

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES



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"Ring out the old, ring in the new"



# the flight of TIME



INTERNATIONAL

*The 15-inch guns of the famous British battleship "Repulse," firing a salvo.*

## RING OUT THE OLD RING IN THE NEW

**T**HUS for a thousand years and more has the Old Year been merged into the New.

People singing, bells ringing.

People feasting, laughing, dancing, shouting. Bells ringing in cathedrals, in city churches, in wayside chapels.

Ring out the old. Ring in the new!

It was always felt that the passing of the Old Year, with all its mistakes and blunders, its losses and heartaches, could properly be celebrated with rejoicing; still more so the advent of the New, with all its unlimited, unspoiled opportunities, all its enticing and entrancing possibilities.

The New Year was bound to be better than the Old. Of course. Nobody doubted it. The very thought brought a great new hope surging into the hearts of men, spurring them on to new endeavor, inspiring within them innumerable resolutions to greater achievement and nobler living.

## A Survey of World Events

by the EDITOR

This year, in some countries at least, the bells have rung again. But there seemed a sadness in their chimes, as in a tolling for the dead. For while none could regret the ending of a year, which, for disaster, frightfulness, terrorism, and human suffering, could find few equals in the annals of history, yet the dawning of the New Year brought no gleam of light to illumine the enveloping gloom. Like mariners awaking after a night of storm at sea, there was nought to behold but the dim outlines of mountainous waves and angry, ominous clouds scudding across a starless sky.

It is indeed a sad and tragic prospect that confronts us today, with war spreading from nation to nation, with all the destruction of the finer things of life that it involves, and with all the subsequent famines, pestilences, and revolutions that must inevitably follow. How can anyone

be truly happy while countless thousands of fellow creatures are enduring such privations, bearing such sorrows, suffering such affliction and persecution?

Perhaps next year the bells will ring more happily? Perhaps. We doubt it. The forces of evil that have been let loose are so terrible that twelve short months will not suffice to bring them into subjection.

Well then, the year after? It is not for us to read the future in detail, but we have before us the sure word of prophecy, which says: "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:13.

Furthermore we have this inspired warning: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:12.

That does not suggest any improvement in world affairs, but rather a rapid deterioration until the final catastrophe as the powers of darkness perpetrate



their worst excesses and meet their doom in the outpouring of the wrath of God.

Then is there no hope for the future? no prospect of better times? Will the bells never again ring out a happy new year?

Yes, there is hope, but only in God. We have looked to ourselves for salvation long enough; now we must look to Him, and wait for the deliverance that He has planned.

Fortunately the very severity of world conditions is one of the most reliable indications that the time of divine intervention is near at hand. As Jesus said, referring to the very scenes of turmoil and tragedy that we are witnessing today, "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." Matthew 24:33.

So there is not long to wait now. Not very long. The scene may grow darker, the storm more wild; but we may at least console ourselves that the promised help from heaven is on the way. God will not fail us. At the moment of greatest need, at the very climax of human history, when the forces of good and evil are locked in their last terrific death grapple, then Christ will appear in His glory to save His own.

Then one day, one glad new year's day, the bells will ring again. All heaven and earth will reverberate with their peals of victory and joy.

Ring out the old! All tears, all death, all sorrow, all crying, all pain, "for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

Ring in the new! New heaven and a new earth, "for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." Verse 1.

In that glorious morning of eternity "there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever." Chapter 22: 3-5.

Hail happy day! May thy dawn soon banish the darkness of this night.

Ring out the old. Ring in the new!



### NO PLACE SAFE

THE whole world has become so completely involved in the troubles of these last days that there is no longer any place that is really safe.

Of all people who might have considered themselves safe were the peace-loving, inoffensive Finns. But they were not safe.

Three years ago the Poles, remembering their nonaggression pact with Germany, considered that they at least had no cause for worry. But they had.

And so with the Austrians, the Czechs, the Albanians, the Abyssinians, the Chinese. All thought they were safe. But they were not.

A year ago nobody would have dreamed that Holland or Belgium would ever be threatened; yet who would be rash enough to have this confidence today?

And so with Turkey, Iraq, Persia, even India, and many another country that may be menaced even before these words are off the press. Who dare prophesy how soon even America may become involved in the ever-spreading tidal wave of evil!

There is indeed no place absolutely safe today from invasion or revolution or some kind of terror.

No place safe to live and no place safe to store one's goods; no place safe to invest one's money.

On this point the *Saturday Evening Post* had this to say a few weeks ago: "Rich nations that are small are concealing their gold. Rich individuals are preparing themselves caves and hideaways. That is happening here in our own country. Refugee capital runs to and fro in the world, seeking temporary isles of safety. *The foundations of contract have been so undermined that there is nowhere in the world a bond so safe as to be a fit investment for the widow's mite.*"

In such an hour of universal peril and multiplying fears, when the foundations of our civilization have dissolved and the whole rickety structure is tumbling down about our ears, happy is the man who has learned to put his trust in the living God. There is no security nowadays anywhere else.

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Southern California is fast becoming the greatest airplane manufacturing center in the world. Here are a few light bombers for the United States Army. They each weigh 15 tons fully loaded, and can fly 200 miles an hour.







# CERTAINTY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

*How the Word of God Excels  
All Human Wisdom*

by WILLIAM A. SPICER

WE DARE not risk eternity on a hazard—on a mere hope so. In a passing world—life itself as uncertain as the fading flower—a sinner needs certainty on which to plant his feet. Our hearts cry out for certainty.

And, thanks be to God, He does give us certainty. We are not left to grope in the dark. From ancient times God has spoken certainty to the children of men. Listen as He speaks in the ancient Scriptures. From the days of Egypt and Assyria and Babylon He has been saying: "That thy trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?" Proverbs 22:19-21.

Without this revelation from heaven, the wisest of the ancients knew only uncertainty. With the revelation of the living God, the simplest man of the street or of the field could know the certainty of his hope.

Listen to three ancient writers who preached uncertainty when believers in the word of God had a sure and certain light on their path.

1. Anaxagoras, a Greek philosopher, lived about the years 500 to 428 before Christ. He said helplessly:

"Nothing can be surely known; nothing therefore can be learned; nothing can be certain; the senses are limited and delusive; intellect is weak; life is short." —Quoted in *"The Targums,"* by J. W. Etheridge, Introduction, page 2.

"Nothing can be certain"! Contrast that with the words of the prophet Daniel, spoken to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, only a few years before the birth of Anaxagoras. The Lord had given the king a dream of empires to come. Daniel interpreted the dream. We have it in the second chapter of his book. And the prophet declared to the great king: "The dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." Daniel 2:45.

No uncertainty there! When God spoke the sure words of divine prophecy,



there was everlasting certainty. The prophecy foretold then and there the outline history of the world. The course of empire from that day to this—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the division of the Roman Empire into the kingdoms and countries of Western Europe before our eyes today—bears witness to the certainty of God's word of prophecy in that time when the philosopher cried out, "Nothing can be certain!"

2. Sophocles, the famous Greek poet (495-406 B. C.), wrote:

"And foresight of the future there is none;  
'Tis best to live at random as one can."  
—*Oedipus Rex*.

Yet this same Sophocles, as a youth, had led the chorus in Athens celebrating the victory of Greece over Xerxes of Persia, a conquest that had been foretold a century before in prophecy. Daniel 11:2, 3.

All unwittingly Sophocles had acted a part in witnessing to the fact that there was "foresight of the future" in the prophetic word.

3. Juvenal, in Rome (about 60-140 A. D.), in the days of the apostles, wrote:

"A long dark night  
Conceals the future hour from mortal sight."  
—*Satire 6*.

Yet in Juvenal's own time the apostle Peter exultingly cried out: "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, until the day dawn, and the Daystar arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.

Juvenal wrought in uncertainty and darkness, contributing nothing to any uplifting cause that can be distinguished today; while, in the same generation, the apostle Peter and all the early believers in a divine and certain revelation preached Christ's gospel that changed men and changed history; and still it is transforming men and women in every land today. It is everywhere a living, powerful message, spreading hope and joy and assurance of eternal salvation.

There is certainty for us in this uncertain world. We find it in the Holy Scriptures. God has written to us excellent things in counsels and knowledge, in order that we may know "the certainty of the words of truth," and have a sure basis for putting our trust in the Lord.

The one who goes to the First Source for help in perplexity is compared to "a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." Matthew 7:24, 25.





# The WORLD IS DYING

## *Signs of Its Approaching End*

by

CARLYLE B. HAYNES

ONE by one, nation after nation gasps out its little life and dies. We have seen the passing of several during the year just ended. Are we witnessing the death agony of the world? Is this, indeed, "the time of the end"?

The deep foundations of the world are being convulsed. Volcanic forces are seething and surging beneath our feet. We can actually feel the tremors of the coming earthquake. Perilous times have come in all human affairs.

Serious as these times are, however, men of clear-eyed vision, of wide information, are able to see in them only portents of still more perilous times to come.

The present unrest and confusion are only the mutterings of the coming tempest, the tremblings of the impending earthquake, the eddies of the approaching whirlwind, the gratings of the avalanche of ruin that overhangs our doomed world.

Everywhere and in every social stratum thinking men are afraid.

Examples of the swift and sudden destruction of human governments, hu-



INTERNATIONAL

*An indicator of the times is the tendency to surrender government to dictators who relieve their subjects of all responsibility. The illustration shows a scene in Rome when Mussolini proclaimed Italy's breaking away from the League of Nations.*

man institutions, and human liberties on a vast scale are placed before us almost daily in our newspapers. It is altogether amazing how speedily the achievements and advancements made in human progress over a period of decades and centuries can be made to disappear as though by the waving of a magician's wand.

We are living in a time of stupendous and rapid changes, when the laborious and careful building of long years of struggle and costly expenditure of blood and life is ruthlessly destroyed overnight.

A national crisis develops. Confusion and turmoil follow. A spectacular leader appears from somewhere, and gains millions of followers by impossible promises. They place him in power. They consolidate his position. They support him in canceling and removing all obstacles against the use of dictatorial power. They make loyalty to him a fetish. They make disloyalty to him treason. And they shout with satisfaction when he proceeds to put down all opposition, and to destroy all safeguards of constitutional and well-ordered civilized society as he gathers to himself the power of absolute despotism.

It is an almost unbelievable picture. After centuries of heartbreaking struggle and sacrifice, civilization, at the beginning of the twentieth century, was emerging into a condition of stability.

The liberties men had fought for during long years of hardship were being consolidated everywhere.

Liberty of speech, liberty of the press, liberty of opinion, liberty of assembly, liberty of conscience, liberty of religion, were coming to be everywhere recognized and established.

And now, almost overnight, we see these things tumbling like a house of cards, all the gains of centuries being lost. Never before in human history have such world-shaking developments come about so rapidly. The stupendous changes now taking place before our eyes have never before been equaled either in their speed or in their vast importance.

It is almost as if some supernatural despot, angered to the point of fury by the enlightenment and progress human beings had made, had issued the order to bring it all to nothing. And lesser human despots leap to carry out his orders.

A decree—and great parties of opposition, representing millions of votes, are suppressed or driven out of existence. An order—and a million citizens whose only misdemeanor is to be of a hated race, are disfranchised and herded into concentration camps. A pronouncement—and the autonomy of universities, the liberty of the press, the right of free speech and debate, and freedom of assembly are wiped out. An executive ukase—and millions of youth and children are militarized and placed under army training. An ordinance—and business and industry and commerce are regimented and brought under unconstitutional codes. An edict—and every activity of the state is brought under

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**This is the first of a unique series of short, concise articles covering fifty phases of vital Bible truth to appear in every issue of our 1940 volume. Don't miss one of them! EDITOR.**





Above: "The House of Justice," recently uncovered in Ur of the Chaldees. Right: In this chamber of an ancient cemetery of Ur was found a wealth of gold jewelry.



## Buried Cities Tell Their Story

### Evidence From Ur of the Chaldees

# Did NOAH'S FLOOD Really Happen?

by BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ALLEN

UR OF OLD gave to the world a great man. Now it is giving to the world a great message.

The leaders of the excavations at Ur and other points in the Euphrates Valley say that they have surely located the Flood in history. These diggings not only have unearthed several tablets and carved and imprinted accounts of the Flood, but also, it is claimed, disclosed the actual Flood strata of clay deposits and the remains of actual pre-Flood cities.

"The history of Ur goes back far beyond the Flood," says Dr. C. L. Woolley, who represented the University of Pennsylvania and the British Museum in this research.

The favorite place to dig is always the dump heap. Archaeologists delight to sift the remains of the place where ancient peoples dumped their rubbish. They say it is the very best all-round scrapbook of the life of an ancient people. The place of the burial of the dead

of old is also a favorite with the archaeologists, for, generally, the best of the theology, the art, and much of the science and wealth of ancient peoples went into their burials.

Many rich and important finds were made at Ur; but we are dealing here only with that which concerns Noah's Flood. Dr. Woolley dug down about forty feet through layer after layer of different ages of the city. Suddenly he came to clay,—clean, clear clay,—which had been laid down by water. He first thought that ended it, that he had found the original foundation of the city. You see, those old cities grew up to be mounds. The buildings were made of sun-dried brick, which crumbled in time or were torn down during wars, thus building up the mound.

But Dr. Woolley found that he was still slightly higher than the surrounding plain, and decided to dig deeper. As he dug, an animal bone was found, as though it had been laid there by the

waters that left the clay. We suggest that, generally speaking, such a bone could have arrived there only by being floated in its own decaying and gas-distended flesh. Bone will not be carried by water that is still enough to deposit clay. Finally, at about eight and a half feet, the clay ended as suddenly as it began. He was again in pottery, implements, and refuse of all kinds. But this material was all of a people entirely different from that above the clay. Strange to say, however, it was exactly like that he had found in some small surface ruins about four miles away.

### "The Oldest Town in the World"

This old place was called Ubiad by the natives, and they said that it was "the oldest town in the world." The important point is that all above the clay stratum at Ur was of the comparatively well-known Sumerians; but, below the clay, and at Ubiad, the remains were clearly Pre-Sumerian.

Who were these Pre-Sumerians?

"The great bed of clay marked, if it did not cause, a break in the continuity



of history," says Dr. Woolley.—"Ur of the Chaldees," page 27. Beneath the clay he found a burnt brick, which, he says, proves substantial buildings, and, with the other things, a town of civilized people. He found personal owners' seals stamped on earthen jar stoppers, which, he says, indicate a written language. He sank a shaft some three hundred yards away, and found the same evidence, clay streak and all.

According to Sumerian legends of the Flood, he says, some of the pre-Flood cities were rebuilt after the Flood. Since mounds were desirable building sites, the Sumerians built Ur upon this one. Its pre-Flood name is not known, granting that it was pre-Flood.

### The Flood and the Clay

Clay, being a deposit of still water only, settles on everything about equally, but slides down the steeper slopes. Running water would have eroded the mound rather than deposited anything on it; though, if running very slowly, it would have deposited some clay. We wish a test could be made some distance from the mound, to determine the clay depth on the flat at large. It is possibly much thicker, perhaps twice as thick, or even more.

"Inundations are of normal occurrence in Lower Mesopotamia, but no ordinary rising of the rivers would leave behind it anything approaching the bulk of this clay bank. Eight feet of sediment (especially clay) imply a very great depth of water, and the Flood, which deposited it, must have been of a magnitude unparalleled in local history," says Dr. Woolley.

Modern critics, including Dr. Woolley, suavely assign local floods as the origin of the multitudinous accounts of what we consider as the one great world-wide Flood of Noah. But, in the only sources of their information, the legends, the carved accounts, and the Bible, not one word to support such a theory is found. On the contrary, these all specifically describe the Flood as world-wide. And how easy it would have been for these Flood survivors to know if it were only local!

Dr. Woolley estimates that the Flood happened about 3500 before Christ. This compares well with 3600 B.C., as computed from the Septuagint. The Syriac Version, which was a copy of the Septuagint, practically agrees.

"Taking into consideration all of the facts, there could be no doubt that the Flood, of which we have found the only possible evidence, was the Flood of Sumerian history and legend, the Flood on which is based the story of Noah."—"Ur of the Chaldees," page 20.

From a geological conception of the Flood as the great world-wide catastro-

## Flashlines

W. L. EMMERSON

**BETTER OR WORSE?** "We are living in an epoch when we are witnessing the death of an old world and the birth of a new," said Lord Lothian, addressing the Pilgrims of the United States recently; "and the still undetermined question is whether the new world will be better or worse than the old."

**CHARLEMAGNE EVACUATED** "Probably for the first time in history," says the *Times*, "the remains of Charlemagne have been removed from Aachen, in western Germany, and taken into the interior."

**COLONIAL ITALY** It is reported that there are now 200,000 colonists in Italian East Africa. New gold, platinum, tin, and iron deposits are being worked, and agriculture has been greatly extended. Two thousand five hundred miles of new roads have been constructed and twenty-five modern hospitals established.

**AMERICAN CATHOLIC ANNIVERSARY** In November, the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the United States was celebrated at the Catholic University of America in Washington.

**REVOLUTION INEFFECTIVE** Pointing out that revolutions usually serve only to raise up new dictators, Professor Abbott, in "The Writings and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell," cites the fact that Cromwell followed the Puritan revolution; Napoleon, the French Revolution; Napoleon III, the revolution of 1848; Stalin, the Russian revolution of 1917; and Hitler, the German revolution.

**WAR IDEAS** Indicative of the activity of wartime inventions is the fact that some three hundred ideas and plans are being submitted to the British Ministry of Supply every week.

**NEW YORK'S NEW AIRPORT** New York's recently opened airport has the largest hangars ever built, each 350 feet long, 165 feet wide, and 72 feet high. Its four runways, ranging from 3,500 to 6,000 feet in length, are also the longest in the world.

**DEEP-SEATED MALADY** "This war," says the *Church Times*, "is only a symptom of the malady of a world estranged from God. It is a dreadful and dramatic symptom, but its roots lie very deep; it is not the disease itself."

phe, such as the accounts all describe it, however, we doubt the adequacy of the clay under Ur to represent it. But still we feel that these facts should be kept in mind until more evidence comes to light. From our viewpoint, the Flood was accompanied by the cracking and fault-blocking of the whole crust of the earth. Mountains and mountain chains, and perhaps whole continents, rose and fell, and practically all the layers of sedimentary rocks were laid down by its mighty waters. The Flood was not mere high water, but it was earth's chief geological event; because we find the remains of all these things intermingled and inseparable, as from one great event.

After reviewing the finds in the whole Euphrates Valley, we shall offer another suggestion, which tends to reconcile these finds with the Flood.

### Kish, Another Pre-Flood Site

Below Kish, under the 44-foot level, Prof. Stephen Langdon of the University of Oxford and the Field Museum found a civilization prior to the time of King Nebuchadnezzar. There, in his opinion, he found abundant evidence of a civilization before the Flood. Kish lies near the Euphrates River, not far from Babylon. But this "Flood" of Kish is supposed to have laid down only two or three feet of sediment. Apart from the distinct difference in the people, which, he says, were like those at Ubiad and below the clay at Ur, there is little that seems worthy of the Flood as we feel it must be understood. But we reserve judgment.

Sir Charles Marston, in his recent book, "New Bible Evidence," says: "Dr. Langdon associates the Ur deposits with the lower level at Kish. He reports that Babylonian and Assyrian scribes frequently refer to 'the age before the Flood.' One king praises himself as one who 'loved to read the writings of the age before the Flood.'"—Pages 58, 59.

### Pre-Flood Cities Named

At Nippur, a version of the Flood story was found on a tablet in the Sumerian language. It seems to have been written about 2100 B.C., though from a story much older.

This account contains a statement that man was created before the animals, thus reversing the Hebrew account. The hero, Zindsudu, was a king and a priest. His god told him that at a council of the gods it was decided to destroy all mankind by a Flood because of their lawlessness. The part that describes the building of the ship is obliterated. The storm, the wind, the rain, are described as raging together. "When for seven days and seven nights the rainstorm had raged

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MAN may narrate history, compose poetry, enact laws, and produce systems of ethics; but the wisest cannot tell what a day will bring forth or what will occur in the unborn years and centuries to come. Only the Infinite can positively and definitely foretell the future; and the Bible alone presents an authentic, dependable program of coming events. There can be no careless, clumsy guesswork; for the prophecies are a vital, carefully planned part of the great Book; and the whole world is invited to study, test, and verify the divine forecasts.

"I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure." Isaiah 46:9, 10.

In all the libraries and languages of earth, the Bible holds a unique place. It claims to possess the only certified outline of coming events. Let this, too, be emphasized, that no other book in the world has stood the test of specific prophecies.

"Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith

the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen; . . . declare us things for to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods." Isaiah 41:21-23.

The word of God places fulfilled prophecy above all other external evidence of its inspiration. Even Christ based His claim to Messiahship upon the fulfillment of His word. "I tell you before it come," He declared, "that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am He." John 13:19. Again and again the prophets of old summoned unbelievers to face this crucial test. And today Holy Writ calls upon the peoples of earth to study its predictions and be convinced of their truthfulness.

"Have I not declared unto thee of old, and showed it? and ye are My witnesses." "Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Isaiah 44:8, R. V.; 1 Thessalonians 5:20, 21.

In this emphatic language the Bible challenges the entire world to watch the unfolding scroll of prophecy as it merges into history. It invites the wise man to duplicate the feat, and write history in advance; but no one accepts the challenge. Among pagan oracles of antiquity, the one at Delphi attained the greatest celebrity. In some instances the voice of the oracle contained wholesome advice; but most of the utterances that dealt with the future were obscure and ingeniously worded to accord with any turn of events. For instance, when Croesus of Lydia sent to ask if he should undertake a military expedition against Cyrus of Persia, he was told that by so doing he "would destroy a great empire." He truly did; but the empire destroyed was his own.

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The prophecies of Scripture are not adroitly and enigmatically fashioned after any human pattern. The Bible speaks as definitely of the future as historians do of the past, and foretells coming events "with the sure, luminous strokes of infinite knowledge." The prophets were confident and fearless in their predictions of coming events, and made no provision for failure or retreat. If the event foretold had not occurred, the spokesman would have been utterly discredited and disgraced, for his statements were so definite and absolute that no explanation would avail.

The Scriptures contain approximately one thousand prophecies, eight hundred of which are recorded in the Old Testament. Many of these have been minutely fulfilled in the subsequent annals of the church, and in the rise and fall of empires. Some are today crystallizing into history, while others apply to the com-

*Scenes like this are to be seen in Egypt, once the richest and proudest empire of the world.*





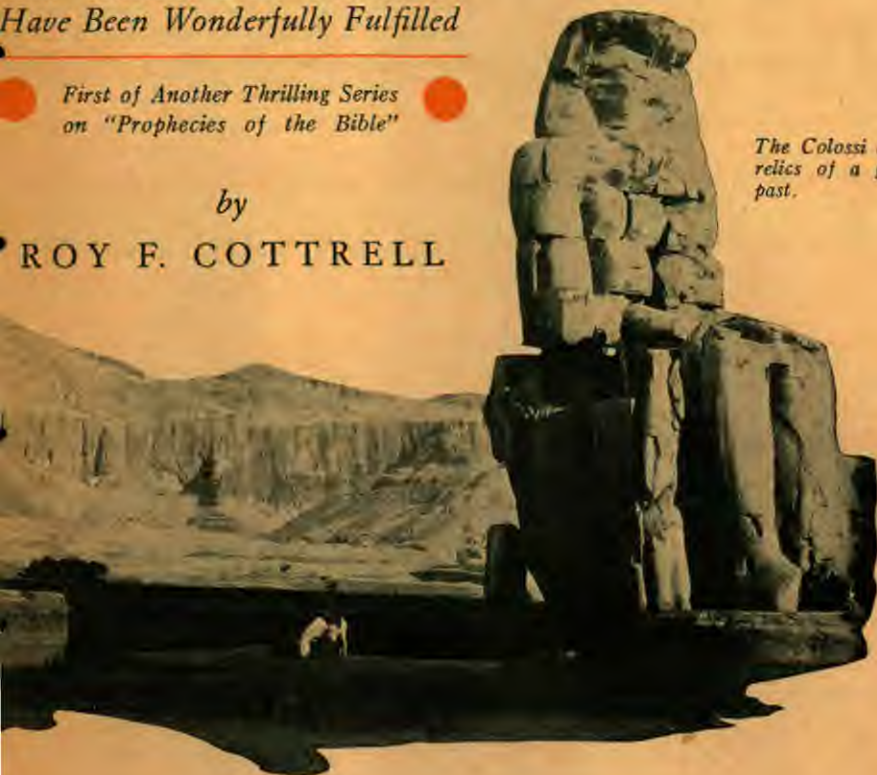
# EGYPT SPEAKS TO OUR TIME

*How Ancient Bible Predictions  
Have Been Wonderfully Fulfilled*

*First of Another Thrilling Series  
on "Prophecies of the Bible"*

by

ROY F. COTTRELL



*The Colossi at Thebes,  
relics of a glory long  
past.*

ing judgment and the future homeland of the redeemed. Of the entire number, not one failure can be pointed out. Some have been misinterpreted and misapplied, but no prophecy of the great Book has miscarried or failed.

Visiting the ancient lands of Bible story, and recalling some of the divine predictions given in the long ago, we are astonished at the striking fulfillment. From remotest antiquity Egypt has appropriately been designated "the gift of the Nile." About the delta and in the extremely long, narrow, fertile river valley, the descendants of Ham chose for themselves a home, and established a civilization that has elicited the wonder and admiration of all subsequent generations.

When Abraham visited Egypt, he not only saw a highly developed agriculture, but he found a people who wrote history, romance, and poetry; who had considerable knowledge of medicine and chemistry; who possessed unsurpassed skill in the manufacture of glass and in the embalming of the dead; who had made

much progress in higher mathematics and astronomy; and whose colossal monuments and triumphs of art then perfected have for four millenniums withstood the ravages of the elements and the vandalism of mankind.

Egypt's well-organized army carried its triumphs to lands afar. Descriptive of their ancient capital, Thebes, these picturesque lines have been preserved for us:

"The world's great empress on the Egyptian plain,  
That spreads her conquests o'er a thousand states,  
And pours her heroes through a hundred gates.  
Two hundred horsemen, and two hundred cars,  
From each wide portal issuing to the wars."

Egypt proper was said to contain eighteen thousand cities and towns, and seventeen million inhabitants. Practically surrounded by seas or desert wastes, the most easily defended country in all the world, able to repel with her powerful navy any hostile fleet or to drown an

invading army by opening the dikes about the delta, what prospect was there that she should be invaded, despoiled, and doomed to perpetual servitude at the hands of strangers? And what mere man would have risked his reputation to foretell so complete a collapse of Egyptian culture and greatness?

But consider the facts. While the country was still prosperous, the Most High declared: "Egypt is like a very fair heifer, but destruction cometh; it cometh out of the north." And again, "There shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt." Jeremiah 46:20; Ezekiel 30:13. Soon after these words were spoken, Egypt was forced to acknowledge the supremacy of Babylonia, and has since passed successively beneath the odious sway of Persia, Grecia, Rome, the Saracens, and the Turks; while today the authority of Great Britain is altogether distasteful to many of the Egyptians. True to the divine forecast, twenty-three centuries have now passed without a native prince's being seated upon the throne of the pharaohs. Even the present king, Farouk I, is of the Albanian race.

During the twenty-first dynasty of Egyptian kings, Tanis, or Zoan, became the national capital, and continued as a great commercial center until it was finally superseded by the new city of Alexandria. While this metropolis was still in its glory, the divine edict was pronounced: "I . . . will set fire in Zoan." Ezekiel 30:14. History tells little of the fate that befell the once luxurious capital; but the spade of the archaeologist, unearthing palaces, temples, and private dwellings constructed in genuine Pompeian style, reveals the havoc wrought by fire in practically every district of this old imperial city.

"Thus saith the Lord God; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Noph [Memphis]." Ezekiel 30:13. As the curtain rose upon Egyptian history, princes and people were intensely idolatrous. Gods and goddesses were almost innumerable, and many animals were the objects of worship. But what a change! Under Mohammedanism and nominal Coptic Christianity, no images of any description are to be found, nor have they been tolerated in the country for more than twelve hundred years.

Another singular prediction of the old



Book declared: "The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and everything sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more." Isaiah 19:7. From the paper reeds of the Nile delta the Egyptians manufactured the famous papyrus—the tough, durable writing paper of antiquity. Our words "Bible" and "paper" are both clearly derived from the Greek names of this Egyptian plant, *biblos* and *papyrus*. Although it formerly grew in such abundance, this reed has entirely disappeared from Egypt, and is now found in but few isolated districts of the world.

Friends, God makes no mistakes, and Bible prophecy commits no blunders. Human imagination would never have pictured such a complete eclipse of Egyptian culture and civilization, or so tragic a downfall of the country that was justly renowned as "the granary of the world."

Let us turn to the country of Palestine. At the time of its conquest and occupation by the Hebrew people in the fifteenth century B. C., it was declared to be "an exceeding good land," a "land flowing with milk and honey." On condition of obedience, God gave to Israel the promise of great national prosperity; but, declared the divine Spokesman, "If ye will not for all this hearken unto Me,

but walk contrary; . . . I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation: . . . and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished." "So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord hath laid upon it; and that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein: . . . even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the Lord done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger? Then men shall say, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them forth out of the land of Egypt." Leviticus 26:27-32; Deuteronomy 29:22-25.

Tragic to relate, the chosen people kept not the covenant. For long centuries their beloved country became the scene of war and chaos. The conquerors broke down the cities, denuded the hills and mountains of forests and vegetation, and impoverished the once fertile soil until throughout large sections of the Holy Land the traveler saw little save ancient ruins and desert wastes. In recent years

modern methods of agriculture have again demonstrated that the ground of old Canaan is capable of producing delicious fruit and luxuriant harvests, as of olden time.

For many centuries Egypt and Palestine have stood as notable witnesses to the marvelous foreknowledge of God. In these paragraphs we have but touched the fringe of Bible prophecy. Hundreds of other divine predictions, definite and literal, have outlined the future of nations, countries, cities, and religions; and the march of world events during the past three thousand years constitutes a remarkable response of history to the unerring voice of prophecy.

## Noah's Flood a Reality?

(Continued from page 7)

in the land, when the great boat had been carried away by the windstorms on the mighty waters, the sun god came forth, shedding light over heaven and earth," it says. Then the hero bowed down and worshiped the sun, and sacrificed a sheep and an ox. Then the hero worshiped the other gods. He was given eternal life, and taken to dwell in the mountains. He was given the title: "Preserver of the Seed of Mankind."

In this story the towns of Shuruppak, Eridu, Larak, and Sippar are named as cities before the Flood. The town of Shuruppak was also named in the Babylonian account by Berossos as pre-Flood. The German Oriental Society discovered the site of Shuruppak on the hill of Fara, to the north of Uruk. Very old Sumerian writing was found on clay tablets there, vaguely estimated by some as dating back to 3400 B. C. These writings, with definitely Sumerian pottery and other articles, were found *under* nearly two feet of clay, deep beneath the accumulations of Semitic life. It is thought that the pre-Flood city was burned, and that the clay marks the event of the Flood.

But Dr. Woolley and Dr. Langdon say the pre-Flood people were *Pre-Sumerian*, the Sumerians *following* the Flood instead of preceding it. However, we shall reserve judgment here as to this difference.

At Abu-Habbah, the site of the pre-Flood city of Sippar, another version of the Flood was dug up in excavations by the Turkish Government. "Sipara" is the spelling of this city as it appears in the Babylonian account by Berossos—the city where the hero was told by the gods to bury the chief writings and wisdom before the Flood. After the Flood, that story says, the survivors returned on foot and dug up the records.

The Sippar tablet is very mutilated, but contains a reference to a certain year

(Continued on page 14)

## NEWSGRAMS

by BENJAMIN MAXSON

**Menace of Force** The Archbishop of Canterbury, addressing a diocesan conference recently, said that the world now is confronted "by the menace of force which really and truly is evil."

"We are using no mere language of exaggeration when we describe this spirit, armed with ruthless force, as in truth satanic," he said. "Indeed, it is a manifestation of antichrist."

**Mobilization Efficiency** According to Walter Davenport, writing in a recent issue of *Collier's*, within eight days after the United States declares war, 12,000,000 men between the ages of 21 and 30 will be registered. Of these, 40 per cent—4,800,000—would be immediately available. "On the seventeenth day—seventeen days after Congress has made it illegal for an able-bodied man to refuse to go to Europe and be killed, the names of the first draft will be posted."

**Safe Shelters for Radium** Deep pits are being dug for the precious and deadly radium, where it will be buried at the first sign of danger of aerial bombardment. One direct hit would scatter the precious stuff so diffusely that it would be dangerous for human beings to live there for thousands of years to come. Such civilized luxuries as cancer treatments would become superfluous anyway during aerial attacks.

### Synthetic Gasoline for Japan

Japan is making synthetic gasoline, but at a cost of three times the market price of imported gasoline. Only subsidies by the government permit the synthetic fuel to compete economically with the natural product.

**Cost of World War I** The cost of the war that raged from 1914-18 was as follows: Actual money loss during the period of military operations: \$200,000,000,000. In 1,512 days, 14,000,000 tons of ships were sunk. Raw materials consumed: copper, 800,000,000 pounds; zinc, 800,000,000 pounds; steel, 12,000,000 tons; coal, 1,000,000,000 tons; oil, 500,000,000 tons; explosives, 8,000,000,000 pounds. Deaths totaled 8,000,000, and at least 4,000,000 others died prematurely from causes associated with the war.

**Top Air Speed** The world's record for speed on land is now 368.86 miles an hour, or a little more than six miles a minute. This is a hundred or more miles an hour faster than the fastest commercial airliner. Nearly double that speed is not considered impossible, though perhaps impractical, for the future in the air. If the human mechanism can stand it, speed itself is not so dangerous as changes in speed, high acceleration, or slowing up quickly. Top limit to speed in the air is considered to be the speed of sound—about 1,100 feet a second—755 miles an hour—12½ miles a minute.





# ROUND THE WORLD

## With the GOSPEL

*Does the Missionary Have a Soft Job?*

by SPENCER G. C. MAXWELL

MISSIONARIES to WRITE for the "SIGNS" THROUGHOUT 1940

Closely connected with the *Signs of the Times* is the world-wide missionary organization of the great second advent movement, now proclaiming the gospel of the soon-coming Saviour in nearly three hundred countries and islands around the world. Recently we requested many experienced missionaries in these lands to become special contributors to the *Signs of the Times*, telling something of their work for God, and, in particular, setting forth the problems confronting Christian missions in this great new troubled era of world history. Many have already replied, and their articles will appear in the paper throughout 1940. We gladly welcome them all to our columns. EDITOR.

“THESE missionaries have a really soft job! Just think of their living in a comfortable house, surrounded by native servants, teaching a few ‘niggers’ to read!” These words came from a well-fed, well-clothed individual with a fat pocketbook. He had felt that he was in need of a world tour, first-class, to recuperate his health.

The words were overheard by a small, frail man, whose appearance showed he had spent years in the tropics. He was traveling third class. “So the missionary has a soft job—has he?” he asked. “Do you see that white cross over on that point?” The steamer was picking its way between the reefs guarding Mombasa Harbor.

“Yes,” was the reply; “what is it?”

“When you go ashore, walk round to that memorial, and you will read the following words:

“DR. AND MRS. LUDWIG KRAFF

*They reached Mombasa, May, 1844, and in July she died. And by her grave (near this spot) he summoned the church to attempt the conversion of Africa from its eastern shore. He died on his knees in prayer, November 26, 1881.*

“Ninety-six years ago the first Christian missionary to Eastern Africa laid his companion to rest a few months after landing on its inhospitable shore. Did he turn back to the homeland? No! In loneliness and weariness he labored on for many a year, seeking to penetrate the impassable desert that guarded the way to the hinterland, and finally suc-

ceeded in discovering the snow-capped peaks of Kilimanjaro and Kenya.

“If you visit the graveyard at Rabai, ten miles inland from the port, you will find the doctor’s resting place in company with that of many another faithful pioneer who chose the reward of a missionary’s life to the comforts of the homeland.

“How was the trail blazed upcountry? By soldiers’ repressing the warlike tribes? No! The missionaries blazed the way—pioneer agents of civilization. They pressed inland with caravan porters, cutting their way through the thorn desert, onward into the unknown. Native chiefs demanded *hongo*, a tax for passing through their domains. Onward to the great Lake Victoria, and beyond.

“Just take a side trip of a few miles before you cross the river Nile as it leaves the great lake on its 4,000-mile course to the north. ‘Here died Bishop Hannington.’ Just a tablet near a native village—

but what a story! The missionary bishop was hastening to his appointment in Uganda. The Baganda had been warned that the enslaver of their country would come from the east, and, on the approach of the strange white man, the local chiefs set on him with spears ere he could reach his field of labor.

“Step into the churchyard of Namirembe Cathedral at Kampala. Your eye will catch the word, ‘Mackay.’ Just a simple tablet—but again what memories it conjures up! The man who alone braved fierce Mwanga’s wrath. The man who alone held on when all his companions had left. The man who, by his example, inspired his followers to go to a fiery death rather than deny the Lord who had died for them.

“‘The missionary has a soft job’—did you say?

“One mission house is isolated, away off the beaten track. Mother is taken ill. No medical help is available. With difficulty a lorry is produced, and a rough journey of more than one hundred miles takes her to the hospital. Diagnosis—blackwater fever. The journey ought never to have been undertaken; but who could advise? Two days later a sorrowing husband and two motherless children wend their cheerless way back to the station.

“‘Come immediately,’ was the message another missionary received. Three hundred miles away his wife lay in a critical condition with the same dreaded blackwater fever. No steamer for a week. The only way to reach her—a lorry trip through the unknown bush, over stony river beds, sleeping out under the stars to the tune of roaring lions, to arrive at last to find that his loved one passed the crisis through the help of prevailing prayer.

“Picture a temporary house on piles, gaps in the floor boards, reeds and grass for walls and roof. The wind howling through the night. A little one makes his appearance. No physician anywhere

(Continued on page 18)



The memorial to Dr. and Mrs. Ludwig Kraff at Mombasa, Kenya, East Africa.



# The GOLDEN MILESTONE

## On the Highway of History

by

WESLEY AMUNDSEN

THROUGH all the ages of the church of the living God there has been a great objective toward which every generation has eagerly looked. That objective was and is the "blessed hope" of the second coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords in all His glory and majesty, to redeem not only man but the earth from the curse under which it fell at the time of Adam's sin. It is this "blessed hope" that one writer describes as "the golden milestone toward which all events point and all roads tend." The same writer speaks of "three mountain peaks in the landscape of Biblical history and prophecy," each of which, as he puts it, "represents an *advent*." "First, the advent of the first Adam, in the creation; secondly, the advent of the second Adam, in His incarnation; and thirdly, the second advent of the Son of man and the Son of God, at His final revelation."

God has ever been planning for this world—planning in large terms for a restoration of the "first dominion," which was given to the first Adam in the beginning of the creation, six thousand years ago. In the first gospel text—a sermon of hope and joy in the midst of a dark and sorrowful hour—God held forth the great objective toward which the world must travel: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15. While it was a message of hope, at the same time it was a declaration of war—war that would not end until the enemy, the deceiver of mankind, should be finally overthrown and destroyed.

In the steady tread of events through the ages,—the first murder, when Cain revealed the depth and terribleness of sin and disobedience by killing his own brother; the propagating of a race of ungodly men, who were so wicked and fierce that God had to destroy the world with a flood in order to overthrow them and cleanse the earth of its pollution; down through the ages of Israel, with their victories and their failures, their faithfulness and their apostasies,—all through these ages God has held before the people the "golden milestone" of the second coming of the Lord of glory.

The first advent, almost two thousand



years ago, was the forerunner of this second coming. It became necessary for the Father to send His Son in order that the world might understand that God still loved the men and women of this world in spite of their sinfulness. He sent Him as a physician to heal the spiritual bodies of men, to restore those shattered lives blasted by the forces of Satan. In the intensity of the warfare, with the people groping in darkness, seeking for a way out of the terrible morass of sin, Jesus came, the Light of the world; came like a star of hope, and the people would have crowned Him king then if He had

accepted the kingship of this world. Satan offered Him this sort of kingship if He would only serve him. But He could reign as king only when all of sin had been finally destroyed, and the originator of sin destroyed with it. His kingship must first of all be set up in the hearts of men. Enthroned in their innermost souls, seated upon the throne of their hearts, He would thus bring to Himself, one by one, enough persons to people this world with subjects who would serve Him through love.

Today the Holy Spirit continues the work Jesus began when He walked upon earth among men. The warfare has not abated; rather, it has become more intense. The anger of Satan has increased, for he realizes that his end is near. The bruising of the heel of the Son of God upon the cross of Calvary did not destroy Him, and there is only one thing that Satan can look forward to—the complete fulfillment of the other part of that promise given in Eden, "It [the seed of the woman] shall bruise thy head." Destruction awaits him.

Milestones of sacred as well as profane history point toward the last milestone. The book of Daniel, the second chapter of which indicates the four universal kingdoms and the final setting up of the kingdom that should never be destroyed; the seventh chapter, with its graphic description of the same four universal empires culminating in a great power that should be at war against the spiritual kingdom of Christ through its apostasy from the true teaching of God, and

### COMING NEXT WEEK

in addition to the regular features:

A Witness to the Living God . . . . .	William A. Spicer
Sudden Changes Impending . . . . .	Carlyle B. Haynes
Flood Story Confirmed . . . . .	Benjamin Franklin Allen
Prophecy Speaks: and Cities Fall . . . . .	Roy F. Cottrell
Do Missionaries Buy Their Converts? . . . . .	Spencer G. C. Maxwell
God's Safety Zones . . . . .	G. G. Lowry
At Eventide—Light . . . . .	Blanche Palmer



finally indicating the destruction of this power—all these and other prophecies are “milestones” set along the great highway of time to show us that we are coming nearer and nearer to the final great “golden milestone,” which is the Lord’s personal return.

“I will come again,” Jesus said when He was about to be taken away from His disciples. “This same Jesus . . . shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go,” said two white-clad men as they stood by that small group of believers upon the Mount of Olives. Acts 1:11. “Surely I come quickly,” said the Master to His faithful servant John upon the Isle of Patmos. Revelation 22:20. These men waited and watched. They died in the hope of the coming of the Lord; and, even though they did not live to see it, they went to sleep with the assurance that He would raise them up again at the last day. It is not hard to die when one knows that there will be a joyful awakening in the morning of the resurrection.

Today’s milestones seem to be closer together. The Lord Himself enumerated them, and Matthew recorded them in the twenty-fourth chapter of his Gospel. How rapidly we have passed them in this day of increasing speed—speed in all things in the material world, ever-increasing speed in the spreading of the gospel!

“This gospel of the kingdom,” said Jesus, “shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14. The Bible, or portions thereof, is now published in one thousand tongues. The word of God, carrying the glorious gospel to all the world, is speeding up in its work of preparing men for the coming of Jesus. In the outmost regions of the earth’s circle the gospel of Christ is being taught and lived. Go to the islands of the sea, and the Holy Spirit is there persuading men and women to prepare for the return of Jesus.

Look down the road, and we can see the beginning of the glow that tells of this great “golden milestone.” The dark night of sin through which we have been traveling is soon to be at an end for those who love the Lord. He is even now preparing His chariot for that splendid return. His mighty angels are anxious to make the swift descent to this world to escort God’s saints to the courts of glory, where they shall live in the presence of the King. Almost we can hear the trumpet begin to sound. This trumpet call will sound the ultimate doom of the enemy who wrested this dominion from the hands of the first Adam six thousand years ago. It will shatter the graves of those who have died in Christ Jesus. It will blast the prison doors which even now in some parts of the world are closed

upon those who dare to worship God according to the dictates of conscience.

Can you hear the preparation for this great event even amid the roar of cannon, the rattle of musketry, and the chatter of machine guns, accompanied by the crash of heavy explosives upon the battlefields of earth? Can your mind steal away from all the din, the turmoil, the jazz, and the bedlam of the present-day world long enough to think of the “golden milestone” toward which we are rushing? Silence your radio, lay down your newspaper, your magazine; stay home from the theater, the ball game, the stock market, the affairs of the world, and closet yourself with the Lord Jesus now so that He may talk to you through His chief ambassador, the Holy Spirit. In the silence of your chamber you can better hear His voice as He speaks to you. What does He say? “Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:44. “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20. “Come unto Me, all ye

that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28.

Jesus is not willing that any should perish. He is still calling. He is waiting patiently, hopefully, for you if you don’t know Him now as your Saviour, as your King.

Yes, we are nearing the last “golden milestone.” Where will you be when the destination is reached? Will you be ready for a place with the King in His kingdom, or will you be doomed to be destroyed with His enemies? Today is the time to make your choice; make it now, for the end of all things is at hand, and Jesus is soon to appear.

## Round the World

(Continued from page 11)

near. The husband must attend his wife. The little one dies—inexperience. His own body is weakened with fever, but he finds a box and lays his first-born in a shallow grave.

“The missionary has a soft time,” eh?

“What can we do for our children? They are learning all the bad habits of the natives. There are no other playmates. The village is too near their home. Why, they speak the vernacular better than their own mother tongue. Mother’s time is taken up in the school and dispensary. A native nurse keeps half an eye on the children. ‘Where is father?’ Itinerating round his field, preaching in the villages, healing the sick, fording rivers, soaked with tropical rain, weakened with malaria.

“The children are of school age—where can we send them? The day of parting comes. Six or seven years before we see them again; and those years are when home influences would count most. Is it worth it?

“The isolation—perhaps a year without seeing a white face. No friends but the blacks. No one to confide in or with whom to share the problems of life. No wonder society seems a nightmare when furlough comes.

“Contrast the government official. A fat pay check every month, many allowances; no rent, free doctors, and a frequent leave. The trader, living in townships, surrounded with modern comforts and civilization.

“Yet where would Africa be today if the missionary had not blazed the trail? Government followed tardily, and, afterward settlers and traders. The unknown heroes of Africa are the men and the women who have followed in the footsteps of Livingstone, and opened up the heart of Africa to the gospel message.”

The well-fed man felt for his pocket-book. “Take this,” he said. “I think I see things in a different light now. The missionary has no soft job!”

## POINTED

# Paragraphs

## ON THE WORLD CRISIS

MURL VANCE

### MORE CHARITY (I) ONE OF THE GREAT NEEDED

One of the great faults with human thinking today is the “all or nothing” attitude we have toward almost everything. Undoubtedly we should be better neighbors, both individually and nationally, if we remembered the words of the poet, who said:

“There’s so much good in the worst of us  
And so much bad in the best of us  
That it hardly behooves any of us  
To talk about the rest of us.”

In reality every system and every country has both its good and its bad points, and a little Christian broad-mindedness on our part would prevent our stirring ourselves into a frenzy of hatred toward others when we ourselves are so far from perfect.

### UNWANTED (I) ALTHOUGH MORE THAN PEOPLE

Although more than 250,000 of the more than 400,000 who have fled from Germany since 1933 have been settled in permanent homes, the problem of what to do with the unwanted races in the strongly nationalistic countries of the world is still far from solved. President Roosevelt recently predicted that between ten and twenty million women and children would be unwanted, fear-crazed refugees before the close of the present war. What an indictment upon our boasted civilization!



# Noah's Flood a Reality?

(Continued from page 10)

of the reign of King Ammizaduga, which places its writing at about 1966 B.C. The name of the hero, Atrahasis, also occurs in it, as in the others, and references to a great rain and storm, the ship, and the people in it who were saved.

## Our Suggestions

The vain persistence of trying to make local floods by overflowing rivers the basis of the great world-wide Flood legends is not only contrary to all these legends, but it leads to a serious absurdity. Many of the legends state that the ship landed *in the mountains*; none say on some ocean shore or lake shore, or on an island or on a river bank. And some of them state that it landed in the mountains of Armenia, and some at Ararat, which is *at the headwaters of the Euphrates*! How could a high and overflowing river float a ship, or anything else, upstream, and land it on mountains at the fountainhead? Great Ararat is some 17,000 feet high, the Little Ararat 12,840 feet, with a cove between them 5,000 to 11,500 feet high—a plateau. The river is about one thousand miles long.

Though the results that the excavators in the Euphrates Valley ascribe to the Flood seem all too meager for our conceptions of the Flood, yet we suggest one possible reason for accepting them. In Genesis 2:10-14 the Bible describes three of the four rivers that went out of Eden, and tells where they ran. But we seem to be unable to say with certainty that they correspond to any present rivers, and feel it would be a miracle, in view of the Flood-period upheavals, if they did correspond. Then it says: "And the fourth is Euphrates," with no statement as to where it flows, as though only calling attention to the present river and implying that it was identical with the one in Eden. This is a very positive statement. *What shall we think?*

Did the Creator preserve that river through all that terrible catastrophe? *If He did, then the evidence of the mild Flood in the Euphrates becomes of new and profound interest!* If this is indeed the case, then each pre-Flood find was an object of special providence. In this case we know where Eden was, and this is important in several ways. But this is only a suggestion. We await more light.

Some may raise the question, "Why investigate the Flood?" There are many reasons:

1. Because, *if it actually happened*, its remains, its burials, its overwhelming effects on the whole surface of the earth, its human, animal, and plant fossils, would be capable of *positive proof*.

2. Because these *same* layers, fossils, and geological remains are the very foundation stones underlying that theory by which nature is supposed *of itself* to have brought forth all things by the same processes we see going on today. This is the theory of the so-called "geological ages," the basis of practically all present unbelief in the Bible.

3. Therefore, by showing how the present surface of the earth is due to the Flood, the whole foundation is blasted out from under not only the supposed "geological ages" and all forms of evolution, but also the main basis of present unbelief and jungle philosophy pyramided and repyramided thereon.

4. Most important, however, are the many detailed Bible prophecies of the still more terrible catastrophe at the second coming of Christ. At least eleven main prophecies can be shown to have been undeniably fulfilled or to be now fulfilling in history. Though we cannot prove scientifically *what is yet to come*, we can point unflinchingly to the past and to the present, and prove fulfillment. Noah could not prove his prophecy of the Flood scientifically. But we can now prove with fair assurance scientifically that the Flood actually happened.

5. Therefore, to Bible believers, the Flood not only answers and defeats the basis of false science, but it warns the world to flee the wrath to come.

In our next article we will sketch the Flood accounts of Nineveh, Babylon, and Armenia, still in the same general territory as Ur.

## The World Is Dying

(Continued from page 5)

autocratic control. A law—and the churches and religion are reorganized and regimented as aids and activities of the state.

More and more the sense of balance has been lost. Everything moves with desperate haste. Stupendous projects, involving not millions of dollars, but billions, are rushed through without plan or thought. Turmoil reigns everywhere.

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The world is staggering toward its final death struggle.

Mutual hatred embitters the relations of nations. Self-destructive infatuation pervades the councils of the mighty. Feverish restlessness permeates the whole world. Men's fairest schemes result in failure. The nations are distressed—and perplexed. Men's hearts are filled with fear and dread for what the future holds. The nations are heaving in a restless fury like the roaring of the sea in a great storm. The machinery of civilization has suffered a shattering shock, and is dislocated. It cannot be reduced to order. The world is crashing to its doom.

## Discarding All Law and Religion

Governments are insecure today. Nothing is stable and sure. Nothing is substantial. Thrones and empires have crashed into the dust. Crowned heads have fallen. Governmental structures are tottering.

Revolt is in the very air. It penetrates everywhere. Young and old are carried away with a freedom that is only license. This manifests itself in dress, in speech, in conduct, and in all phases of human behavior. Men have come to feel that desire is the highest law; that there is no divine tribunal to which the human will must bow.

All the restraints imposed by law, religion, custom, or even by the ordinary decencies of life, are being cast aside as outworn, and free rein is given to every impulse and passion.

In the state, in the church, in the home, in society everywhere, the spirit of independence is manifesting itself, corrupting all the finer things of life and calling for the storm of God's wrath to be visited upon an impenitent world.

The closing events of this world's history are upon us. They are moving with great speed. The wrath of God, like a pall of blackness, overhangs an impenitent world. It is the death warrant of a godless and impious race.

The great tempest of the wrath of God will break soon and suddenly upon a surprised and unready world. The final



doom of a rebellious race is near at hand. The resistless might of an offended God against a race that has broken His law and would have none of His grace will before long smite mankind from this planet. His divine word declares: "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." Jeremiah 25:32, 33.

There is no other prospect than this for a sin-cursed and obstinate race that persists in sin. It cannot hope for life. Its impending and rapidly approaching destiny is death.

"Behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with His chariots like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by His sword will the Lord plead with all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many." Isaiah 66:15, 16.

This distress of nations, distress of individuals, distress of society, resulting in perplexity and fear, constitutes one of the surest signs of the times in which we live. Jesus foretold it when He said: "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: 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. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:25-28.

The day in which we live is the time foreseen and foretold by our divine Master. This prophecy of His points to our day. The distress of nations seen today surpasses that of all other times of which we have heard, or seen, or read, or known. Everywhere in the world, among all nations, and among all classes of men, there is distress. Distress, tension, and hatred in the relation of nations to one another are increasing.

In accordance with the words of Jesus, these things all about us testify to the positive truth that we are about to "see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

And all this, be it noted, is preliminary and preparatory to making the world over, bringing in a new order of things, establishing lasting and world-wide peace, and fulfilling the ancient promises and prophecies of God regarding a new earth.

It is not a time for pessimism, but for the truest optimism. "When these things begin to come to pass," said Jesus, "then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

So the turmoil of old earth as it passes through its death agonies does not frighten us. We see in these things the precursors of important changes, the harbingers of God's eternal kingdom of peace.

Jesus Christ is coming the second time to this earth. This time He will take over the dominion and rule of this planet. Then our fondest hopes and desires will be met in the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy: "There was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:14.

Next week: "The Death of a World! And the Birth of a New World!"

## The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 3)

The only safe place left in the seething maelstrom of universal turmoil and confusion is "the secret place of the Most High." He who dwells there "shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1.

It is high time that we made the Lord our refuge and fortress. Then we may rest in quiet confidence, unafraid "for the terror by night," "for the arrow that flieth by day," "for the pestilence that walketh in darkness," or "for the destruction that wasteth at noonday." Verses 5, 6.

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him." Nahum 1:7.



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*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105.*

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by  
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human making go out, but the light of the deathless word of God shines on forever. And that is because "the Father of lights" (James 1:17) reveals His own character and will in the Book, His plans for the present welfare of His children, and His purposes for their future. We must ever remember that the Bible is not only the Book of the past, but that it is also the Book of the future—the Book that lights the way to the end of time. It is the one Book that tells what is coming in human history, and what will come after the human race has run its course.

Here is the Book that contains light for the perplexed statesman, light for the worried businessman, light for the troubled father, light for the burdened mother, light for the aged, light for the home, the school, the church—light for every human life. Happy the man, the woman, the youth, who follows the light of the word through 1940, and who becomes better acquainted through the reading of that word with Him who said, "I am the light of the world."

The Bible today, most unfortunately, is a closed Book in most homes, dust-covered and neglected. But the Bible open on the desk and on the sitting-room table, as well as on the pulpit, is the Book of light and comfort and power. The *open* Book, approached with the open mind and heart, will give help and guidance to everyone who seeks the way to better things. The Bible always shows the way out of the dark. We are all like "children crying in the night, children crying for the light;" and the Book was given by the Father of us all to guide our feet in the path of truth and righteousness.

Read your Bible daily. Read its blessed promises, promises upon which you may depend because God is behind their fulfillment, promises that feed the hungry heart, and that bring light to the clouded mind. Read your Bible prayerfully that you may become better acquainted with Him—whom to *know* is life eternal. Read your Bible eagerly. It has something for you that no one else has ever discovered. It is something precious, and its Author meant it just for you. Thus the Book will become a very personal matter. This is the best way to know of its inspiration—because, when humbly and thoughtfully read and believed, it becomes God's guiding light for your own soul. "The *entrance* of Thy words giveth light." Psalm 119:130.