

SCENARIO OF
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CREATION

PART IV.

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INTERNATIONAL
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PENTECOSTAL PREACHING

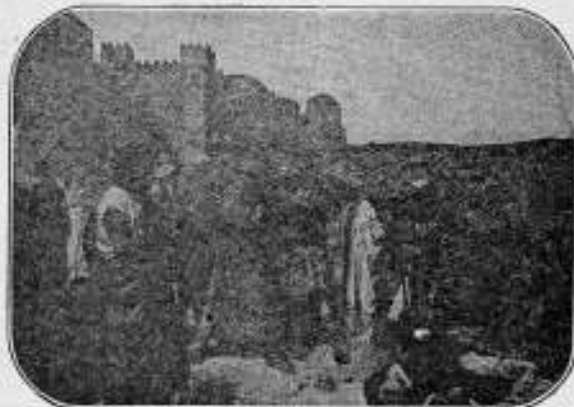
ONLY The Twelve were specially ordained to Apostleship, to be mouthpieces of Jesus to the Church. Their decision would bind on Earth the things bound in Heaven, and loose on Earth things loosed in God's sight. Even these did not receive the Heavenly Father's sanction until Pentecost, when they received the Holy Spirit. Scripturally, no one is authorized to preach or teach except he has received the Spirit of God. And every one who has received that Spirit has Divine authority to preach, wholly irrespective of earthly ordinations.—Isaiah 61:1.

This we are told is the import of the prophetic words respecting Jesus the Head and the Church His Body: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, for He hath ordained Me to preach good tidings to the meek." All who have received that Divine anointing, have the Divine commission to preach the good tidings. Whoever has not received that Heavenly authority cannot be a Divine ambassador.

In fulfillment of Jesus' words, "I give unto you the Keys of the Kingdom," St. Peter symbolically used two Keys in connection with the Gospel: the first Key on the Day of Pentecost, to open the door of invitation to all Jews to become members of the Body of Christ, the Church, through begetting of the Holy Spirit. Three and a half years later he used the other Key and threw open the door to the Gentiles. Cornelius was the first Gentile admitted to membership in Christ.

Thousands of the holiest Jews by obedience to God's command came yearly to Jerusalem to observe Pentecost. Thousands thus were attracted to the Pentecostal preaching and carried their blessing and enlightenment throughout the world.

There will yet be a second Pentecostal blessing. Only the special servants and handmaids of the Lord share the first and attain the Kingdom. Under Messiah's Kingdom God's Spirit will be poured out on all flesh. They will see that of which their ancients prophesied.—Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:16-18.



GOD'S CHOSEN VESSEL

OF St. Paul, Jesus said, "He is a chosen vessel unto Me to bear My Name to the Gentiles." (Acts 9:15.) He is first brought to our attention as one of those who consented to the death of St. Stephen. Subsequently, he went about "breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord."—Acts 9:1.

When we see the power of the Truth in its transforming influence upon the human mind, we are amazed. Yet we should remember that God never coerces the free will. In St. Paul's "conversion," Jesus merely showed an honest man wherein he was wrong, and what privileges he would have in connection with a Divinely-directed course.

St. Paul became the successor of Judas. There were to be twelve Apostles of the Lamb—a crown of twelve stars on the Church's brow—and twelve foundations to the New Jerusalem, and in them were the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb. We are sure St. Paul's name is amongst them. This is in accord with the testimony that he was not one whit behind the very chiefest of the Apostles, and was more abundant in visions and revelations than they all. Matthias was chosen before Pentecost and was never recognized by God.

St. Paul is the most prominent amongst the Apostles, all of whom were glorious characters, especially chosen of God for His special service. Like the other Apostles, St. Paul had nothing to say respecting an eternity of torture for anybody. He declared that those ultimately found unworthy should "be punished with everlasting destruction." It is St. Paul who especially set forth that Jesus must come a second time, and then must reign until He shall have put all enemies under His feet. Through this noble mouthpiece Jesus sent us particulars of the resurrection of the just and the unjust, the "change" of the Church at Christ's Second Coming, the character of 'antichrist, etc. If St. Paul's Epistles were omitted, how great would be our ignorance on many subjects!



GENTILES FELLOW-HEIRS

GOD'S Covenant with Abraham gave assurance that all the blessings God purposed for mankind would come to them through his posterity. The Jews were the natural seed of Abraham, and properly to them belonged the promises. But when all Jews possessed of the faith of Abraham had been privileged to come in with Jesus and become His joint-heirs in the Messianic Kingdom, then God through St. Peter used the second Key to the Kingdom. He threw open the door of opportunity to the Gentiles, that they might become fellow-heirs with the Jews in the Messianic Kingdom.

Three and a half years after Pentecost the angel of the Lord appeared to Cornelius. He told him that now God was ready to accept his prayers and his devotion. He told him to send for St. Peter at Joppa. From him he would hear "words" necessary to be believed in order that he might be fully accepted of God and receive the Holy Spirit.

Three messengers were sent to fetch St. Peter. Meantime God prepared the Apostle. He was told that what God had cleansed he should not consider any longer unclean. St. Peter associated his dream with his visitors, and promptly went to Cornelius' home. He found Cornelius and his family devout and ready to hear. He proceeded to tell them the true story of Jesus: His death, His resurrection, the call of the Church to be His Bride class—proving their worthiness by loyalty and faithfulness even unto death.

While St. Peter was speaking, these consecrated people, drinking in the Message, fully accepted the terms of discipleship. Then God gave a manifestation of His acceptance of them by the gift of the Spirit, such as was common to all Christians at the beginning of this Age. St. Peter, astonished, then said, If these have received the Holy Spirit, who can forbid them water baptism, which is only a symbol of their consecration to be dead with Christ? Here Gentiles first began to be grafted into the "Olive Tree" of Romans 11:17.



THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH

GRADUALLY the Gospel Message found bearing ears amongst the Gentiles, but fewer in number. The Law training of the Jews had been God's special blessing to them, preparing some of them for the Gospel. The first Church in which Gentiles seemed to predominate in numbers was at Antioch. Barnabas, Silas and others were prominent amongst the brethren there, and later St. Paul. It was at Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called Christians. Many Christians wish that no other name had ever been accepted.

The Antioch Church, according to the Bible record, had very simple arrangements, similar to those practiced by Jesus and the Apostles. Forms and ceremonies had not yet entered, to crowd out the simplicity of Christ with mere forms of godliness. They met for growth in grace, knowledge, love and to assist each other in the narrow way. When fairly under way in their studies, they partook of the missionary spirit, and authorized and financed a mission which was conducted by St. Paul and Barnabas. Other missions were also conducted, as recorded in the Book of Acts.—Acts 13: 1-5.

Not long after this, the terrible persecutions of Nero and Diocletian came upon the Church. These Roman Emperors found diversion and relief from enmity in the horrible tortures they inflicted upon the inoffensive followers of Jesus, whose mission in the world is merely to "do good to all men as they have opportunity, especially to the household of faith," and to prepare themselves and each other for association with their Redeemer in the coming Kingdom.—Galatians 6: 10.

Why did God permit persecutions? The answer is that testings of faith and loyalty to God are as necessary to Jesus' followers as they were to Himself, and for the same reason—to develop and crystallize character. These corresponded to Jesus' own persecution and crucifixion. Thus He explained, saying, "It was necessary that The Son of Man should suffer and enter into His glory." The Elect walk in His steps.



FIRST I. B. S. A. CONVENTION

THE little gathering of believers at Berea is famous amongst God's people by St. Paul's declaration: "They of Berea were more noble than those of Thessalonica, in that they searched the Scriptures daily to see if these things [which St. Paul preached] were true." (Acts 17: 11.) They were but a little class, yet their faithfulness to God's Word caused them to be known as Berean Bible Students. The early Church met not in costly temples, nor did their elders and deacons have rich robes of office, nor did the services consist of showy display. They simply gathered as children of God, begotten of the one Holy Spirit and inspired by the One Faith once delivered to the saints. They gathered as the brethren of Jesus, that they might be under His direction and care as the only Head of the Church—as He declared, "One is your Master even Christ, and all ye are brethren." They met to study the Message of Jesus and the Apostles.

Bible students in our day have much advantage over these. We have convenient cheap Bibles, ability to read them, and good lights such as our forefathers never thought possible.

Bible students today are encouraged also when they consider that the Bible distinctly teaches that when men shall be running to and fro, and world-wide knowledge shall be increased, then the Wise Virgins, the Lord's people, will understand certain features of the Divine Plan previously kept hidden by Divine intention. They perceive that we are in this day of running to and fro by every means of conveyance, and that free schools, compulsory education, etc., are bringing the foretold increase of knowledge. These things mark the time for the wise of God's people to understand the Bible. How needful for this special light, when so many are falling away from all faith in the Bible, under the teachings of so-called Higher Criticism, which denies that the Bible is the Divinely inspired Message of God! (Daniel 12: 11-12.) We should not only awake, but "put on the whole armor of God."



APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

ALL Christians claim that there were erroneous doctrines taught in the past which cannot be supported in the clearer light of our Day. All rejoice in the spirit of greater amity spreading amongst Christians of various denominations—Catholic and Protestant. How did Christianity get into such a befogged condition that followers of Jesus thought they were honoring God in torturing their fellow-men? With great unanimity, Bible students seem to be reaching the conclusion that the difficulty started in the doctrine of Apostolic Succession—the doctrine that Bishops of the Church were Apostles, inspired in the same sense as The Twelve.

Pope Pius X. realizes that the people no longer regard the Bishops as inspired authority and successors to the Apostles in office. Evidently himself dissenting, he has recently commanded that Roman Catholics be instructed to study the Bible, thus to come under the influence of the teachings of the inspired Twelve Apostles. All are gradually seeing that The Twelve Apostles of the Lamb (St. Paul taking the place of Judas) are the only Divinely inspired authorities of the Church.

The Church, after the death of the Apostles, not having the conveniences of Bibles and education, looked too implicitly to their Bishops, or Pastors, and without authority accredited them with Divine inspiration similar to The Twelve. After two hundred years the mistake was partially recognized, and an attempt was made to rectify it, but in the wrong direction. It was found that the different Bishops taught widely different, contradictory doctrines. It was realized that these contradictions were not inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Emperor Constantine (not baptized) called the Nicene Council of all the "Apostolic Bishops," at Nicen, A. D. 325. About one-third, 384, came. These were commanded to decide on a Creed. They wrangled for months. Then the Emperor decided and the Nicene Creed was the result. The Emperor's edict was that all not consenting to it should be exiled.



"THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE"

GRADUALLY the name of Christianity spread among the peoples of Europe, without its Master's Spirit. The name "Christian" became popular. In the day of King Charlemagne, the title, "Holy Roman Empire," was established. The significance of the title is illustrated by a famous picture in the Chapter House at Florence, Italy. It shows the Emperor and the Pope seated side by side upon a throne, and descending from each by steps, the various officers of the Empire; on the Emperor's side, generals, etc., and on the Pope's side, bishops, the clergy, etc. Some claim this as a public acknowledgment of the marriage of the professed Virgin of Christ to Civil Power, in the Book of Revelation styled harlotry.—Revelation 17:1-5.

The basis of the alliance was the doctrine which then obtained, that the Second Coming of Christ as the Messiah to rule the world for a thousand years was thus fulfilled. The claims set forth were that it was the Divine intention that Christ should be represented in the earth by the Papacy, and that His government should be carried on through earthly princes. This condition of things prevailed in Europe for centuries. In the Sixteenth Century the Reformation movement sprang up. These daughters of the Church of Rome married earthly power, and started "Holy Empires" of their own.

This entire theory and its Systems received a severe blow when Napoleon Bonaparte took the Pope a prisoner to France. The spell of sacerdotal rule was broken. In September, 1870, Victor Immanuel took possession of Rome—a fatal blow.

Bible students are generally agreed that Church and State union is contrary to the spirit of the Bible, an error of the Dark Ages; that the Church of Christ is not to reign with the princes of the Earth, nor to be married to them, but to wait for her marriage till the Second Coming of her Redeemer, to be united with Him in the First Resurrection. Then she shall reign with Him forever.—Revelation 19:7; 20:6.



CRUSADES AND CRUSADERS

THE name Christian had become popular in Europe. Nearly everybody was recognized a Christian unless he disavowed it and claimed to be a Jew. The drowsy spell was broken by what some would term a fanatical outburst of fervor, which claimed that Christians should wage war on the Turks, Jews and others. The Crusades made their mark in history. Under the spirit of the time, thousands of the noblest of their day traveled hundreds of miles by land and sea to fight for the Cross against the Crescent. It was considered specially grievous that Jerusalem was under Moslem control, and thousands of lives and fortunes were spent in "Crusades to deliver the Holy Sepulchre from the Infidel Turk."

From our present-day standpoint and clearer perception of things, people generally style the Crusades an outbreak of foolishness, wasted effort, manifest ignorance and bigotry. But perhaps Christians today have something equally foolish and irrational. The human mind will be active in some way. The folly of others is easier to recognize than our own.

Some day it will be owned that Christendom today is as foolish in some respects as in the days of the Crusaders. Do not the great kingdoms of earth style themselves divisions of Christendom (Christ's Kingdom)? Are they not building great Dreadnaughts that cost a fortune for every discharge of their cannons? Are they not drilling vast armies, and equipping them with costly implements of war? For what purpose? Either because they have evil designs upon the other so-called Christian nations, or that they distrust the others. How foolish this shall yet appear!

How much better it will be when the Word of God is fully accepted, and when its spirit of Justice and Love will govern the world! Then the wealth and energy wasted in Crusades, Dreadnaughts and armament will be used to the general betterment of the people. Only Messiah's Kingdom can restore man to God's image and make God's footstool glorious.



HUSS, WYCLIFFE, TYNDALE ETC.

THE lessons of the past should never be forgotten. But we should cover with a broad mantle of charity much of its wickedness. The Church early lost the inspired Message, and unconsciously adopted the error that the teachings of the Bishops were the equivalent in authority of those of the Apostles. Through this broad channel grievous errors swept away precious truths. *Loed's Old Roman World* declares, "In the Second Century there were quiet bishops, istrepid martyrs, who addressed their flocks in upper chambers, and who held no worldly rank. The Third Century saw the Church more powerful as an institution. When Christianity, in the Fourth Century, became the religion of the court, it was used to support the very evils against which it originally protested. The clergy, ambitious and worldly, sought rank and distinction. They became lazy, arrogant and independent. The Church was allied with the State, and religious dogmas were enforced by the sword of the magistrates."

Fortunately there are always advanced thinkers on all lines. Such are generally considered fools, and persecuted. In reality they are the greatest benefactors of mankind. Huss suffered for his faithfulness to the Bible. Wycliffe and Tyndale were persecuted. Tyndale's Bible was burned publicly by high ecclesiastics, in front of St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

Later on, Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley, once associated with the Roman Hierarchy, but subsequently with the English Hierarchy, were publicly burned, because of their change of faith. In the light of today we see less difference between the two Hierarchies. Both Catholics and Protestants agree in condemnation of the atrocities of the past, perpetrated in the name of our Redeemer, one of whose titles is "Prince of Peace," and who admonished, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Thank God! Our mental eyes, with clearer light, see greater lengths and breadths and heights and depths of Love Divine!



ST. PAUL BEFORE FELIX

NOBODY today believes that Martin Luther stepped so fully out in advance of all others that he could be said to have grasped the Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth. Even Lutherans cut two of his Ninety-five Theses, but wishing to keep the number the same they divided two others. All agree, however, that about the time of Luther, civilization took a step forward. Catholics are better Catholics today, and Protestants better also.

Dr. Luther was the head of a Catholic College for the instruction of German youth for the priesthood. He had heard about the Bible, but like others for thirteen centuries before him, he trusted in the decisions of the various "Apostolic Councils" of the Church—the various promulgated Creeds. These he believed to be Biblical.

But one day he chanced to see a Latin copy of the New Testament. His curiosity led him to read it. He was amazed at its simplicity. He wrote the Pope, suggesting the calling of a Council to ascertain whether there had been a gradual digression from the Bible. The Pope did not take the suggestion kindly. Luther was branded a heretic, unfrocked, excommunicated. This treatment only convinced him the more of the difference between the Bible methods and teachings and the modern ones. He began to write tracts which he scattered all over Germany, amongst the comparatively few people then able to read—in any language. Gradually, through much tribulation, the Bible became more prominent.

Those holy, honest-hearted Reformers only partially comprehended the Bible. Much of the smoke of superstition and bigotry still affected their mental eyes. Nor have we gotten out of the fog yet. Thank God, however, Bible study is reviving, influencing people of every denomination. Let us remember that only the few of old were able to read. A Bible cost a fortune. It was thought useless because of erroneous trust in Bishop-Apostles and their Creeds.



TETZEL SELLING INDULGENCES

ABOUT the time that Martin Luther began to study the New Testament and was amazed at its simplicity—when he was grasping the great Bible Truth of justification by faith—he encountered Tetzel. The effect was to convince him the more that great errors had gradually crept into the faith and spirit of the Church. Tetzel was selling Indulgences under the Pope's authority. The proceeds were to be used in completing St. Peter's Cathedral at Rome.

Tetzel may or may not have exceeded his authority, but the record is that he preached, not the merit of Christ's sacrifice, but the power of the Pope, and of himself, his agent, saying, You have friends in Purgatory, suffering there for various sins. The Pope has the power to release them; I am his agent. Those who donate to this fund drop their money into this box, assured that the moment they do so their friends will be released from Purgatorial suffering.

Catholic though he still was, and a believer in Purgatory, Luther could not tolerate such a commercial proposition as that the grace of God should be purchased with money. He denounced Tetzel vigorously.

So far as we are aware, the public sale of Indulgences has been stopped in most civilized lands, but until recently in Mexico many Church tables were spread with Indulgences, specifying various sins and crimes, and bearing fixed prices.

Protestants, and some Catholics, have assumed that these Indulgences are permits to sin. The Church of Rome, however, claims that they never issue permits to commit sin, but merely so much remission of Purgatorial sufferings.

Amongst Bible students today, there seems to be a growing conviction that the Bible teaches that there is no consciousness in death—that the awakening moment in the Resurrection Morning will connect up with the dying thought. The prooftexts for Purgatory they apply to saints in this life, to the world's "stripes" in the next Age, and to the "time of trouble."



THE HOLY (?) INQUISITION

CATHOLICS and Protestants are inclined to call the doings of the Inquisition very unholy. Facing the facts charitably, we remember that it belonged to a less favored day. With enlightenment, thank God, has come a keener sense of the Justice and Love which Jesus inculcated: "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake."—Matthew 5:44; Mark 13:13; Luke 6:27.

The Law given Israel at Mt. Sinai expressed merely Justice in its command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." How seriously indeed portions of God's Word were overlooked in the persecutions of the Inquisition! Not only was there no love nor sympathy, but Justice in every sense of the word was violated. Thank God for the light of a better day!

There is in the human heart a treacherous disposition to do evil, if only an excuse for it can be found. As the Jews found an excuse for crucifying Jesus, stoning Stephen, etc., so the Inquisitors found an excuse for their persecutions. Like Saul of Tarsus, they thought they did God service. Matters have changed greatly, but persecution is still practised along different lines—ostracism, slander, boycotting. The Bible refers to this, saying, "Your brethren which cast you out said, The Lord be glorified! But He shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed."—Isaiah 66:5.

The mob spirit, the lynching spirit, is but a less legal form of "The Holy Inquisition." A Chicago Methodist Episcopal minister, angered at Prof. Farson, is quoted by the *Indianapolis News* and the *New York Tribune* as saying: "If I had the power I would skin that man, salt his hide and tack it on a barn door." The secular editor of the *News* says, "If such a violent outbreak was made by one who preaches the Gospel of Peace, what may we not expect from the sons of Beelzebub?"

Evidences multiply that the mob spirit, the Inquisition spirit, is growing. All should be on guard.



CALVIN AND SERVETUS

IN Geneva, Switzerland, there was dedicated in 1912 a monument bearing the following inscription: "In memory of Michael Servetus—victim of religious intolerance of his time, and burned for his convictions at Champel, on September 27, 1553. Erected by the followers of John Calvin, three hundred and fifty years later, as expiation for that act, and to repudiate all coercion in matters of faith."

Thus have the followers of John Calvin demonstrated to the world that they have progressed far beyond the teachings of their leader in the spirit of true Christianity—the spirit of Justice, of Love. Calvinists deserve congratulations on their progress, from all Christians—Catholics and Protestants—all of whom have been making similarly good progress during the intervening four centuries. None now would justify Calvin's course in sentencing Servetus to be burned.

Others burned at the stake usually had the fuel piled at their feet. The flames were inhaled with the smoke, and the victim was speedily unconscious to suffering. For Servetus Satanic ingenuity arranged the burning fagots at a distance. He literally roasted alive, in horrible torture, nearly five hours—in the name of God, of Jesus, of Righteousness, Truth, Justice, Love, Christianity and Civilization.

It seems remarkable that only now we are realizing that a man so debilitated in the spirit of his Master as to murder his brother, should not be an accepted teacher of the Word of God and its spirit. Only now are Bible students realizing that Brother Calvin was not the inventor of the doctrine of Election, but merely of the doctrine that *all the non-elect would suffer eternally*. Now we see that the terms, "the Elect," "the very Elect," are Bible terms! and that those who make their calling and election sure, will be glorified in the First Resurrection. Now we see that the Elect will be associated with Jesus in His Kingdom, which will bless the non-elect—"all the families of the Earth."—Galatians 3:29.



THE WESLEYS MOBBED

REGRET as we may the multiplied sects of Christendom, we must look upon them all with sympathy. The establishment of each, marked a further endeavor to get nearer to God and the true Light. The Wesleys returned to the simplicity of the early Church in preaching, Class gatherings, Bible study, etc. Naturally they were opposed by Churchianity. Cattle were driven amongst the worshipers to interrupt their meetings; they were mobbed. Similarly, Baptists, Presbyterians and others have had their experiences of persecution, hindering Bible study and worshiping of God according to their consciences.—2 Timothy 3:12.

"What manner of persons ought we to be?" As we note the bitter persecutions of the past, and the "narrow way" of all who follow Jesus only, we should the more forgive arrogance and bigotry. All should turn away from human traditions and everything contrary to the Bible.—2 Peter 3:11.

Christian people in all denominations are reaching this conclusion, and studying God's Word without creedal spectacles, in Bible classes, or in their homes.—2 Timothy 2:15.

Wesley uncovered another precious Bible truth. He declared Calvin's doctrine impossible for his acceptance, as Calvinists now do. Brother Wesley's theme was Free Grace, and his favorite text, "The Spirit and the Bride say, Come, and whosoever will may come and take of the Water of Life freely." His heart was broad and loving, but the real breadth of Grace Divine was not then seen. He did not discern that his beautiful text relates to the blessing of the now-elect during Messiah's Reign; that the Church will not become the Bride until the marriage, at our Lord's Second Coming. Soon after, the Spirit and the Bride will bid all mankind, partake of life everlasting.

Now we see the connecting link between Election and Free Grace. God's Election of a saintly Kingdom class is the work of this Age. The Elect in glory will in the next Age extend God's Free Grace to all.—Romans 8:18, 29; Revelation 22:17.



OUR MODERN TEMPLES

GREAT Temples, or Cathedrals, have been erected throughout the civilized world. Their founders doubtless were inspired more or less to emulate Solomon and Herod in their great Temples of the past. No fault need be found with these from some standpoints. All the circumstances being equal, it would be a shame for Christians to meet for Divine worship under conditions inferior to those of their homes. In many instances, however, the people who have donated the money for the erection and upkeep of these buildings have been extremely poor, and have been rajoled into the expenses by misleading sophistries.

In the days of Jesus and the Apostles, it was not considered "Christian work" to raise money for Church purposes. Today money-raising is the ideal "work for Jesus." The Apostles taught that the real work of the Church of Christ is not to build up costly edifices beyond their means, involving them in debt, but to *build themselves up* in the most holy faith. "The Temple of God is holy, which Temple ye are," "if so be that the Spirit of Christ dwell in you." God's people are the living stones under Divine supervision, being shaped and polished for places in the Glorious Spiritual Temple. Through that antitypical Temple, God will send His blessings. The removal of the curse, and the wiping away of all tears, will follow.

While using these modern Temples, let us not forget that they are not the real Temple, or Church. It is composed of the saints of God, who day by day are seeking to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, in the service of the Truth, "doing good to all men as they have opportunity, especially to the household of faith." If inclined to criticize our forefathers for building costly Cathedrals while neglecting the Bible, let us remember that coming generations may make similar or worse comments on us for building scores of costly Dreadnaughts for injury to our fellows. With what shame we will look back upon our own faults! The thought should make us humble.



REJECTED AND DESPISED

CHRISt is here in contrast with the rich, the learned, the religious and the irreligious of our day—"Christendom." The Holy Spirit gives "the spirit of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7.) To sacrifice present interests for eternal ones is wise. Is it any wonder that artists represent the world as wealth-mad, glory-mad, pleasure-mad?

The Christian Herald of a somewhat similar picture, says: "This allegory—which a critic has aptly called 'A Painter's Sermon'—is applicable to conditions in every part of the civilized world. It is a picture to study and to ponder over, that the full import of its teaching may be understood."

The Christian Commonwealth of the same, said: "On either side passes the heedless crowd. A prominent figure is a priest, proudly conscious of the perfection of the ritual with which he is starving a higher life. Over the shoulder of the priest looks a stern-faced divine of very different type, and, Bible in hand, he turns to look at the Divine figure. The startled look on the face of a hospital nurse in the foreground is very realistic. So absorbed is the man of science with his test-tube that he never glances at the Christ at his side. One of the most striking features is that of a false beauty, hurrying from one scene of pleasure to another. In the background stands an angel with bowed head, holding the cup which the world He loved to the death is still compelling the Christ to drink."

The passers-by represent the non-elect, whose only hopes lie in the Kingdom of Messiah. The Elect in this picture are represented in the person of the suffering Savior—members of the Body of Christ, the Church. "He that despiseth you despiseth Me." These faithful members of the Body of Christ are not confined to one denomination, but constitute the saintly ones of every church and outside of every human system. They are the "Wise Virgin" class, being fitted by ignominy for the Heavenly Kingdom, and its great work of blessing humanity—the non-elect.



DANIEL IN THE CRITICS' DEN

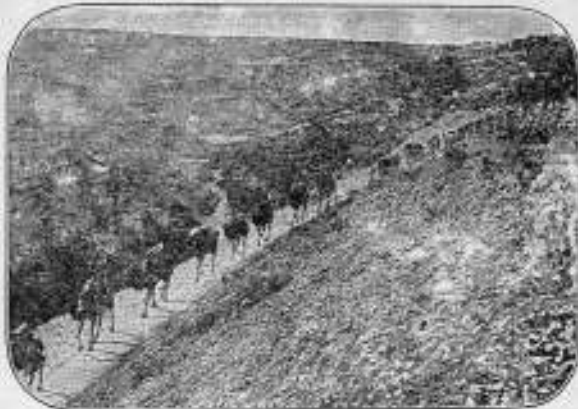
A MASTER of art has given us a picture which well represents the attitude of the Higher Critics toward the Book of Daniel and its wonderful prophecies, which more clearly than any others point out our day, its present experiences and what is to be expected. Of course, in discrediting Daniel and the Prophets, and the Psalms of the Old Testament, these critics really discredit Jesus and the Apostles. These Higher Critics of all the great colleges have undermined faith in the Bible as the Word of God, and thus undermined all faith in a personal Creator with many.

These critics have little to say against Him who spake as never man spake; but the discerning minds of our day perceive that as Jesus and the Apostles quoted Daniel and the Prophets as Divinely inspired, the discrediting of the one is the rejection of the other. How could we rely upon the testimony of Jesus and the Apostles respecting other matters, if they erred respecting the prophecies of the past?

The condition of Christendom today is truly deplorable; and although we can see how it has come about, it seems almost impossible to restore a faith once lost. Only the very honest-hearted may we expect will be recovered. Their deflection had its start with the impossible thought that all except a handful of humanity must suffer to all eternity at the hands of fire-proof devils, because God thus foreknew and arranged matters from before the foundation of the world. They cast away the Bible because of the erroneous view that it is the foundation of all these various religious errors.

This unbelief advances like a mighty wave, and its influence is sweeping away all hope respecting a future life. It is preparing the world for anarchy. The wonder is that the great and rich, supporting colleges which thus teach, do not realize that they are bringing anarchy upon the world.

Even now, Labor, like the blind giant Samson, is groping for the pillars whose fall will overthrow present conditions.



"MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO"

EVERYBODY knows that stimulated by printing there has been a greater development of knowledge along every line within the past century than during the preceding fifty-nine centuries. Everybody knows that the telegraph, telephone, wireless, electric lights, gas lights, steam railroads, electric roads, machinery, conveniences, etc., of our day were all *unknown* a century ago.

But although we know this to be true, it seems almost incomprehensible to the rising generation. These things have come so gradually that few realize that they are foregleams of the great thousand-year Day of Messiah's Kingdom in which the curse will be fully removed, and instead the blessing long-promised of God will be outpoured upon humanity abundantly.

The Bible declares the coming glory of Earth, when God shall make the place of His feet glorious, when the whole Earth shall be a Paradise of God. Our great scientists, who give no heed to the Bible, testify that present attainments are as nothing to what is just at hand.

God describes our day in Daniel's prophecy, saying, In the Time of the End (of this Age), many shall run to and fro; knowledge shall be increased; the wise shall understand . . . and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation.—Daniel 12:1-10; Matthew 24:21.

Are we not in the midst of the running to and fro which this prophecy predicted? We must, therefore, be living today in the period designated the Time of the End—the time in which this Age will gradually close and the New Age will gradually dawn with greater blessings. The first locomotive was built only ninety years ago. Now, in every land, multitudes are running to and fro, whose grandfathers probably never traveled fifty miles from their birthplace. Surely no prophecies could be more accurately fulfilled than this one.

Who but God could have known and foretold this marked peculiarity of our day? Jesus quoted a part of this prophecy.



"KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED"

DANIEL not only declared that our day would be marked by running to and fro, but also gave another indication: "Knowledge shall be increased." Surely we have this fulfillment also. Instead of plowing with a crooked stick, we have up-to-date steam-plows which accomplish a hundred times the work. Contrast writing upon stone and upon parchment, laborious and expensive, with our modern printing. Contrast the beginning of printing with today!

No printing establishment in the world better illustrates the perfection of this art in our day than does the U. S. Government Printing Office at Washington. No library better illustrates modern learning than does the Congressional Library. Today the learning is not confined to the great, the wealthy, or the few; it is general. The Schools of the civilized world are full, and thus, too, knowledge is increasing.

How wonderful that God foreknew all these things and foretold them through Daniel's prophecy twenty-five centuries ago, saying, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased!" Here we have it! We are evidently in the Time of the End mentioned, and well we may rejoice in the oncoming New Age! No longer do we hold that the world will literally end, and with a combustion which will reduce it to a cinder. We are ready to believe God's Word—that He created not the Earth in vain, He formed it to be inhabited—to be the Paradise home of humanity, regenerated under Messiah's Kingdom.—Isaiah 45:18.

Year by year we see the Earth preparing for full inhabitation. Recent earthquakes closed some and opened other channels of the Japan Stream, affecting the climate of Alaska and the Arctic zone remarkably. Gradually the glaciers in the form of icebergs are running out and dissolving in the more Equatorial waters. Gradually the Earth is preparing to blossom as the rose. Gradually the curse will be removed and the blessing of God will be substituted.—Isaiah 35:1.



"A TIME OF TROUBLE"

DANIEL'S prophecy has one prediction not yet realized. He declares, "There shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." Jesus confirmed this prophecy and added the words, "No, nor ever shall be." If a great time of trouble must come, it is comforting to know that it will be the last of its kind. And this evidently will be because its lessons will be so severe as to make no repetition of them necessary. Furthermore, according to the Bible, upon the ashes of that time of trouble Messiah's Kingdom will be established with full power and glory, to accomplish His great work of human blessing and uplift from sin and death. Christ will reign! Satan will be bound!—Revelation 20:1-4.

The prophecy declares that while men are running to and fro and knowledge is increased, the wise of God's people will understand the Divine Plan as never before. "The Mystery will be finished." The seals will be broken. The dawn will appear. Jesus' Parable of the Virgins applies to the end of this Age. It declares that amongst God's people (all *Virgins*) there will be some "foolish." Only the "wise" will "trim their lamps," examine the Bible, and "understand."—Matt. 25:1-12.

We need not detail the coming trouble. Everybody sees it. It will be a battle between giants—on the one side financial giants, trusts, etc.; on the other side gigantic labor organizations. Both parties are preparing. Both parties expect to fight to the finish. Both parties expect to win. Both parties will be disappointed, for both will lose. The Bible predicts that the result will be most terrible—anarchy—"a time of trouble such as never was!" We can but imperfectly surmise the details of the trouble, but the Scriptures imply that it will include social, financial, political and religious institutions. The anarchy of the French Revolution, and the anarchy which overthrew the Jewish nation, A. D. 70, are Scriptural illustrations of what may be expected soon. The Bible counsels Meekness and Justice as safeguards.—Zephaniah 2:3.



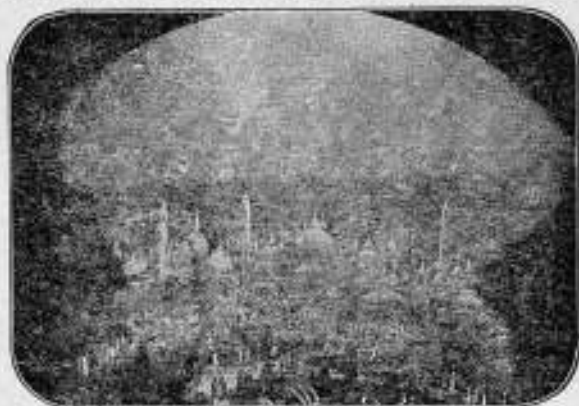
CATHOLIC, MILITANT, TRIUMPHANT

CATHOLIC signifies general, inclusive. It cannot properly be applied to any church except "The Church of the First-born, written in Heaven." (Hebrews 12:23.) The latest thought of Bible students is that the names Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, are not *catholic*, but are names of divisions. Likewise the terms Church of England, Church of Germany, Greek Church, Church of Rome, are sectional names and not properly termed *catholic*.

The term, Church Militant, signifies the Church at War. It was the wrong thought when the Church undertook to war with carnal weapons, either against nations or against heretics through the nations. She has no commission for such a warfare. It will be hers, eventually, to "bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, and to execute the judgment written. This honor have all His saints." It will be hers eventually, when glorified, to sit with Christ in His Throne, and to exercise dominion over the nations, and to break them in pieces as a potter's vessel. (Revelation 2:27.) But all this will be beyond the First Resurrection, in her Heavenly inheritance of Glory, Honor and Immortality.

The Church's warfare in the present time is to "fight a good fight of faith." It is an individual warfare in which the consecrated members of the Church must stand their ground, and do their battlings by the assistance of the Captain of their salvation, and the support of His Word. The brethren may greatly assist one another, building one another up in the most holy faith. Those who are faithful unto death will receive a crown of life, and a share with their Redeemer in His Kingdom.

The Church Triumphant will be invisible to men because changed in the First Resurrection and perfected on the spirit plane. As St. Paul declares, "We must all be changed, for flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." It will operate through earthly representatives, the Worthies of the past—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the Prophets.

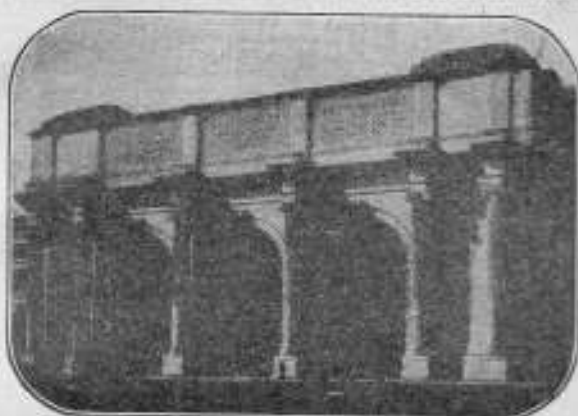


NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH

MANY of the precious teachings of the Bible are conveyed in symbolic language. Indeed all language is pictorial. Thus the "Heavens" are the higher, or ecclesiastical and spiritual powers connected with the present order of things, while the "Earth" is the lower, or social order of things. In Bible usage, the mountains of "earth" represent the great governmental strongholds, while the sea represents the restless class which secretly or openly desires to engulf society. Thus the Bible tells that the "Heavens" and the "Earth," or spiritual and social conditions which were before the Deluge, perished there, and a new order of things, social and ecclesiastical, sprang up, which still persists. The present order, ecclesiastical and social, is called the *world*, or Dispensation which now is. It is also called "This present Evil World," because evil holds supremacy. The Scriptures promise that there shall be a new "Heavens" and a new "Earth" (ecclesiastical and social), and we are assured that therein will dwell righteousness.—Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13.

St. Peter describes the passing away of the present ecclesiastical Heavens and social Earth in a great fire, once misunderstood to refer to a literal burning of the Earth. The Divine assurance is to the contrary, that "the Earth abideth forever," that God "formed it not in vain, but to be inhabited." The "fire" of this passage is evidently the same symbol frequently used in the Bible. It represents the trouble, destruction, which will completely overwhelm the present ecclesiastical and social order in anarchy.—Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21.

The new spiritual Heavens of the future will be Christ and the Church in heavenly glory and power. As God's promised Kingdom, it will rule the Earth, blessing and uplifting the non-elect of every nation, people, kindred and tongue. The new Earth will be the new social order which will come into being at that time, under the direction and guidance of the new Heavens—the Messianic Kingdom.—Matthew 6:10.



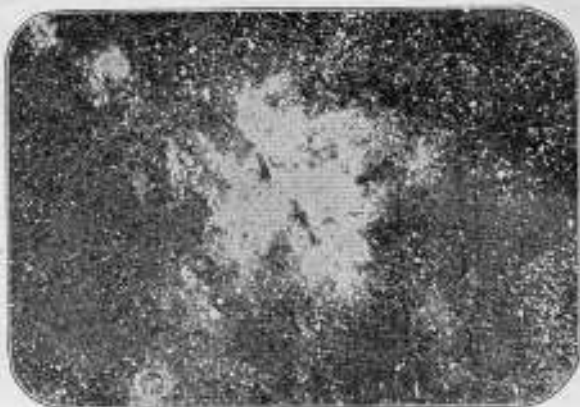
EARTH RESTORED, PERFECTED, COMPLETE

PURSUING the thought with which we started, we perceive that the Seventh Creative Day, or Epoch, will be a period of seven thousand years. Under Messiah's glorious reign that last thousand years' Restitution work will bring Earth to the condition originally designed by God! It will complete the creation of Earth, and of mankind as a race of God-like rulers of Earth's affairs. Man, having tasted both Good and Evil, and having chosen Good, will be granted life everlasting. The disobedient lovers of Evil will be destroyed in the Second Death.—2 Peter 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:9.

It is not in the power of human tongue or pen to portray the glorious perfection of the earthly Paradise condition. The most glorious qualities of mind and heart known amongst men must of necessity be imperfect as compared with the perfection of God's image as it will be restored in all the willing and obedient—the unwilling and disobedient being destroyed.

Already we see beginning the Restitution blessings promised in prophecy. Yet we are only in the beginning of the thousand years in which, under Messiah's guidance, God's Wisdom and Power will undoubtedly work miraculous changes in a natural way. It is refreshing to all hearts and to Christian faith to know that as the Prophet declared, "The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose," "and in the wilderness shall waters break out," so these things are beginning to be experienced. In the far Western parts of the United States, and in Mesopotamia, the land of Abraham, human ingenuity, engineering feats, etc., are working miracles. Divine Wisdom is behind them, just as Divine Power is now blessing all of Earth's affairs, and making the world most wonderfully rich.

If human skill is able to produce such beautiful fruits and flowers as are now manifest on every hand, what may we not expect will be the condition of the perfect earth when the "curse" shall be fully removed by the glorious Redeemer! Surely it will be "the desire of all nations."—Haggai 2:7.



HALLELUJAH CHORUS AND AGES TO COME

WITH the close of the thousand years of the Messianic Kingdom, the great Mediator will deliver over the Kingdom to the Father. (1 Corinthians 15:24.) The Father will not receive the human family to eternal life without first giving them a test along the lines of strict obedience to His will. Satan will be loosed for a little season to demonstrate who are absolutely loyal at heart and not merely obedient for the sake of policy. Those who then fail, will be destroyed with Satan in the Second Death. (Revelation 20:7-9.) Thus the earth will be absolutely cleansed. Then every creature in Heaven and Earth will exclaim, "Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne and unto the Lamb forever!" (Rev. 5:13.) Then there shall be no more sickness or dying. The former things of sin and death will have passed away.—Rev. 21:4.

Nor will the glory of Christ and the Church end with the restoration of mankind. Not only do the Scriptures tell us that unto Christ every knee shall bow, both of things in Heaven and things on Earth, but "That in the Ages to come God will show the exceeding riches of His grace and His loving kindness toward us [the Church] in Christ Jesus."

As God made not the earth in vain, but to be inhabited, this same principle doubtless applies to the other planets of our solar system, and to one thousand millions of other worlds of which Astronomy tells us. They are all to be peopled, and the things learned in the sin-experience of our Earth are to be their instruction. It is the Divine decree that the Logos shall be the honored agency through whom all creative work shall be accomplished in the future, as in the past, and His Church, His Bride, will be with Him in all His glorious hereafter. Truly ours is a Great God, worthy of worship, obedience, love. Only the foolish can say in their hearts, "There is no God." "Who shall not reverence Thee, O Lord . . . when Thy righteous acts are manifest!"—Revelation 15:4.