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"The Ensign of Israel"



THE LAW AND
THE PROPHETS



The REMNANT OF ISRAEL



"All ye inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth, see ye; when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains, and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye."—Isaiah 18:3

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THE WAR AND ITS FUTURE.

It is no wisdom of ours that we claim when we write about the future. That is something that no man knows by his own wisdom very far ahead. But we do have confidence in what the Bible says, and having studied it till we feel quite well acquainted with its teaching we speak from that standpoint when we write of the future. It being known we had both spoken and written on the future and even stated in our books concerning war that was to come, when it did come many asked us what we thought as to the length of time it would last. Our reply has been from the beginning till now that it was doubtful in our mind whether it ever stoped till the Lord would come. We added it might stop for a brief period but if it stoped at all it would be but a short period and then come with renewed violence of which the present was no comparison. So that has been our position for the past three years unchanged. Of course for the first year especially our position was simply laughed at and the whole theme was even enforced peace if no other way to get it. We also said America would surely be in it. So it has come and at this writing the situation is more grave than ever and is so realized by many. We also expect famine and pestilence to follow in the trail of war. That will surely be if God in any way has a hand in the present struggle. If he has not, then this is simply a common war and all will blow over and the world will have again prosperity and peace. But remember we do not believe a single bit of that, for this is the beginning of the long foretold war spoken of in the Bible as told by all the prophets. It is either that or all those who have given the Bible a careful study on the subject are mistaken. Time will settle as to who is mistaken. With this introduction we wish to call attention to the writings of the prophet, thus:

"Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me saying,

"Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God unto the land of Israel; **An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.**

"Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations.

"And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

"Thus saith the Lord God; An evil, an only evil, behold, is come.

"**An end is come, the end is come: it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come.**

"**The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, the day of trouble is near, and not the sounding again of the mountains.**

Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations.

"And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the Lord that smiteth.

"Behold the day, **behold, it is come: the morning is gone forth; the rod hath blossomed, pride hath budded.**

"Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of theirs: neither shall there be wailing for them.

"**The time is come, the day draweth near: let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn: for wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.**

"For the seller shall not return to that which is sold, although they were yet alive: for the vision is touching the whole multitude thereof, which shall not return; neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life.

"They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.

"The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him.

"They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: **because it is the stumbling-block of their iniquity.**—Ezek. 7:5-19.

The prophets, Jeremiah and Ezekiel lived at a time when God was to visit Israel with His sore judgments for their iniquity by overthrowing Jerusalem and sending Israel into captivity. The prophets had been warning them of the approaching calamity for years before the time, but now as stated no less than eight times that "the end had come, it is come."

The cause is also stated, namely, because of their sins. The above record was literally there fulfilled as stated, and accomplished as predicted. But that is not the point in the prophecy which is of especial interest to us in our day. Some can see no more than a mere history in all of these prophecies of the past. Thus placing God as simply a historian. That is not the object of the record at all, for if that was all, it would be of little use to us. But as stated in the twelfth chapter, in verses 26, 27, 28, thus:

"Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off.

"Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord God."

The objector then, could see that the prophecy reached to them that was afar off, and so it does. The experience of the Babylonish captivity as stated over and over was a mere object lesson of that which was to be more fully fulfilled in our day, which has now begun before our very eyes.

Professed Christendom is to again be visited for their iniquity as they were in Ezekiel's day and thus it was true in one sense as stated the vision was "far off." With this thought you will read the seventh chapter and their experience then, but it is ours now. If the reader will read carefully the eighth chapter of Ezekiel they will see the condition of spiritual Babylon of our day, then read the ninth chapter you will see as compared with Revelation 12, 13, and 14 chapters that Ezekiel in chapter nine is recording the work of the seven last plagues as recorded in the sixteenth chapter of Revelation. Then by reading the tenth and eleventh chapters of Ezekiel carefully they will see the close of probation. Then in the latter part of the eleventh chapter the gathering of Israel is brought to view in the last days. From this they can read the twelfth chapter which is a rehearsal of the conditions that then existed and will exist in our day. It reads thus:

"Moreover the word of the Lord come to me, saying,

"Son of man, eat thy bread with quaking, and drink thy water with trembling and with carefulness;

"And say unto the people of the land, Thus saith the Lord God of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and of the land of Israel; They shall eat their bread with carefulness, and drink their water with astonishment, that her land may be desolate from all that is therein, because of the violence of all them that dwell therein.

"And the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall be desolate; and ye shall know that I am the Lord."—Ezek. 12:17-20.

Now the point is the situation which we may expect in our day as here told. With the same thought still as gathered from the same source and written for several years past, the next thing to be faced is the famine and the pestilence. Pestilence follows famine and is the result of weakened physical condition. Don't let this present cry to conservation of all the food be to you a mere happen so. Though unconscionable so far as God is connected with it are those who do it.

It is like the fulfillment of the prophecy which says "prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let the heathen be awakened." The preparation has all been done by men unconscious of the command, so today the cry for conservation of food is talked and at the same time little do those who talk it dream the reality of the need.

These scriptures say "they shall seek peace but not find it." Before the thing is over all would be glad to have peace but it will not come from any thing

permanant, for "the end is come," the fulfillment of every vision is at hand, and when God undertakes the closing of the old world's history with all its crime it will be done whether we are ready or not.

The thirteenth chapter of Ezekiel continues the story by saying "the prophets (ministers) are like the foxes in the desert, "they have not gone up in the gap, they have not made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord." They have "cried peace, peace and there was no peace." Now they cry war, war, and they will get all they want. They have said for years past "that the sword, and the famine; and the pestilence, would not come," the Lord says, "by the sword, the famine, and the pestilence shall these prophets fall.

We would not dare write as we do had we not the authority of God to do so. He has said, "cry aloud and spare not, shew my people their sins and the house of Jacob their transgressions."

Three years ago we offered some of these things to a certain editor for the purpose of calling the people's attention to the teaching of the word of God. His reply was that "if peace was no nearer in sight than I said the people would go crazy." Whether it will make the people crazy to know the truth or not one thing we feel certain of and that is God has begun the punishment of the world for their iniquity.

As stated in the scripture quoted in this article it is granted that "covetousness is the stumbling block of their iniquity." Out of this grows every political device, every selfish ambition, every vice, and crime of every sort. The church is dead twice plucked up by the roots. Ministers are preachers of smooth things to please the people. Every crime which can be devised by men and devils are being practiced from the penny gambling game to the steal of millions. Such is the situation and the end is here.

AN APPEAL TO SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS.

In asking the following questions to the above people we do it only for truth's sake and the hope that some one may gain clearer light as to the plain teaching of the word of God. We ask first, why do you in your denominational literature connect the three messages of Rev. 14:9-12 and make it an explanation to Dan. 7:9, 10?

Second. Why do you make the judgment mentioned in Rev. 14:6 the judgment of Dan. 7:9, 10?

In all your literature you do this and your explanation is this: The prophetic period of 2300 days spoken of in Dan. 8:14, you say ended in 1844, and the messages of Rev. 14:6-12 was then fulfilled in the advent movement at that time, and the cleansing of the sanctuary of Dan. 8:14 is the same as the Judgment of Dan. 9:9, 10, and in this way you say the Judgment mentioned in the three messages of Rev. 14:9-12 is the same. The above is your own explanation of these scriptures. This position leads you to teach that the first angel's message of Revelation 14:6-12 was fulfilled in 1844. And then an investigative judgment began in heaven. It also leads you to believe that the rejection of that message by the denominations of that time marked a moral fall among them and the second message Babylon is fallen had its immediate fulfillment also following the Judgment message. It also led you to interpret that the third angel's message the last of the three was also then to be given which forbade the worship of the beast and its image and as soon as the judgment in its investigation was

completed in the heavenly temple, then the wrath of God would be visited in the seven last plagues on the world. Hence for over seventy years you have been giving the third angels message. Though your literature teaches you expect the plagues to fall at any time for the first say ten years of your giving the third angels message. In fact your first position was that then probation had closed in 1844 to the world and with in a few months at most the plagues would fall. The above statements you will not deny, I am sure. If you do I will furnish the proof.

We therefore, in view of these positions taken, and your long expectation being delayed, ask that you examine these messages. We do not find fault or condemn you for believing as you do. For if we should, it would be to condemn ourselves, for we once believed as you now believe, and we believed it in sincerity, and we believe you do also. But knowing we should change, if found in error, we offer this appeal.

The way I came out was this: I began to comprehend in connected form the line of thought from the twelveth chapter of Revelation forward. The twelveth chapter where the symbol of the dragon is used refers to the Roman power. The thirteenth under the symbol of the beast stands for the western division of the Roman kingdom. Then, in the description of the two horned beast is brought to view the United States and its history as it forms an image to the beast.

In the fourteenth chapter the story is continued with the message calling our attention to a **certain Judgment** which is to take place. Next, the statement that Babylon is fallen and third, the worship of the beast, and if any worship it they shall drink of the wrath of God. Thus far in these two chapters it is one story with the thought not broken. The fifteenth chapter tells us **what the judgment is**, namely, **the wrath of God**, to be visited on the worshipers of the beast and its image. The sixteenth tells us what the wrath of God is, namely, **the seven last plagues**. In verse five it says that God "is just because **he has judged thus**." The seventeenth chapter continues by giving a symbol of the woman who bears the name of Babylon and the statement is made, come hither and I will show thee **the Judgment of the great whore**. The eighteenth chapter still further continues in verses 8-10 by saying in one hour **has her judgments come**. Then once more in the nineteenth chapter, verse 20 it says, "the beast was taken and with him the false prophet and they were both cast alive into the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone" but in verse two we read, "**True and righteous are his judgments**" because he hast thus **judged** the great whore which did corrupt the earth." Thus our mind began to be opened to the fact that it was one story, One judgment, One line of thought, and **One punishment** in all these chapters from the introduction in the twelveth chapter till the close of the nineteenth. Hence we were forced (though unlooked for) to see the judgment in the first angels message of Rev. 14:6, had no reference whatever to an **investigative** judgment to take place in heaven at all. I next saw that the second message as termed was a part of the first and belonged with it and finally I saw the third angels message was but a further part for all had but one subject in them and that was the fall of Babylon, her punishment, and the seven last plagues, which was to my mind no more a connection with Daniel 7:9, 10, than day has to night. Neither did these messages have any connection whatever with Daniel 8:14, or the cleansing of the sanctuary. Those former ideas all grew out of circumstances which happened in the disappointment in 1844. In this article we will refer to these messages only and appeal to who ever may read this article to consider this question,

and that is not all there is not any question as to your consideration, namely, if you are willing to admit plain Bible facts you must admit there is a mistake in trying to use the Judgment as S. D. As. have been and are still using it as applying to Rev. 14:6, and further, we challenge any one to attempt to change our line of evidence from the scriptures as not correct. Then if they will not attempt to do so, then next will they as honest men who teach the old position cease to do so longer? or will they continue the old error for the sake of maintaining their supposed wisdom before their people and thus prove to every candid mind they are not willing to admit their mistake?

If you will confess your error in this as we do then it will surely make you happy as it has us to know that God's grace is sufficient to enable you to confess you have been mistaken. Further. Though if this one point overthrows the very foundation on which your denomination stands, should you confess as plain an error as this one pointed out then you could not only have the blessing of God, but the confidence of all sincere people that there was one denomination that would confess. For to this date there never has been one. Hence all the isms ever started still exist in our midst and the truth has them all to contend with and combat them all. We now speak to individuals. If the denomination will not confess this plain error then will you do so and save your own soul.

THE ANSWER OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

Peter says the act of baptism "is not the putting away of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience." Baptism is an object lesson teaching us cleansing from sin, of washing away our sins. In order for a good conscience to be obtained we must do the act. Obedience always brings a good conscience. Disobedience to any of God's commands brings an evil conscience. Paul speaks of those "who have their conscience seared as with a hot iron." If we take the onion when we pull it and touch the roots to a hot iron till the roots are scorched the onion will not grow and will keep. Now to sear the conscience is to disregard any of God's commandments till the root of life in us which has been planted by the spirit of God and the seed (the words of God) has been destroyed by disobedience on our part, then we are preserved in sin as we were born in sin and no help for us. This is one way of sinning against the Holy Ghost. If obedience is put off from known duties or duties rejected because of the cross connected with them that is searing the conscience and sinning against the Holy Ghost. When appeals to obedience has no effect on those who hear you may rest assured they have seared their conscience..

A live conscience will never tremble at the word of God, and be anxious to know what is truth. We do not hesitate to say that the preaching of the day in general is doing more searing than it creates growth. This is done by telling the people it "is not essential," or "there is no difference" and "not to let this and that worry them." All such teaching is searing the conscience rather than showing the people how to obtain a good conscience by obedience to all of God's commands as they were written. Every sermon preached on the Sabbath, baptism or any of God's commandments either sears or tends to create growth by true obedience to what the word says. The world is now well seared by false doctrine and smooth things preached to ease the conscience of the people.

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WHY IS IT?

A party who has recently been a reader of our paper ordered it sent to other parties and said in her order why is it there is so much division among the people, referring especially to the many of late years who have sprung up among Sabbath keepers.

This was a reasonable question and no doubt asked in sincerity, and real anxiety to know the reason. The only answer that can be given to the question is: The heart of those differing is not in a right condition to have the Holy Spirit lead them to an understanding of the truth. Paul says the "God of this world has blinded their eyes lest they see the gospel of Christ and be saved." But how is the God of this world manifested? In various ways. "The heart is desperately wicked and who can know it. I the Lord try the heart." First, in order to see truth we must be "hungering and thirsting after righteousness." That is, have a strong desire for truth. That desire must not be interfered with by our own desires to have it come our way or in a way to suit us. It must come regardless of former education or influences. No denomination or friend can in any way stand in our way to what is truth. Truth must be the great object for which we seek. This great desire can only come as a result of great reverence for God and his love shed abroad in the heart. If he has made us free then we are free indeed. This absolute freedom is the first step in knowing the truth of God. The heart must be free from sin and willing to be taught as is a babe. Next apply the test. I will give one or more to try as a rule for us to work on to test ourselves how much we are willing to believe truth. I give the following as one. In Revelation 14:6-12 we have three messages spoken of. The first one, its burden is the judgment to fall on the worshipers of the beast who receive its mark. Now freed from every influence, we wish to know what judgment is spoken of. As I read the story through to the close of the nineteenth chapter. As mentioned in the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth, in each case it is the judgment of the seven last plagues which is the wrath of God visited on the worshipers of the beast and its image. I again read these chapters and find Babylon upon whom the judgments fall is apostate Christendom, and the call in Rev. 18, is to come out of her that we receive not of her plagues, (judgments).

Now please tell me why we shouldn't all agree in this plain thought in these chapters? There is but one answer and that is that some seventy-five years ago or a little less there was a disappointment among a certain people who looked for the coming of the Lord in 1844 and in order to adjust that disappointment those people or certain ones of them said the judgment then begun which was an investigative judgment.

This was the event in the place of the coming of the Lord, and as the word judgment in these messages was mentioned the judgment in the messages was then fulfilled in 1844. Now who is mistaken, we now who say there is not even an intimation from Rev. 14th chapter to the close of the nineteenth that intimates anything of the kind, now are we mistaken or they who were then mistaken on their first interpretation of prophecy in trying to adjust that mistake by taking a position which nothing in Rev. 14 is mentioned at all? How shall this test of who wishes the truth above everything else settle the matter? There is but one way and that is for an open investigation as Christians should investigate the question that all may see the argument used against our position on this point. Either do this or confess that a second mistake was then made by those who are now teaching otherwise.

Once more. Why teach the sanctuary of Daniel eighth chapter is in heaven when not a sentence in the chapter teaches such a thing but teaches directly to the contrary. And again why teach that the 2300 days of Daniel eight ended in 1844 when it cannot be proven by any logical teaching of the Bible? We reply, the only way it can be sustained at all is by keeping silent and not allowing a free and open investigation of the matter. These are but samples of things that should today be investigated by all honest people. But denominationalism, through their organization, keeps the people from hearing but one side of the question. Truth is arrived at by getting right at the question and chapter in which it is found. Not by telling what brother so and so or sister so and so said seventy-five years ago. We have been led by dead heroes too long and not by a personal surrender of our own desires. This is the only road out of this division I know of, namely, to get at the question direct and a surrender of all for the truth sake. Sabbath keepers should never cry Babylon till they first manifest a greater desire for truth and freedom from the errors they now hold.

REPENT YE THEREFORE AND BE CONVERTED.

True conversion to God is a mystery and a miracle. Every person who has been converted knows for himself that the change has come in his experience but to comprehend the power that produced the change he is unable to comprehend what did the work.

The steps that lead to this miracle on the part of the person is, first, to realize a deep conviction and Godly sorrow for sin. This step can only be taken by those who have been taught and realize to some extent what sin is, with the heathen who knows nothing of the written law it is to know something of his standard of right and wrong, which knowledge Paul says is given him through his conscience. Romans 2.

To the one who is capable of reading the law, this knowledge of sin is received by the law. Rom. 7:7. As this knowledge comes "sin becomes exceeding sinful" this leads to a Godly sorrow for sin, which is a conviction of sin, and when conviction and Godly sorrow is experienced, then a confession to God is made of sin. Says Bishop Simpson of the Methodist Church, "No true repentance can take place where the law is not preached and enforced." Repentance embraces a turning away from sin as expressed by John, a bringing fourth of an amendment of life, which is a willingness to keep the commandments of God as written in his law. No one need think they have repented when they are not willing to keep God's law. Any thing

called repentance which will not result in obedience is spurious and should be discarded at once. The second step is to exercise by faith in Christ that he will forgive you all trespasses of the past and help you to obey in future life. Says the apostle, our hearts are purified by faith. Why? Because it is impossible to perform our duty in the future and receive forgiveness for past trespasses only by faith in Christ who will do this for us. So our hearts are in this way purified by faith.

The third step is to show that faith by our works of obedience in performing his commandment to be baptized. Baptism is to show our faith in burying the old man with his deeds and to arise and walk in newness of life. Rom. 6. Also to show that we believe Christ died and rose again for our sins. Rom. 6. Thus we put on Christ. In the performance of these three steps in sincerity. Then God performs his part by making us a new creature and giving us a new birth thus making us a new born babe in Christ. But remember we are **only a babe**, not full grown.

Sanctification.

The question of sanctification is much talked of so we will take it as given in the Bible, hoping that all may be willing to accept scriptural teaching on the subject. It is said that God blessed and sanctified the seventh day. That is the day was appointed and set apart for a sacred use of spiritual rest and also a rest from toil. Paul said, "that every creature was good for food that had been sanctified by the word of God and prayer." That is, all which had been commanded to be eaten was sanctified by the word. Christ prayed that "we all might be sanctified through the truth." That is that we all might be taught the truth and live according to the truth. It is further said that we are sanctified through the spirit and belief of the truth. That is, the spirit witnesses to the work of grace that is being done in us by the truth by strengthening us in the inner man with the spirit to perform the truth. Paul says further, "That we must be sanctified by the washing of water by the word." That is the word would cleanse and sanctify us.

Growth in the Knowledge of the Truth.

Peter says, "as new born babes we desire the milk of the word that we may grow thereby." That is, as the milk is to the babe, causing them to grow, so the word is to the new creatures in Christ. Rest assured that all who do not "grow in a knowledge of the truth" they are not being sanctified by the truth or any other way. Said Christ, "the kingdom of heaven is like a man who planted a grain of corn in the ground," it "first appeared in the blade, then the stalk, then the full ear in the stalk." All his parables took nature to illustrate the growth of the Christian. Hence it is plain that growth is the part of Christian life, and that sanctification is progressive in every sense of the term according to scripture.

Perfection and First and Second Blessings.

Much is said about these in our day. We ask what is perfection with God? Paul speaks of the mind being perfect thus, "Let us therefore as many of us as be perfect be thus minded." To be thus minded, would be to have a perfect mind, and what is the perfect mind? In the third chapter of Phillipians where he is writing in verse 12 in speaking of Christian perfection and knowledge and attainments says, "Not that I have already attained either were already perfect," "but I follow after that I may apprehend." Then in verse fifteen he says, Let us therefore as many as be perfect be thus minded. Then following the thought still further he gives the rule to follow, namely thus, "Nevertheless whereunto we have already attained let us walk by the same rule." Remember this was written at the close of Paul's thirty years

ministry. Then we ask where is the perfection? We reply in having a perfect mind to know more, obey better, grow more in grace, bear more fruit, show to the world more how God can mould a man after his own similitude and grace. This is the perfect mind. The perfect attainments in life were not yet attained by Paul, neither the perfection of that attained which he desired but he says, "I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

If the scriptures teach the truth on these things then the blessings are **not one, nor two** as claimed, but many. As every duty known is preformed there is a blessing in it, as all know who follow this rule. Hence any effort by prayer alone or seeking the Lord in all night, or long period, of agonizing service for a sanctified state and a second blessing is a delusion of the mind and a lack of scripture knowledge. The result of all such efforts is hypnotism, fanaticism, and deception, which captures those who know not the truth. It is a flight of feeling when once fallen into, it becomes almost impossible to ever become extracted and saved from it. Connected with it is Satan's opportunity to work his miracles to deceive the very elect if it were possible. It is wonderful too, to realize how rapidly the world is coming where Satan can "work with all power and signs and lying wonders in them that perish."

The law and the prophets never make a person extremists, nor fanatical. Religion of the genuine kind ever appeals to the conscience and intellect of men. to make them sober minded, thoughtful in all they say or do. It helps them to walk circumspectly, ever having a gathering influence with thoughtful people. But says one, many of those who believe in the so-called perfection and second blessing quit many bad habits. True, Satan could not deceive if they did not. He wears sheep clothing many times. That is not always the evidence. How could he deceive if it were possible the very elect if he did not put on some good qualities? Does he come under the garb of religion with a lot of drunkards and thieves to deceive? No, but frequently uses those who will best represent the cause of God with sheep's clothing on to deceive and no doubt but some of those under the delusion have been led into the trap innocently. The test is given us to detect, and that is "to the law and the testimony, Isaiah 8: "If they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." If they are not willing to walk in the law of God as it reads, Sabbath and all you may be suspicious, for "the carnal mind is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be."

Many today will go to Babylon and her daughters miracles and do great things, when he says positively "Babylon is fallen, and has become the hold of devils and every foul spirit," and to "come out of her that ye be not partakers of her sins." With all this they seem to think God today is working miracles in divine healing, baptism of the Holy Ghost, and giving blessings of entire sanctification and perfection. Thus witnessing to the world that Babylon is right and the place to get the true light. Does God lie and contradict his word? No, he does not. This is not saying he has no good people in Babylon. No, if so how could he say "come out of her my people?" Do you think God means what he says to come out? If so then don't look there for such things as are claimed for they are not there. If these gifts of miraculous power are there at all it is with individuals in Babylon who privately are living up to the best light they have and call upon God he answers their prayers. But not collectively as denominations and bodies when especially formed into a creed and make these gifts the prominent thing.

We far better get humble enough to obey God's

commandments and allow the Bible to teach us how to serve him and let him bestow his gifts on whom he will and at such times as he sees best. The gifts are obtained in the same manner the new birth is attained, namely, by placing our selves in such relation to God by obedience and repentance and faith. On such he bestows his talents in such numbers as he deems best on whomsoever he will. They are gifts of merit not from agonizing, regardless of merit. This is the age of delusions as all will admit. These delusions are all under the garb of Christianity.

REVIEW OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE OUTLOOK.

For the last fifty years there has been going on in the world a general preparation for war. The nations have seen the approaching evil that was coming on the world. In order to prevent this evil on the other hand has been the advocates of peace. In their efforts to establish peace they have said the world was growing better and soon in the millennial age these difficulties would all be settled and Christ's kingdom would be fully established and when this was accomplished then nation should not lift up sword against nation neither should they learn war any more.

Mr. Asquith, the prime minister of England said at one of these peace conferences that we could not look for peace till there was first a letting loose of the dogs of war. He said these inventions of war were not for nothing, they would soon come in use. Another prominent writer said there must first come a general blood letting in Europe. Mr. Tomazoo, a noted statesman, predicted that by 1915 the United States and Japan would be in war, as that was the time the Panama Canal would be completed. Another as taken from a London dispatch from the Associated Press said who knows how soon Germany who was being driven in a corner by England would strike with the mailed fist and thus turn all Europe in a general war. We have noted all these things as written. Why? Because we from the teaching of the Bible expected it for many years. So at this writing we have seen our expectations fulfilled and also the expectations of eminent statesmen of the world. They saw it from the conditions of the world, we from the Bible only.

We have heard the peace and safety cry from the pulpit and for the past three years day by day the war has raged till almost all the world is either engaged in it or on the point of entering. We have watched the expected and developed history for the past twenty years. The whole matter has been so literally fulfilled from the beginning as stated in the word of God that it would be, that we can almost now see clearly by the same teaching the end of the story clear through. It has come step after step till we feel safe in saying the next step is shortness of bread and water. The submarine has sunk hundreds of thousands of tons of food. It is but a short period of time till we will hear crys from starving women, men and children for this food now in the bottom of the sea.

The first step leading up to the present was the unconscious preparation for war. We say unconscious. We mean by that that those who were doing this preparation little realized to what the real thing was to which it would lead. The second step by the side of this preparation was the peace and safety cry which told the people the sword, and the famine and the pestilence would not come.

The third step as expected by those who judged from conditions was the mailed fist of Germany strik-

ing which opened the volcano from which burst forth the thunderings of war. From this nation after nation has become involved in the struggle, till finally the next step was for the United States to be stirred over the importance of preparedness. The fifth step as we fully expected was for the United States to enter the war, and now today, June 30 Brazill, and Greece are added to the list. Thus the spirit of war is in the world. The prophet says it will reach to the four corners of the land. That is all the world.

Now the next step we see in the great fulfillment of prophecy is the shortness of bread caused by drought. This is the next step in the program which I am studying. Now like the other steps were preceded on the part of the people by getting ready for the step though unconsciously of the real import they now have begun the conservation of food with advice to every person to till the soil and prepare in every way by both production and economic living to make the food go as far as possible. Why this? The only answer is for us to give is that the time is here for it in the fulfillment of prophecy.

The next step is pestilence. That will also appear and did the reader ever stop to note the great increase of medical men, nurses, hospitals, and every devise for the curing of diseases that have come in the last few years? We say, give this some thought and while you are doing it remember that this great increased army in this line are all busy even now in caring for the increased diseases. We have noted this also. Why? We reply that one of the curses mentioned in the law of Moses is that God will bring upon us all the diseases of Egypt till we are consumed from off the land.

This is the next step now in the catalogue of events as they come in their order. But the great important thing for the people who think of God and the importance of salvation is to remember that in close proximity to these last named events is that suddenly the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the heavens and the decree will pass "he that is Holy let him be holy still and he that is filthy let him be filthy still, behold I come quickly to give every man as his work shall be," and also remember that that decree passes before the greater part of the things mentioned come in their fullness. This is true for the seven last plagues are poured out with out mixture of mercy and it is said the Lord "will no more pity the inhabitants of the land." "No more pity," is mentioned over many times in the writings of the prophets. In every other calamity of the world when men would cry to God and repent forgiveness was then present but not so when the close of probation takes place. It is said "the end is then come." Of all the periods of the world none are so full of importance as this period in which men now live. We have given our time and thought to these things for many years. We have watched it come up step by step. We have studied the prophecies till they are familiar to us and we can say in truth every prophecy of the Bible, though many, do all point to our day. All focalize in one center around us that are now living. All tell the same story. All speak in one tone, namely, "the end is here" "prepare to meet thy God, Oh Israel."

SIGNIFICANT.

The following is significant showing how things are shaping in the minds of men (and soon will be a reality) is worth consideration. We saw this as much as eighteen years ago from the scripture alone. Even before we ever heard of the term Yellow Peril. It was first published by us in the Inspired History of the

Nations in A. D. 1903. We have watched the growth taking place in the minds of the people all these years and it is now becoming a reality soon to meet every fulfillment as predicted by the prophet.

Washington, D. C., June 7.—“Union of half a billion Asiatics under one anti-democratic flag is the amazing possibility diplomats here see in the pro-Japanese, pro-German rebellion in China.

“One defeat for democracy already has been scored; Japanese diplomacy has triumphed over American diplomacy in a bloodless battle for direction of China’s destiny.

“Democracy’s single foothold in the Orient now is the seven loyal southern provinces where Dr. Sun Yat Sen, China’s first president, is rallying his original revolutionary armies.

“While allied with the world’s democracies against Germany, Japan has swung China away from her declared purpose of joining America in the war, and prevented 375,000,000 people from throwing their great weight against Germany.

Japan’s Aim.

“That Japan’s aim is a united Asia under control of Japan seems certain. This would mean an autocratic unity of Japan, China, Siam, British India, French Cochin China, Mongolia, Tibet and some lesser states.

“Diplomats point out that such a concentration of yellow and brown races under an autocratic flag might well put a new face on the whole world war, and surely would put civilization up against new and staggering problems.

“Just how closely Teutonic and Japanese intrigue worked together in bringing on the Chinese revolt is of course not known, but it is hinted there may have been some harmony of effort to produce a result so agreeable to both nations.

“If this is so, German intrigue has gained its greatest victory. In this connection it is pointed out that the “yellow peril” cry was first raised by Germany—by the kaiser himself.

“The 11 northern provinces which have revolted and set up former Vice President Hsu Shih Chang as dictator, revolted against entry of China into the war on the side of America and democracy, the Chinese government having declared its intention of making war on Germany.

American Influence.

“China’s government had been brought to the point of declaring war on Germany by American influence. A group of Americans headed by Ambassador Paul Reinsch is credited with having induced the government to sever relations with Germany, much to the disgust of Japan. In doing this they forced President Li Yuan Hung to reverse his own judgment and dismiss his anti-war premier.

“Thus the overthrow of Li Yuan Hung and his government is a clear Japanese-Teutonic victory.

“In the south, where seven provinces remain loyal to the deposed government, Dr. Sun Yat Sen looms as the possible savior of democracy.

“He is hurrying to Canton to take charge of the loyalists, and around him, instead of the deposed president, these forces are expected to rally. In these provinces the first revolt against monarchy in China found its strength. Sun Yat Sen led at that time.

Division the Hope.

“With Japanese and Teutonic influence in favor of the revolting 11 provinces of the north, diplomats and students are not so optimistic as to believe Sun Yat Sen’s forces could conquer northern China for democracy, but they do believe they may be able to divide China, with the southern provinces standing out against the autocracies of the world.

“United Press dispatches yesterday from Tokio indicated that this division is possible.

“Diplomats here point out that China’s 375,000,000 and Japan’s 75,000,000 population, allied with the other smaller peoples under Japanese influence, would create in the Far East and in India a problem that may well stun the world.”

We would add to the foregoing figures 170 millions of Russia 23 millions of Turkey, and 170 millions of Africa and Arabia. Then you will have the real yellow

peril which threatens Christendom. They will be the kings of the east against the west. This is after probation closes.

* * * * *

IS JAPAN LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

“If suspicion of Japan’s sinister motives prevails in the United States, it is due to Japan itself. Suspicion creates suspicion, and distrust, distrust. The eagerness with which Japan, on the slightest pretext, parades with a chip on its shoulder, as it challenging Uncle Sam, is responsible for the wide-spread feeling in this country regarding the sincerity of its professed friendly feeling for the United States. The American government sent a note to China expressing “regret over the dissensions which were tearing that country apart.” It was at once cabled back to us that Japan resented the alleged failure of the United States to consult it before presenting its note, and the Tokio Times semi-officially used this forceful language: “The foreign office officials must obtain from the United States an assurance that it will not repeat its action in interfering with the domestic affairs in China, completely ignoring the existence and position of Japan.” It added that negotiations over the matter had already begun with the United States and that it was a matter of “great gravity,” as it concerned the future of the empire.

“Going still farther, the Tokio paper warned America that, “in order to prevent future misunderstandings, Japan would seek America’s recognition of Japan’s special position in China.” Other newspapers of Tokio resented the American note as “a glaring interference with Japan.” They warned the Japanese government that it was probably “an epoch-making precursor of further activities.” If these are the words of friendship and if they indicate a desire to maintain friendly relations, then the cable must have curiously garbled them.”—Leslie’s.

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ARMY OF JAPAN NOW 2,500,000, VISITOR ASSERTS.

Navy Up to Full Strength With Many New Warships.

NEW YORK, July 12.—(Special.)—“P. W. Kelley, who returned to New York today from a business trip to Japan, China and the Philippines, said that Japan had an army of 2,500,000 men under arms, the imperial railways had built hundreds of cars for troops and artillery and the arsenals and depots were filled with military stores.

“The foreigners who visit Japan,” Mr. Kelley explained, “do not see anything of the military preparations because the soldiers are all kept away from the beaten track of the tourist. From Kioto a Japanese merchant took me on a week-end excursion about sixty-five miles in the interior.”

“Crossing the summit of a steep hill, I saw that the whole side was covered with soldiers in trenches that had been dug to give them a training in modern warfare. Some of the regiments were charging with the bayonet, others throwing hand grenades and on the plain at the foot of the hill a sham battle with artillery was in progress. We learned later that 75,000 men were encamped there.”

“Some naval officers I met in Tokio told me that the Japanese navy was up to full strength, with several new battleships and cruisers.”

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All the above are written by G. G. Rupert.

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NEUTRAL.

To be neutral means "not taking sides with either party."—(Webster).

In the present struggle of the nations the child of God must realize that his kingdom is not of this world. Our citizenship is in heaven. Further from another standpoint since the days of the captivity by Babylon the children of God are captives scattered abroad through the nations of the earth with the yoke of civil power placed on their necks, as illustrated by Jeremiah when he placed a yoke on his neck and wore it for days to teach Israel what their condition would be if their nation was once broken up. Then the prophet carrying down his prophecies to the time when Christ would sit on the throne of David and Israel would be gathered again then the yoke would be broken off their necks and they would no longer be servants of the nations of the world. The above is the true teaching regarding our situation and relations to the kingdoms of the world. Further as Israel became captives of Babylon the instruction of the prophet was to them to abide there as good citizens of Babylon and pray for their welfare and as stated by Christ "give honor to whom honor was due and tribute to whom tribute was due." So far as all this goes the child of God is to be a good citizen interested in the peace and welfare of all with whom he comes in contact. It matters not to him as to what nationality he may come in contact he treats all with respect having at all times the hope of the gospel to aid all to see how to be saved. When these principles are understood it is not hard to see that any thing of a worldly nature such as political strife, party feuds, and strife of war among the people and so on he must be strictly neutral not taking sides with either. He lives so far as possible a quiet and peaceable life with good will to all avoiding strife and enmity to any. All such things as killing his fellow man, enmity to any or hatred to any race or nationality he knows nothing of the kind. His allegiance is to God and to his laws and him only can he serve. If he suffers for Christ's sake happy is he. Jeremiah served in prison for telling the people the truth. He was counted disloyal and a traitor to his country but it was not true, he only told the truth. That the child of God must do at all time if God bids him. But in doing so it is for the sake and good of the people, he does it without favor to any.

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