—except during the thirty-three years that Christ was here—the people of God have been told to look for a Man from heaven. When he finished his work and was raised on high, he taught his disciples to look for that blessed day when he should come again. As he was leaving them, he said: "Now, you watch, and I will be back again. Keep looking."

If there is any child of God that is watching for Antichrist—watching for the millennium—you are not doing what the Son of God tells you to do. He tells you to watch for himself—the bright and morning Star.

Then another thing: We can't go to the Lord's table as we should without thinking of his return. Perhaps some of you never thought of that. See 1 Cor. 11:26: "As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show forth the Lord's death till he come." The Lord's

table is a long table, isn't it? It reaches from the cross to the future glory. Then see Luke 19:13: "He called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." By this Christ tells us that we are to use our talents until he comes. See 1 Tim. 6:12-14: "Fight the good fight of faith . . . until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." In 1 Thess. 2:14-19 we are to endure tribulation until he comes. In James 5:8 we are to be patient till he comes. In 2 Tim. 4:8, we are to wait for the crown he will bring with him when he comes. It is going to be a crown of glory, Peter tells us. In 1 Thess. 4:17, 18, we are to wait for a reunion with our loved ones when he comes.

We are to wait till Satan shall be bound up—that is going to take place when he comes. Lots of glorious things are going to take place when he comes. That is the reason we are to watch, and pray, and wait. When his coming will be, we don't know. The true attitude of every child of God is just to be waiting and watching. We can get an idea of what the glory of those mansions will be which he is preparing for us from the length of time he is taking to get them ready. Maybe he is massing his forces for the final victory. "The time of our redemption draweth nigh."—"Moody at Home," pp. 176-178.



"WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT?"

The Needful Preparation

If an earthly sovereign were coming, and we were to meet him and be ushered into his presence, we should make a careful preparation. In like manner there is a preparation needed to meet the King of heaven. In view of this time the exhortation is given through the seer of Patmos: "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Rev. 3:3.

"The fashion of this world passeth away," 1 Cor. 7:31. In these words the inspired apostle expresses the transitory, fleeting character of earthly things. One writer tells us that "the literal translation of the word rendered 'fashion' is the shifting of the scenes in the

playhouse, as one scenic representation succeeds another in rapid succession."

"All the world's a stage, The men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances."

The scenes of life shift in quick and rapid succession. All that we see around us is but a spectacle which will soon give place to scenes of a far different character.

About us everywhere are faces that have been swept with the lights and shadows of fifty years or more. Ask him on whose head the whitening snows of threescore years and ten have fallen, if he can recall any changes in life's drama. Ask him if his experience bears testimony to the truthfulness of the words, "The fashion of this world passeth away." Bring

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