

The Bible Standard

"Send out your light and truth! Let them lead me;..."

Psalm 43:3

"LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE"

Isaiah 62: 10

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Announcements

THE GREAT DAY OF JUDGMENT

ITS NATURE AND OBJECT

“Behold, the Lord comes with 10,000 of His saints to execute judgment on all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed.” “Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world and they who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for He is coming to judge the earth; with righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity” (Jude 14, 15; Psalm 98: 7-9).

The above texts relate to the Great Day of Judgment which is to end the Gospel Age and inaugurate the Millennium. We should notice first of all what these texts do not say. They do not say that our Lord Jesus will come to destroy the earth, to burn up the world. They do not say that there will be a partial judgment at death, and that later, all will be brought out of Heaven and Purgatory and a Hell of torment, only to be sent back to these same places again. This is not correct! It is not stated in the Scriptures; it is without verification but is what some of us have erroneously thought in the past. Our prejudices and misunderstandings have attached to the words of Holy Writ a wrong meaning. It is the Love of God which brings judgment to the world.

The first judgment, or sentence for sin, was a sentence of death. Under that sentence the whole world was to perish, to be cut off from life, because of Adam’s sin. But God had mercy and compassion on humanity, and has provided that mankind shall have another trial, with needed experiences granted to enable them to realize the nature and results of sin. The first trial was a trial of Adam and Eve alone. Every member of the human family, however, will be given an individual trial for life everlasting, to demonstrate whether he will under favorable conditions come into harmony with God.

CHARACTER—THE BASIS OF JUDGMENT

All hopes of eternal life for the human race, hinge upon the results of that future trial. Men and women are in this life forming character—they are either improving or degrading themselves. Whoever is trying to do his best under present unfavorable conditions will

enter upon that individual trial, or judgment, in a very much better condition than otherwise, and will progress more rapidly to perfection in that Day.

The Church of Christ is an exception to this



arrangement for the world. They will not have a part in that trial, because the Church is a special, called-out class, and have received their trial in advance of the world. They have proved faithful. Their trial was for life on the Divine plane. They are now with their Lord in the heavenly phase of the Kingdom, being dealt with by the Lord and will be with the Lord, the Judges of the world, in the next Age; as we read: “Know you not that the saints shall judge the world?” (1 Corinthians 6: 2). It will be a time when punishments and rewards shall be meted out.

Every evil-doer shall then be dealt with and receive punishment for his evil intent, and stripes for his correction. Every well-doer shall receive a reward. The work of that thousand-year Judgment Day will show men to what extent they are out of harmony with God, and how to come back into harmony with Him. By the conclusion of the Millennial Age none will be in ignorance. As it is written: “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11: 9). Furthermore, the Scriptures tell us that the judgments will be graded according to the light previously received and sinned against. The willful sinner, after a hundred years’ trial, will be cut off in the

Second Death.

All who shall make use of the opportunities of that time, making progress in character, will gradually make progress up the Highway of Holiness (Isa. 35: 8, 9). They will be blessed more and more until they shall attain the full perfection of the earthly image and likeness of God which was lost in Adam. This will be the glorious outcome of the redeeming work of Christ. Then every knee shall bow and every tongue confess to the glory of God. All who continue to prefer sin shall eventually be destroyed in the Second Death. Then God will have a clean Universe.

GREAT DAY OF THE LORD NOW PRESENT

We are now in the beginning of this great Day of the Lord. All the forces which are to play a part in this mighty upheaval which is to introduce the Reign of Messiah are rapidly gathering. The nations of earth and all the various elements which form society as presently organized—political, financial, and ecclesiastical systems—are now before the bar of Judgment, and are being found wanting. All Christendom is trembling before the mighty forces that are coming in today. Morals are at low ebb. As the glorious Messenger of the Covenant is now present to sit as the great Judge, we may well ask the question propounded by God's Prophet of old: "Who may abide the Day [now present] of His Coming? And who shall stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And He shall sit as a Refiner and Purifier of silver; and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver" (Malachi 3: 1-6).



Let the Lord Guide You

Ah, the world is longing for the blessing! Men are realizing more and more every day their great need of a strong arm to deliver them as they face the grave crisis which they feel is drawing very near; but they do not see to what extent the inbred sin of man is incompatible with a Reign of Righteousness which is desired and

so sorely needed. Before the help and the blessing can be realized, the Day of Wrath must come; the "fire of God's jealousy" must burn fiercely, and consume all the giant evils so entrenched in the world and in the hearts and minds of men. It is not to be a fire merely of destruction, but, thank God, also of purification! It will not be a literal fire, but a symbolic fire. Then the Lord will turn unto the people a pure language, a pure Message, and a clear declaration of the Divine will and Plan of Salvation.

SONS OF LEVI—JUDGED FIRST

The earlier part of the judgment upon Christendom was especially upon the antitypical sons of Levi, the silver class. They made a consecration of themselves to the Lord, as did the gold class, the faithful overcomers, "more than conquerors." This silver class we understand to be the Great Company, who were to "come up" out of the Great Tribulation, and "wash their robes [which had become spotted and soiled] and make them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7: 9-17). They are dealt with by the great Messenger of the Covenant; not with a view to their destruction or injury as individuals, but with a view to the destruction of their flesh, which they failed to sacrifice in harmony with their Covenant—"that the spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord Jesus."

The fire of this Great Day shall "try every man's work, of what sort it is." It will prove who of the professed disciples of Christ have built upon Him as their Foundation with the gold, silver, and precious stones of Divine Truth, and have constructed a true, strong, worthy character, unswervingly loyal to the Lord; and it will prove who have built with wood, hay and stubble. It will likewise discover who have built upon a foundation of sand (1 Corinthians 3: 11-15).

FLESHLY ISRAEL'S SHARE IN THE JUDGMENT

A part of the prophecy of Malachi 3 seems to have an application to fleshly Israel. The Lord reproves them, showing that His course toward them as a people had been in conformity to His Covenant with them at Mt. Sinai. But they had been unfaithful to their part of the Covenant. At the appearing of this great Messenger of the New Covenant, which is to supersede the old Covenant, He will purge God's ancient people. The time is now due for favor to begin to be restored to them; but before their full restoration they must experience further chastisement for their purification and preparation for their reception of the great Messiah.

In the “time of Jacob’s Trouble” (Jer. 30: 7), now near at hand, Israel will come to see and recognize their King, whom they refused when He offered Himself to them at His First Advent. “They shall look upon Him [with the eye of faith] whom they pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son” (Zechariah 12: 10). He will then receive them back in favor, under the terms of the New Covenant. “Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years” (Malachi 3: 4). They shall then be used of Messiah as a channel of blessing to the entire world.

BLINDED TO THE REAL DIFFICULTY

In this great Time of Trouble, the Lord will be a swift witness against every evil thing and will rebuke it. Then all men will be taught of Him in the ways of righteousness. But now, the poor, blinded world, bound by the shackles of Satan ((2 Cor. 4: 4), do not know themselves. They do not yet see that selfishness is the basis of their every move and ambition; that the number who are not so moved and controlled are so insignificantly small as to be without weight and influence.

It is not our thought to deride any efforts toward righteousness, even though inspired by selfishness. We merely point out that the true, Christian view of matters



The brightness of the Bible view is blinded during the “Time of Trouble” which is predicted in prophecy - Dan 12: 1

is a much different one. It is the Bible view. It recognizes God, the Divine will, purpose, plan and revelation, as having to do with all this world’s affairs. It sees in the present upheaval of politics, the present uncovering of financial and social scandals, etc., another force making ready for the great trouble time, the great “earthquake” predicted in prophecy, the great cataclysm, now about to be precipitated upon the whole world (Dan 12: 1). The Scriptures indicate that this Time of Trouble is upon us and will be gradually increasing in intensity.

In the providence of God the gross superstition and ignorance of the Dark Ages has been gradually dissipated to a considerable extent, that the minds of the people might be set free, not only from religious superstition, but also from the superstition respecting the Divine right of certain factions to inherit the kingdoms, the dominions of the world, and to live on a higher plane of social privilege than others. All these matters are now coming in review before the world, and Socialism has pushed itself to the fore as the world’s savior, their deliverer from priestcraft and superstition, and from political and financial autocracy. The world is being invited to look, not to Him who redeemed us with His precious blood, and who promised to come again and establish His Kingdom in righteousness, but it is being called to look to itself, to its own affairs and selfish interests, as the only hope. They are ignoring God and His overruling providences, and ignoring Divine Revelation respecting the future outcome of present conditions in the glorious Millennial Kingdom for the blessing of all the world.

CHURCH FEDERATION NOW FORMING

From our standpoint, the past and present gathering of the churches into a great Federation is the fulfilment of Scriptural prediction; and the Lord’s intelligent, faithful, consecrated people are warned against having any part in any such Church Federation. The Word of the Lord regarding the matter is, “Say you not, A Confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A Confederacy; neither fear you their fear, nor be afraid; but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and let Him be your fear” (Isaiah 8: 11-16).

Dread to displease Him, but fear not men. It is the tares which have all along associated themselves with the wheat that are to be bundled, to be gathered together for a great trouble time. This is in the mighty revolution of society shortly to set fire to all the social, religious, and financial institutions and arrangements of this present time, eventuating in anarchy, which, through God’s overruling providence, will overthrow all things incompatible with righteousness and prepare for the Kingdom of God, which will be manifested in power and great glory, for the deliverance and blessing of all the human family.

We remember that as the Jewish Age drew near to its close, John the Baptist, the forerunner of Messiah, declared to the Jews: “One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire”

(Luke 3: 16). We remember the fulfilment of this. The faithful “Israelites indeed” were gathered into the garner of the Christian Church, and baptized with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The remainder of the Jewish nation, who “knew not the time of their visitation,” were burned (not literal fire) as “chaff,” in a great time of trouble, which overthrew their nation (AD 69). This great trouble is shown in Scripture to be a picture on a small scale of the conditions which now prevail in the closing days of this Gospel Age.

In that trouble time which came to the Jews, though various steps were taken to hinder the destruction of the nation of Israel, all efforts failed. Even the Roman Emperor was desirous of preserving the nation and of establishing order; and the Roman army was sent, not to destroy them, but to establish peace in their midst. But the Lord had declared that the fire of trouble which He enkindled should not be quenched by any power, that it should do its work to the full; and it did.

Likewise it will be with the great fire of trouble with which this present Age will end, and into which the “tare” class of Christendom will be cast. It will not be an utter destruction of life (although many lives have been and will yet be lost in the awful trouble of this Day of Wrath), but it will completely consume all earthly governments and institutions and will overthrow Churchianity. These will be consumed in the fire of anarchy. Nothing shall be permitted to quench that fire, nor hinder the destruction of present systems. But, praise God, when the fire shall have devoured the stubble and the false deceptions of the present order, it will prepare the way for the great blessing which God has designed and provided in His coming Kingdom. “When the judgments of the Lord are abroad in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness” (Isaiah 26: 9). It will be a terrible chastisement, but it will be the necessary work of the skilful Surgeon, who wounds but to heal.

“REFUGE OF LIES” SWEEPED AWAY

In our Lord’s parable of building a House upon the Rock or upon the Sand, He gives a forceful picture, particularly of the tests to come upon Christendom at the close of this Age. Here, His figure is that of a fierce storm, a flood, with mighty winds beating upon the faith structure of His professed followers, overthrowing the faith of those not built upon Christ, the Rock, but built upon Him as the Sand. So we see it today. A mighty downpour of Truth is now in progress throughout Christendom. The great storm is now raging. The denominations of Churchianity are trembling under

the shock. Their foundations of human tradition, man-made theories, ignorance, “doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4: 1), are realized to be unsatisfactory. They are unable to stand before the great searchlight of Truth now being turned upon them. Here is where the storm of Truth will wash out the quicksand foundation upon which mainline Christianity is built, and her utter wreck will follow. Only the true people of God will be able to stand the test of this Great Day—now upon us!

This is the same storm and flood mentioned by the Lord through the Prophet Isaiah: “The hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding places. When the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then shall you [false teachers] be trodden down by it. From the time that it goes forth it shall take you; for morning by morning shall it pass through, by day and by night; and it shall be a vexation to understand the report [the Message, the Truth]” (Isaiah 28: 17-19).

This overwhelming trouble will soon reach the entire world. Indeed, it has already begun among all nations to some extent. All men must be awakened by the judgments of the Lord and brought to a realization of their need of the Arm of Jehovah, to deliver them and to uplift and save. The whole world is to be judged by The Messiah. All will witness that this judgment, this trial, could not come before the great Judge has taken His seat and authority: hence none of those who died before our Lord’s First Advent could have been judged by Him. All should likewise be aware of the fact that the world in general has not been on trial since our Redeemer was appointed the Judge, and which the world has not been on trial previous to the present time. So, the great bulk of mankind neither know the Judge or understand His Law, nor have they any conception of the conditions and requirements necessary to gain life everlasting. This is in harmony with the presentations of Scripture on this subject.

JUDGMENT DAY A TIME OF BLESSING



The Apostle Paul declares (Acts 17: 31), that God “has appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He has ordained [The Christ, Head and Body]; whereof He has given assurance unto all, in that He has raised Him from the dead.” That appointed Day was future in the Apostle’s time, and is still future, though now about to dawn. The Gospel of Christ, the Good Tidings, is to the effect that He who bought the world with His own precious blood is to become the Judge of all men, the living and the dead. “All in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth,” “and they that hear shall live” (John 5: 28, 29, 25 RV).

A new trial is to be granted to Adam and his entire race. It will be an individual trial, under the enlightenment and uplifting influence of the great Messianic Kingdom. Truly, this is “Good Tidings of great joy” to the world, the “groaning creation.” Even though the great Adversary has succeeded in deceiving the vast majority, even of Christians, into thinking to the contrary, this Trial Day, the Day of Judgment, is to come to all the

sons and daughters of Adam for their deliverance and blessing, if they will receive it. This Great Day, which will be “the desire of all nations,” is forcefully depicted by the Prophet David. (Psalms 96-98.) The saints of the Lord, the faithful followers of Christ, those who “follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes,” shall be associated with their great Head as assistant judges, in His glorious work of human uplift and restitution to all that was lost in Adam.

How glad we are that our eyes have been anointed to see all these wonderful arrangements of our God! How glad we are that we can understand the significance of the dark clouds now hovering over the world and soon to break! How we rejoice that we can discern the silver lining to these clouds of trouble, and know that the end will be glorious—that beyond the yawning chasm just before us, beyond the blood and tears of the coming whirlwind and tempest, the blessed Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing and blessing in His wings, and mankind, broken and helpless and despairing, shall be led into the light and glory of the Kingdom of God’s dear Son!

GOD’S EYES ARE ON ISRAEL

“It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end” — Deut. 11: 12.

THE MIRACLE IN THE NEGEV

A miracle is witnessed in the Negev. Israel is said to have a higher potential of good soil than any other nation, and almost any crop will grow there. The northern part has sufficient water, but in the south, the Negev, the lack of sufficient moisture has been the big obstacle. Rainfall is usually deficient; when it does come, usually during 10 to 20 days of the year, in most cases it comes very rapidly, and runs off quickly. But this huge obstacle, this lack of sufficient moisture, has been tackled with resolute determination, with the result that although the Negev was a desert in 1948, it now has been blossoming more and more; there are now many settlements and large portions of it are under cultivation. Israel is now self-sustained in its water requirements.

Steps are being taken in the Negev, such as the building of dikes, terraces and reservoirs, to prevent rain water from running off so rapidly. Also, more and more wells are being drilled and fresh water is being found at depths and in quantities sufficient to reclaim many more acres of land, even in areas, such as the tract between Sodom and Elath, which were considered completely barren. Furthermore,

irrigation is playing a big part in supplying the necessary water. The great Negev pipeline, with its huge 66-inch concrete pipes, carries water from the Tel Aviv Yarkon River in the Tel Aviv area to the irrigation pipes, faucets and sprinklers of former wasteland in the Negev. A network of pipelines,



ISRAEL’S ABUNDANT CROPS TODAY

carrying water from not only the Yarkon, but also the Jordan, provides supplementary water needed in the Negev.

The scarcity of water in the region has generated intense efforts to maximize use of the available supply and to seek new resources. In the 1960s, Israel's freshwater sources were joined in an integrated grid whose main artery, the National Water Carrier, brings water from its center in the North to the semi-arid south. Ongoing projects for utilizing new sources include cloud seeding, recycling of sewage water and the desalination of seawater.

In our day the literal fulfilment of many prophecies made centuries ago in God's Word are coming to pass in the Negev. Note the following prophecies: "The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose . . . for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water"; "I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water"; "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground"; "For the LORD shall comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places, and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD" (Isa. 35: 1, 6, 7; 41: 18; 44: 3; 51: 3).



. . .and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose - Isa. 35: 1

THE DEAD SEA

One of the hottest and most forbidding areas of the world is to be found at the southern end of the Dead Sea, the site of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah. Here there are mountains of salt and the nearby cave of David, in En Gedi (1 Sam. 24: 1-3), where he and his men stopped in their flight from King Saul.

Now modern asphalt roads connect Sodom with Beersheba and Elath. (Bitumen is found in abundance

in the "slime pits" near Sodom—Gen. 14: 10.) A long view of a modern potash plant with more vaporation ponds in view is visible in the picture shown with this article. While the sea has always been referred to as "dead," and at one time was supposed to be utterly useless and unprofitable, the vital materials now being extracted from it are producing potash fertilizers which are helping to make it possible for Israel to reclaim thousands of acres of waste land in the Negev. Paradoxically, the *Dead Sea* is today giving *life* to barren lands. A plan to reestablish a potash plant at the northern end of the Dead Sea, in the State of Jordan, is also in operation.

The production of potassium is fairly easy and inexpensive in the Dead Sea area. It is estimated that the known supply is sufficient to meet the needs of the world at the current rate of consumption for at least a thousand years. Also there are huge salt banks, from which more than 2,000,000 tons a year are being shipped to Japan. The Dead Sea covers an area of 405 square miles and lies 1,292 feet below sea level. It is a very unusual body of water. It receives the waters of the Jordan and six other rivers, but has no outlet. The rate of evaporation is very great there. Steep cliffs of bare limestone surround the lake, and masses of sulphur exposed by periodically occurring earthquakes lie on its shores. The potential wealth of the mineral salts of the Dead Sea is enormous.

The process for the production of potash is to pump the brine from the Dead Sea into a series of small reservoirs from which the sun evaporates the water and concentrates the minerals into deposits of magnesium chloride and potassium chloride. The two salts are then separated by dissolving the magnesium chloride and leaving a precipitate of potassium chloride.



A Modern View of a Potash Plant

THE DELUGE EFFECT

GENESIS 6: 9-22; 7: 11-24

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6: 23).

SCIENTIFIC students are rapidly reaching the conclusion that we are fully justified in laughing at some scientists who have denied the Bible account of the Deluge. The Bible is corroborated by Geology, Astronomy and History. The oldest records of Babylonia tell the story of the Deluge—of Noah and his ark. To discredit the Bible, these archaeologists declare that the Genesis account was merely copied from the Babylonian records. People know that there were no records of ancient times that compare with our Genesis account! No one even professes to give a connected history of the human family, a chronological line of 1,656 years from Adam to the Flood, or a definite record, as the Bible does, of just how long it rained, just how high the floods rose and just how long was the period required for the waters to drain off. “Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan God’s Book in vain.” But, says one, the theory of a deluge whose waters would cover the hills and the mountains might be thinkable if the earth were flat; but how could it possibly be true since we know that the earth is a sphere? Geology comes to the rescue of the Bible student and points out distinctly that there have been several great deluges. It shows us great beds of sandstone, clay, shale, etc., all of which Science declares must have been placed where they are as the settlements of great floods. Some of these deposits are hundreds of feet below the surface.

When we ask where such floods could come from, Astronomy answers us, pointing us to Saturn and Jupiter with their “rings.” Scientists declare that these rings consist of minerals and water thrown far off in a gaseous state when the planets were at white heat. They subsequently cooled and formed into various strata or rings. Because of their great distance from the planets their motions are different, and they are held in suspense by the same laws which hold the planets themselves in space. Nevertheless, the superior weight of the planets draws them nearer and nearer. The ring nearest the planet, and approaching it, is still held off by the “firmament” of circumambient air. The rotation of the planets on their axes gives least resistance at the poles; and these rings, after spreading out as great coverings, gradually thin at the center, or equator, and thicken at the poles, until the weight at the poles becomes so

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great as to overcome the power or the strength of the firmament, and then breaking through from both poles, causes great torrents.

NO RAIN ON THE EARTH

The astonishing statement that, prior to the Deluge, there had been no rain on the earth (Genesis 2: 5), is in full agreement with what we have seen from the foregoing. The earth once had similar “belts” or “rings.” These were precipitated, as we have described, one after the other, at long intervals of thousands of years during the Six Creative Days mentioned in Genesis. By means of these deluges, minerals were deposited and our coal beds buried. God, foreknowing all things, foreknew the necessity of the Noachian Deluge and, thereby, so timed the features of His Plan that the last of earth’s “rings” was still unbroken when man was created. But it was no longer in the form of a ring. The waters above had approached the earth and formed a great watery canopy or veil, merely held off by the “firmament.” There could be neither rain nor storm under such conditions. The temperature of the whole earth was equable, the sun’s rays acting upon the watery canopy as they do upon the white glass of a hot-house. The temperature was the same at the poles as at the equator. This accounts for the remains of tropical animals and of plant life found imbedded under hundreds of feet of ice in the polar regions.

WHY THE POLAR ICE?



Great Valleys Cut by Glaciers

Geology testifies to a Glacial Period, when great quantities of ice, carried by floods of water, rushed from the poles toward the equator. Geologists have

traced great valleys cut by these glaciers. On their findings, they base the theory that the earth was once ice-covered. Instead of attributing the ice to the period of the Deluge, 4,400 years ago, they add a handful of zeros to the time; and the more they add, the prouder they feel of their achievements because they think that they are getting away from the Bible and discrediting it. But scientific students are having their faith in God's Word established more and more. Without affecting the torrid zone, the warmer temperature is now extending itself into the frigid zone quite rapidly. "Greenland's Icy Mountains" will soon be things of the past. The poles are warming up. The ice caps are dissolving.

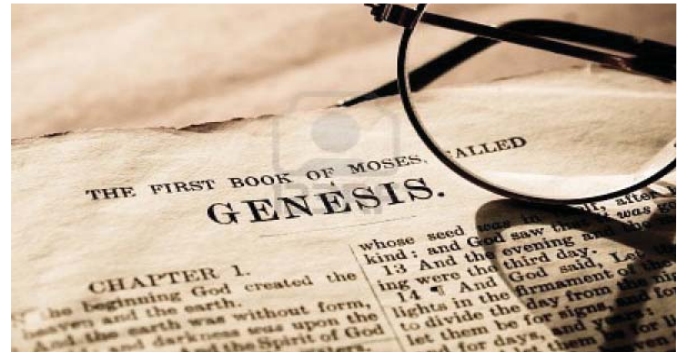
"YOUR WORD IS TRUTH"

The fitting of these facts to the Bible narrative is not only intensely interesting, but conducive to faith in God, in His providences, and in the Bible, and very conducive to a disregard of the wild guesses of "professors," who have no faith in the Bible and are seeking to discredit it. The sudden break of the canopy of water would not only cause a deluge to come down at both poles, and the flow of great tidal waves toward the equator, as geologists show was the case, but it would also produce a sudden and intense cold at the poles. The water froze so rapidly that, out of the solid ice, animals have in recent years been dug up, which were found with grass between their teeth. We have only to put two and two together to have a chain of evidence linking us to the Bible. For instance, is it asked why it was colder at the poles then than now? The reply is: The more direct rays of the sun then, as now, fell on the equator; but the torrid zone was hotter than now, until the trade winds sprung up, which carried the heat and distributed it all over the earth. And the waters of the equator must have been hotter then, as the poles were colder, until the ocean currents set in—which, like the Gulf Stream, carry the water from the equator and distribute it along the shores of America and Europe—and the Japan and other currents, which in the Pacific carry their warmed water at the equator to the poles. These processes, going on for 4,500 years, are gradually thawing out the polar regions, as all investigations from the Arctic to the Antarctic prove; and this it is that has recently been causing larger numbers of icebergs from the glaciers of the polar region to break loose and float down, to the distress of mariners. Still there remains the question: Why was not Noah's ark carried off by this swift current toward the equator? Why did it apparently remain not far from the place where it was built and come to rest on the top of Mount Ararat?

Professor George Frederick Wright has dropped the suggestion which fits well with the Bible narrative. As we understand the professor, the geological evidences are that the swift currents of water, laden with icebergs and rolling rocks, visited various parts of Europe and America, and perhaps Asia, but seemingly avoided the vicinity of Mount Ararat. There, alluvial deposits are of extraordinary depth. The professor indicates that while there was a commotion round about, there was an eddy and back water in that particular vicinity. Is it too much for the child of God to believe that the Great Creator, who intended to preserve alive Noah and his family to begin afresh the population of the earth, was not fully competent to regulate the currents of that Flood of water? "Faith can firmly trust Him, come what may." It is pleasing to us, additionally, to note that the time required for the draining off of the waters (Genesis 8: 1-14) is reasonable and in harmony with the scientific investigation conducted from the Bible standpoint.

THE CAUSE OF THE FLOOD

We have already seen that physical causes led up to the Deluge. Next let us inquire: Why did Divine Providence decree the obliteration of man, except Noah and his



Chain of Events Links Us to the Bible

family? Why did He who knew "the end from the beginning" purposely allow that last canopy to remain to cause the Flood, instead of precipitating it before man was created? The answer is that God foreknew the rebellion of Satan and his attempt to become the "Prince of this world." God also foreknew that His human son, Adam, would fall before the temptation in the Garden would come upon him. He permitted the temptation and the fall solely because He foresaw a way by which, ultimately, good would be accomplished thereby, and valuable, instructive lessons be given both to angels and to men. These lessons test the love and loyalty of every creature in Heaven and on earth, and when rightly learned, will serve their purposes to all eternity. All of

God's dealings with His intelligent creatures are along the lines of absolute Justice, guided by Love Divine. But while Love can guide Divine Justice, Justice must rule, as we read: "Justice is the foundation of Your Throne" (Psalm 89: 14).

The Bible record is that, at the time of the Flood, wickedness had become so great that the conduct of humanity and the thoughts of their hearts were "only evil continually" (Genesis 6: 5). This great increase of wickedness for 1,600 years is explained to have come, not merely from human depravity, but by the conniving of some of the angelic sons. These, although created holy and perfect, became charmed by sin with humanity, until they became disobedient to God, and by their greater intelligence led the human race into further depths of iniquity. The Bible cites many instances when holy angels have materialized, assuming human bodies and clothing. In this manner three spirit beings, naturally invisible to humans, appeared to Abraham as men and did eat and talk with Abraham; and he did not know that they were angels, until afterward. This power appears to have been originally possessed by all the holy angels before the Flood. It was then that some of them, becoming overly captivated by the beautiful daughters of men, took to themselves wives, and lived in their materialized bodies, preferring to live as human beings in immoral relationships. The Apostle Jude declares that they "left their own habitation," or condition as spirit beings, in violation of the Divine Law.

So they, instead of using their permission to appear as men to help and instruct mankind, used this power to still more rapidly degrade humanity. Moreover, the children born of those angelic sons of God by human mothers were not of pure Adamic stock; they were beings of a new unauthorized order—different from Adam's family. We read that they were giants—physical and mental—"men of renown." The fact that they grew to manhood and became renowned proves that this improper relationship between the spirit angels and humanity continued for centuries, because in that primitive time full manhood was not reached in less than a hundred years. Those giant sons of the angels, begotten in lust and in violation of the Divine Law, would not, naturally, be renowned for their virtues or holiness, but the reverse. Therefore, it does not surprise us to read further that those sons of the angels tyrannized the human race, and that the whole earth was filled with violence. The time had come when God's displeasure with those conditions should be manifested—not by

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sending those angels and their giant-renowned sons and the depraved antediluvians of Adam's race to a hell of torture, but by merely overwhelming them in the Flood. God, in this, set an example of His opposition to sin and His determination that, eventually, it should be fully stamped out. But neither in this, nor in any other event, did God ever suggest any thought of torturing sinners, or anyone, throughout eternity. On the contrary, all those pure human descendents of Adam's race are as much redeemed by Christ's sacrifice as other sinners of the human race at any time.

They belonged to the great mass of mankind, whom Messiah will bless during His Millennial Reign of righteousness. They will all be awakened from death and be brought to an accurate knowledge of the Truth, like the remainder of the race. The object in so doing will be that after lessons of chastisement for any willful disobedience, they may if they desire, be fully recovered from sin and death, and brought back to all that was lost—human perfection and everlasting life in an earthly Paradise restored—world-wide—at Jesus' cost (John 5: 28, 29) R.V. As for the sons of the angels born by human mothers, there is no hope for them. Their begetting and birth were not authorized of God. They were cut off in death by the Flood. They were not redeemed. They will never be awakened nor resurrected. As for the fallen angels themselves; the Bible tells us that for these 4,500 years they have been exiles from God, restrained "in chains of darkness," "until the Judgment of the Great Day" (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2: 4).

We will supply a full treatise of this subject to our readers free, on receipt of a request, addressed to Bible Standard Ministries, 1156 St. Matthew's Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425-2700.

"And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth"— Rev. 21: 3 - 4

DIVINE JUSTICE IN THE DELUGE

“The Flood came, and took them all away”—Matt. 24: 39.

Up to now have we considered the physical causes which led up to the Deluge, and found them in every way reasonable and in full harmony with history and geology. Here we consider the Deluge from a different standpoint. We will attempt to show from the Bible why God permitted the Deluge at all, and that He was fully justified in the arrangement which blotted out the human family, except for eight persons—righteous Noah and his family (2 Peter 2: 4-10). To begin with, we should remember that God’s Covenant with Adam, granting everlasting life, was based upon the fact that he was perfect (an image of his Creator), and on condition that he would maintain this image and likeness by continued obedience to his Maker. When Satan obsessed the serpent and guided it to eat the very fruit of which our first parents were forbidden to eat, he produced thereby a temptation. Mother Eve saw that so far from the serpent’s being poisoned by that fruit, it thrived on its diet and was the wisest of animals. She reasoned that humanity was so far superior to the brute that the increased wisdom would make her husband and herself like gods. She thirsted for knowledge and power. Only the Divine command seemed to stand between her and the highest ideals. She partook of the fruit and recommended it to Adam—who was not so deceived, but who knew that death would surely follow disobedience. Nevertheless he disobeyed, thinking that he would rather perish with his wife than spend eternity without her.

The disobedience led to expulsion from Eden and the beginning of the gradual execution of the sentence, “Dying, you will die.” Adam died within the thousand-year Day in which he ate “of the tree”—nine hundred and thirty years old (2 Pet. 3: 8). His race inherited his dying conditions and tendencies. All humanity are under the Divine curse, or sentence of death, and have been going down to the tomb, Hades, for six thousand years. Whatever may cut short human life is no injustice to humanity, because whatever life is enjoyed is just so much more than it has title to. The Flood was merely a quick means of executing against the race the death sentence already expressed sixteen centuries before.



Adam and Eve Expelled from the Garden for Their Disobedience

When the Bible account of the cause of the Deluge is properly comprehended, we see that it was indeed a blessing in disguise. The human family had gotten into slavery, and would shortly have been wiped out by a new race, which most peculiarly, had intruded upon humanity. The Bible tells us that this new race consisted exclusively of males, propagated through the human female. We read, “*The same were mighty men . . . men of renown*”—giants (Gen. 6: 1-4).

The fallen race of Adam was unable to cope with the superior mental and physical strength of the intruders. Robbed of their wives and daughters, and compelled to do the drudgery of their new masters, their lives were a burden. Not only so, but the new race was vicious, brutal, violent, as well as immoral. The Bible account declares, “The earth was filled with violence.” The general moral corruption went so far that we read, “Every imagination of the thoughts of man’s heart

was only evil continually.” What a terrible arrangement! What a mercy in the sight of all intelligent beings that such a terribly immoral, strife-filled, and enslaved condition should be brought completely to an end! This description is found graphically recorded in Genesis 6: 1-11. In the past we have not studied the Bible with sufficient care, and therefore have not appreciated properly its wonderful, harmonious story. The origin of the invading race of giants is clearly told. Satan, a glorious angelic being of a high order, named Lucifer, The Morning Star, who deflected to sin, because of

disobedience and disloyalty. We may know, that all the angels of Heaven in harmony with God are loyal to the core; for they withstood the temptation, permitted for the very purpose of their testing. We know from the context that this testing continued for centuries, because the children of the illicit union were not babes, but men—giants—and renowned at a time when manhood was rarely reached earlier than one century. The simple record of Genesis is, “The sons of God (angels) saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. . . . When the sons of



COMING STORM

ambition, had said in his heart long before, “I will be as the Most High”—an independent sovereign (Isa. 14: 12-14). Satan thought that he saw his opportunity to establish a separate empire in the earth. He thought that if he could become master of the first pair, all of their children would be his subjects. Knowing of his own undying nature, and that man was created for everlasting existence, he counted not on *death* as the Divine penalty for sin and invented a matching falsehood.

When Satan perceived his human subjects growing gradually weaker under the curse, a new plan was formulated. To the angels who were given God’s permission to help and to instruct humanity, a temptation was presented. They possessed the power of materialization, and could live as humans, to help and instruct humanity. The Satanic suggestion to them was that they could help humanity best by begetting a new race, using the human females as mothers for that race, to which they would impart their own virility. Although this was recognized as being contrary to Divine Law, it was perceived that Satan had not been punished for his deflection. The inference was that God was unable to punish Satan for this rebellion. In this way, by refraining from punishing Satan, God left open the door by which all the holy angels were exposed to temptations to

God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children unto them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.” A new, unauthorized race came into being.

In due time, these bestial giants filled the earth with violence, oppressing and enslaving Adam’s posterity. As for themselves, they had no right to existence, since they were born contrary to the Divine will and Law. Neither can they be included into the redemptive work of Jesus, who died only for Adam and his posterity. “As all in Adam die, even so all in Christ shall be made alive, every man in his own order”—the Church in the First Resurrection (1 Cor. 15: 22; Rev. 20: 6). There is the same hope for the human antediluvians as for all the remainder of Adam’s race—the hope of the resurrection of the dead. This means not merely a hope of being awakened from the sleep of death, but a resurrection hope, a hope of Restitution, a hope of a return, if they will, to the full measure of human perfection, the image of God in the flesh. This hope, as we have seen on previous occasions, rests first of all on God’s gracious promise that all the families of the earth shall be blessed in Abraham’s Seed (Gen. 22: 18). Secondly, it rests in the Bible assurance that Jesus is the Head, and the Church, the members of that Spiritual Seed of Abraham, which is now as the Elect of God completed and glorified. In the Messianic

Kingdom this great spiritual “Seed” will accomplish the blessings foreordained. St. Paul emphasized this, saying, “If you be Christ’s, then are you Abraham’s Seed, and heirs according to the promise” made to Abraham : “In your Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 22: 18; Gal. 3: 29, 16).

As we review the situation, we are amazed at the exhibition given us of Divine patience. We are reminded of St. Peter’s words that God is not willing that any should perish. How easily He could have blotted out

perfect, and He will not allow it to get away from the perfection in which He created His intelligent creatures. Every variation from that perfection must be the result of disobedience; and the unalterable Law is that the disobedient shall perish. Whoever does not learn to love righteousness and hate iniquity will be counted unworthy of life everlasting, will be cut off from among the people (Acts 3: 23).

MAN’S EXPERIENCE A LESSON

We may say, then, that God not only foreknew that



GLORIOUS OUTCOME

of existence our first parents and have created another pair! How easily He could have hindered Satan from presenting the temptation! How easily He could have warned the angels against a course of disobedience and, if necessary, have shown them His Power at any time! These incidents illustrate to us a general principle of Divine Character and dealings. God wishes not to have the heavens and the earth populated with evil beings. Creating angels and men in His own image and likeness, on different planes, He desires them to maintain their own station, and in loving loyalty to learn to trust His Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power. Moreover, He does not wish to have any children or servants throughout His domain obedient merely because of fear, merely because of ignorance. Jesus’ words give us the key to the Heavenly Father’s Character in this respect. He says that God seeks such to worship the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4: 23).

God had indeed a glorious Dominion before sin entered the world. And He could, of course, have hindered any spread of the disloyal ambition of Satan by destroying him, or He could have compelled him into obedience as a slave. But such He desires not. God most evidently has the very highest ideals in respect to His Government and all His subjects. All His work is

the conditions under which man was created would result in temptation, in sin; but without causing the temptation, and without giving any excuse for the disloyalty, He determined to permit it. Some suppose that the permission is to be everlasting, but the Scriptures assure us to the contrary. The reign of Sin and Death He purposed to permit for six thousand years. Then by bringing in the Messianic Kingdom, He intends to abolish sin and death, lifting to human perfection the willing and obedient and destroying in the Second Death all the unwilling and disobedient. When the entire Plan of God has been worked out, and has been made known to angels and men as a whole, it will demonstrate the Wisdom of God as it never could have been known otherwise, had He not adopted the plan that He did by temporarily permitting a reign of Sin and Death.

Another thing made possible by the permission of sin has been the special call of an Elect Church during the Christian Age. The Bible declares that the Elect Church were begotten of the Spirit throughout this Age, which means that they, if faithful in their commitment in following the Master, were created spirit beings and were born of the Spirit in the Resurrection. “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God”

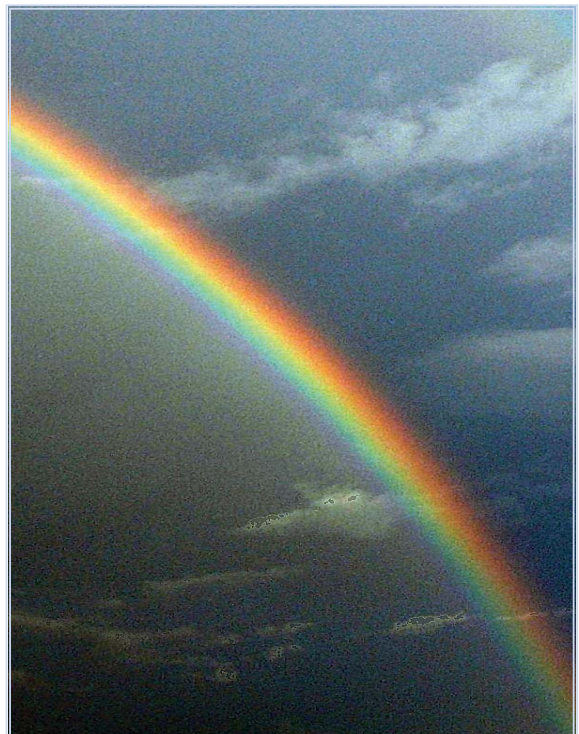
(1 Cor. 15: 50). The need of a Redeemer opened the way for the Logos to leave the Heavenly nature and become a man. This opened the way for Jesus to demonstrate His love and loyalty by obedience unto death, “even unto the death of the cross” (Phil. 2: 8). And this great sacrifice and the obedience constituted not only the Ransom-price for Adam and his race, but also the basis on which the Heavenly Father highly exalted His Son far above angels, principalities and powers, to His own right hand—to the Divine nature (John 5: 26). Similarly the exaltation of the Church to be the Bride of Christ, His Joint-heir in the Kingdom, and partaker with Him of the Divine nature, was made possible by the permission of sin. The Heavenly Father could justly permit members of the fallen race, of the same disposition as Jesus, and justified and sanctified through Him, sacrificially to lay down their lives as members of the Body of Christ, and by suffering with Him, to be accounted worthy also of reigning with Him in glory, honor and immortality in His Kingdom (Rom. 8: 17; 2 Tim. 2: 11, 12; Rev. 20: 6; Rom. 2: 7 ; 2 Pet. 1: 4; 1 Cor. 15: 42-44, 53).

What a God, infinite in Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power! Surely, to know Him is life eternal! Is it any wonder, in view of this work that God has outlined for His Son and the Church, that He should consider it necessary to give others of the elect lessons and tests in faith, in loyalty, in obedience? Is it any wonder, in view of the work which He had for the Church to do for mankind, that the Redeemer Himself was given experiences in suffering, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things of God in relation to humanity? The better we understand the Bible, the more clearly we see that the redemption which God has provided through Jesus’ sacrifice is to be eventually world-wide in its scope. The race was not condemned individually, but as a whole in one man, Father Adam, on account of sin. Similarly, the race has been redeemed as a whole by one man “Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a Ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2: 5, 6; Heb. 2: 9; 1 John 2: 2).

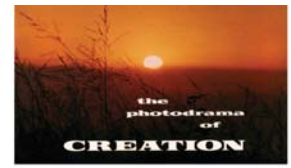
The fact that God did not deal with any of the human family except the Hebrews for four thousand years does not mean that He loved only the Jews, nor that the Israelites only will ultimately receive the Divine blessing and a share in the redemptive work. Rather, it means that during that time God had an agreement with them in a special way, to select from among them some loyal characters to be sharers in His future work, when He would make arrangements with the world in general. The fact that all this work of selecting one class of servants

from Hebrews, and another class from all mankind during the Gospel Age has required a long time (six thousand years) is no argument against God’s purpose to bless all of Adam’s children ultimately. The fact that a long time has been consumed in getting the instruments ready for the full expression of Divine Mercy shows, on the contrary, the greatness and the thoroughness of the Divine Plan in respect to the race as a whole. Let us avail ourselves of our glorious opportunities for the study of His Word and for growth in knowledge, grace and love that we may recognize where we belong in God’s mercy as expressed in His wonderful plan. Let us walk worthy of the light, and rejoice in Him who bought us with His own blood!

The wrath of God is love’s severity
 In curing sin—the zeal of righteousness
 In overcoming wrong—the remedy
 Of justice for the world’s redress.
 The wrath of God is punishment for sin,
 In measure unto all transgression due,
 Discriminating well and just between
 Presumptuous sins and sins of lighter hue.



“I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth”
 Genesis 9: 13 (NIV).



THE LAW COVENANT AT MT. SINAI

Ex. 19: 16-25; 20: 1-25

Moses served as mediator between God and Israel at Mt. Sinai. The people there covenanted to keep the Divine Law. God promised that if they could do so, perfectly, they should have everlasting life. Furthermore, they could then comply with the sacrificial conditions of the Seed of Abraham, typified in the offering of Isaac, and inherit the Promise, "In thy Seed shall all the families of the Earth be blessed."—Deut. 5: 1-6; Gen. 22: 18

The people eagerly accepted the arrangement, saying, "All these things will we do," not realizing the full import of the Law. Jesus explained it to mean, to love God with all the heart, mind, soul and strength, and one's neighbor as one's self. Imperfect, like all mankind, the Jews could not keep this perfect Law. Unworthy of life, they could not redeem others; hence could not bless other nations.

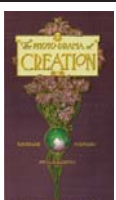
When they became discouraged, God assured them that later, He would make a New, or more favorable, Covenant with them through one greater than Moses, who would help them out of their fallen condition and fit them to be the channel for the Divine blessing to men.—Jer. 31: 31; Mal. 3: 1-3

In due time Jesus came, the promised Messiah, not in glory as they had expected, but in a lowly condition, to die for Sin. "He came unto His own [nation] and His own received Him not"—they crucified Him. (John 1: 11) Nevertheless, Jesus began His work of selecting Spiritual Israel, the Spiritual Seed of Abraham. He accepted first the loyal Jews (Romans 11: 7). Still there were not enough to complete the foreordained number of the Elect. Consequently the Call to be the Elect Abrahamic Seed was extended to the Gentiles. For more than eighteen centuries He gathered the Elect Spiritual Seed of Abraham, the holy from every nation and sect. When complete, these, the "Bride," or "Body" of Christ, will be God's channel of blessing to all the families of the Earth, in harmony with the Promise made to Abraham.—Gal. 3: 29

Questions for Lesson 35

- 1* What position did Moses occupy between Israel and God at Mt. Sinai?
- 2* What is a Mediator?
- 3 What did the Covenant promise the Israelites?
- 4* What was Jehovah's promise? Lev. 18: 4, 5; Gen. 22: 18. Par. 1
- 5 Did the Israelites realize the full import of the Law?
- 6* Why could not the Jews keep the Mosaic Law?
- 7 Why did they not become the seed which was to bless all the families of the earth? Par. 2
- 8 What did God promise them when they became discouraged? Jer. 31: 31; Mal. 3: 1-3. Par. 3
- 9* Who was the "Greater than Moses" and what will he do for the children of Israel? Acts 3: 22-26
- 10* Did the promised Messiah come as they had expected Him to come? How did He come?
- 11* What is this seed of Abraham which is to bless all the families of the earth? Gal. 3: 27-29
- 12 Were there enough faithful Jews to compose the spiritual seed of Abraham? How many were needed? Rev. 14: 1
- 13* To whom was the call extended? How long did it take for God to gather this seed?
- 14 What is to become of those who fail to gain admission to the Church?
- 15* Now that the Little Flock is complete, what will be their mission? Whom will they bless? What will the blessing mean? Par. 4
- 16 Does the fact of a "blesser class" and "blessed class" prove the salvation of more than one class of saved ones?
- 17 To which saved group will the heathen belong?
- 18 Who else will belong to this group? 1 Tim. 2: 3, 4

* The questions marked with an asterisk are especially for children.



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