

THE WEEKLY EVANGEL

THE PENTECOSTAL PAPER FOR THE FAMILY

No. 184a.

ST. LOUIS, MO., April 10, 1917.

5 cents per copy.

THE GREAT WAR AND THE SPEEDY RETURN OF OUR LORD

LIGHT ON THE PRESENT CRISIS.

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for all must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." St. Matt. 14:6, 7, 8.

The prophetic period to which the words of the above passage refer has now arrived. We have just entered upon it. Nation is rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and the sword is being bathed in human blood to an extent which hitherto has been unknown in this sad and weary world's history. Men and women are perplexed as the Lord said they would be; they are propounding questions one to another to which they can find no satisfactory answer, and no wonder, for the vexed questions of the hour can only be answered by intelligent students of the prophetic Word which St. Peter tells us has been given in order to light the children of God through dark times like the present. Let us listen to His inspired word written in 2 Peter 1:19, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well to take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day stars arise in your hearts."

This word of prophecy unto which we do well to take heed, is scattered up and down the Old and New Testament in abundance. Its illuminating teaching is accessible to the humblest and most unscholarly child of God, who will patiently and intelligently examine its testimony. Now it would be impossible to answer a tithe of the questions which perplexed men and women are asking concerning this great European war. Our time just now is too limited for that, but by God's grace I will try and answer five questions, not out of my own imagination, or according to my own imperfect views, but out of the Word of Truth rightly divided.

Question I.

Our first question shall be this: Does not this terrible war with its unnameable

atrocities justify us in fearing that there may be no God after all? If there was a God would He not stretch forth His mighty hand and confound the politics and frustrate the knavish tricks of those whose creed is that might is right, and that the weakest must be crushed?

This is the question. What is the answer? This, that the children of God have been looking out for a war like this for many a year, and if it had not come sooner or later God's word would have been falsified. Those who have studied the prophetic Scriptures, as every child of God should (but most, alas! do not) know that the prophetic period described as "the times of the Gentiles" is rapidly running out: then, we are told, shall nation rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. Instead of this war proving that God does not exist,

WHAT THINK YE?
WILL CHRIST COME
IN 1917?

See Article on this subject
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it is rather a testimony to His faithfulness, and an overwhelming reminder that not a word He has spoken shall fail to come to pass. Here then is encouragement for the saint, and a warning for the sinner. The European war writes the fact in large letters "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."

But if there were a God, would He not intervene at a crisis like this? My answer is HE WILL. Read the second Psalm and a multitude of other passages of Scripture and you will discover that God will not always keep silence. The time is coming, and it is probably not far off, when "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh, and the Lord shall have the nations in derision: He shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

"But why," you may possibly ask, "does He not do it now?" For three reasons at least. First, because He has world-wide purposes to fulfil through this present disaster. Secondly, because He is a long-suffering God, and will restrain His wrath until the last moment. Thirdly, because He knows His postponed intervention will be more for our ultimate good and His glory. We may not think so for our vision is very limited, our knowledge very incomplete; but God sees the end from the beginning. "Known unto Him are all His works from the beginning of the age." Let us therefore rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. He may try us, but He will never mock us. He may tarry, but He will never come too late. He may perplex us, but He will never confound us. "Blessed are all they who put their trust in Him."

Question II.

Here is a second question:—Is it not an awful thing for one Christian nation to be fighting against another Christian nation?

Yes, it would be indeed, but that is not the case. There is not, and never has been, such a company of people as a CHRISTIAN NATION, and never will be until the Lord comes. The nations, in God's sight, are regarded as great antagonistic world powers, who act at the instigation of Satan, and whose authority will be terminated by the sure and certain coming of His Christ. The people of God are one company, the Gentile nations of this evil age are quite another. The identification of the two is unscriptural, illogical, and confusing. The people of God who form the mystical body of Jesus Christ are a small company of people scattered among the nations, among nations who in God's sight present the aspect, not of Christian communities, but that of wild beasts ready to devour one another; at least that is what we learn from the vision that the Lord vouchsafed to Daniel in the 7th chapter of his prophecy.

In this great European war the strife is not between two companies of God's people, but between various world powers whose doom is sealed; those true Christians who are engaged in it are simply doing their duty in that state of life in which God has called them. Although engaged in war they hate bloodshed, and if all men were as they are (and this shall be the case some day, Isaiah 2:4) there would be no war. A little clear and logical thinking, accompanied by an intelligent knowledge of

God's Word, will easily dispose of the fallacy that this war is being waged between Christian nations, for it is impossible for us to find in this dispensation a whole Christian town, village or congregation, not to mention a Christian nation.

Question III.

A third question is this:—Will not this present devastating war hinder God's work?

The answer, according to the law and the testimony, is NO, and for two reasons. First by means of this war God is fulfilling His purposes, and secondly by means of this war God is preparing for the Second Coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. How is God fulfilling His purposes? In two ways. He is punishing the nations for their iniquities just as He always does and did in olden times in the cases of Babylon, Assyria, Egypt and others. Think of the atrocities for which Belgium was, comparatively recently, responsible on the Congo. Think of the infidelity, the legalized prostitution, and blatant Atheism of France! Think of the awful persecution of the ancient people by Russia, not to mention the opposition to the spread of God's Word by the Greek Church there! Think of the godlessness, the covetousness, the worldliness, the opium traffic, the neglected opportunities of the British Empire. Think of the estimate that seventy-five per cent of people never enter a place of worship. We could tell things about the city of London, the world's great capital, too terrible to mention, that would make every righteous soul cry out, "Shall not my God avenge His soul on such a nation as this?" Presently Germany's turn will come to be laid in the dust for its greed and cruelty and unlawful ambition.

God could punish nations directly, but He is a great economist, and He uses the crimes of sinful men for fulfilling His purposes without endorsing the crimes, and makes the wrath of men to praise Him. For another thing the territory of the Old Roman Empire must correspond with the picture given of it by Daniel's image (see Daniel 2.) before the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, and Babylon, that greatest of all cities, must be built in the East according to the prophetic word. Time will show how this present war will contribute towards bringing the necessary re-distribution of territory about. The way, too, is being cleared for the Second Advent. Before the Lord can return to Israel, the Jews must be in Palestine, assembled as a nation in unbelief with their temple rebuilt. The war is materially affecting the political situation of the Jews, and probably will set them free for their own land, which in some way MUST be theirs, for God has sworn to give it to them.

(Note: This was written before the overthrow of the Russian monarchical government and the resulting emancipation of the Jewish race on Russian soil.)

Question IV.

Fourthly:—Does not this war shew the failure of Christianity?

The Word of God replies, NO. Christianity is one thing, civilization is quite another. The records of ancient Egypt prove that a high state of civilization existed centuries before Christianity was born. Past ages and this age prove the utter failure of civilization apart from regeneration. What men and women need is not civilization merely (although God knows how much in some quarters that is needed) but they need TO BE BORN AGAIN (St. John 3:3), not to be veneered, but to become the subjects of a mighty spiritual revolution from within.

Christianity is not a failure. In every dispensation God's purposes are carried through in spite of all the opposition man or devil may offer and this present dispensation will be no exception to the general rule. Had it been God's purpose to convert the world in this dispensation then we should have to acknowledge that God had been thwarted, but that is not His purpose. His purpose is to gather out from amongst all nations a certain number of persons who shall form the body of Christ. No power in earth or hell can thwart that purpose. That number is referred to in Scripture as "the fulness (or complement, as Bishop Lightfoot interprets the word) of the Gentiles" (Romans 11: 25).

The order of events in God's program is clearly stated in that very remarkable passage written in Acts 15:13-17, where the Apostle James affirms:—"Simeon hath declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name...." After this

WHEN SHALL WE RISE TO MEET THE LORD?

SHALL WE EXPERIENCE THIS GREAT EVENT IN 1917?

The Apostle Peter told us on the day of Pentecost, quoting from the Prophet Joel, "It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams, and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit and they shall prophesy." During the past few years we have heard many prophetic messages which we have recognized as from the Lord, and remembering the Apostolic injunction to "Despise not prophesings" we are not inclined to despise the following communication which has come to us from a sister in Great Britain. It is at any rate an injunction to further watchfulness.

"On the morning of September 29th, 1907, while dressing and communing with God, I saw a vision of Jesus Christ. The vision was moving rapidly from right to left and was repeated several times. I endeavored to continue dressing but became so heavily burdened in spirit that I soon had to desist. I asked the Lord for a comforting word and in tender consideration He gave me: 'I have loved thee with an everlasting love.' God gave me a strong conviction that He had some revelation to make. The injunction came: 'Read the Word.' This seemed strange, for I had read my morning portion. The command to read being repeated more imperatively, I knelt beside my bed where my Bible lay. I felt the power of the Spirit very heavily upon me. I opened the Word,

(saith the Lord through the prophet) "I will return and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof and I will set it up." In other words, God will resuscitate Israel as a nation. Why? That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom My name is called, saith the Lord who doeth all these things."

As a matter of fact numbers of men and women are trying to fulfil a purpose which appears in God's program for the next age. No wonder they are disappointed. They are preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom instead of the Gospel of the Grace of God. They are preaching the Universal Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man instead of the need of regeneration and redemption through the blood of His Cross. No wonder there are no conversions in our churches and a low Laodicean type of spiritual life in our congregations who are so contented with modern day corruptions that they hardly recognize the truth when it is preached. Men pray today for the extension of a kingdom which is in abeyance, because rejected by Israel, and which cannot even commence until the Lord comes. The right thing to pray for is, "That it may please Thee shortly to accomplish the number of Thine elect, and hasten Thy kingdom."

The accomplishing of the number of God's elect is the first event. That is being carried forward. The present war is actually helping it for the word of God is now gathering out from the ranks of the conflicting armies a great number who are definitely accepting the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. When the elect are gathered out and removed from this benighted sphere of conflict, then (at least after a dark interval) the kingdom of Christ will be established, and no power shall be able to hinder it, and it shall extend North, South, East and West, and all nations shall do Him service, "and the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." And—

'Oh, the joy to see THEE reigning,
THEE, my own beloved Lord;
Every tongue Thy name confessing,
Worship, Honour, Glory, Blessing,
Brought to Thee with one accord.
Thee, my Master and My Friend,
Vindicated and enthroned,
Unto earth's remotest end,
Glorified, adored and own'd."

Question V.

Now our last question.—Will not this war bring in ultimately a reign of unbroken peace?

The answer is, NO. If it should do so then the Word of God would be proved untrue, and that can NEVER BE. What does the Lord say? This. "Nation

and my eye fell direct upon this singular passage: 'How many are the days of thy servant?' (Ps. 119:84). Then my vocal organs were worked mechanically by the Holy Spirit, who made me count aloud very deliberately till I had reached a certain number; then the working ceased. Try as I would I could move neither jaws nor tongue. I asked my heavenly Father's permission to count over again, deciding in my own mind to do my utmost to go straight on and thus prove to my absolute satisfaction that the arrest was not at my own volition. Again my vocal cords were worked—exactly as before. I was too much under the power of the Spirit to consider the meaning of this singular experience nor connect it with my former intercourse with the Lord. In vain I waited for an explanation; so, as the vision had been withdrawn, I arose.

"God gave me one more word: 'Apply now thine heart unto wisdom.' I thought over the experience, and saw the connection between it and my previous communing with God. I had been earnestly pleading for the coming of Jesus. I told the Lord that unless He came very soon, or my body was healed, a serious trouble having developed, from which a year later He instantaneously delivered me, I could not hope to live till that glorious event. It was during this communing and meditation that the Lord Jesus drew near in vision. Whether the revelation meant my removal by death, or by translation, I could not tell. I wanted very much to discuss the matter with my sister, but had absolutely no liber-

shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Alas! if what we have experienced lately is only the beginning of sorrows, what will the consummation be? Worse than anything we have ever experienced, for the Lord says, after the beginning of sorrows, "Then shall be the great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." We cannot enlarge on this theme now, but those who are looking for unbroken peace or a golden age immediately after this present war, will be grievously disappointed. The world's dark night has yet to come before the world experiences emancipation and glory—a night of atheism and blatant infidelity, a night in which men and women will seal their faith with their blood, a night that shall culminate in the manifestation of the great Super-Man, the Anti-Christ, who, when he has reached the zenith of his power, will be crushed by the glorious Son of Man who shall be seen coming in the clouds of heaven.

"A very pessimistic picture," you say. Perhaps so, but it is not one of my own invention, but of God's revelation. "There is no comfort in all this for me," you say in your impetuosity and shortsightedness. Indeed there is, for there is a way of escape from the consummation of the present sorrows. Thank God if we are born again, soundly converted through faith in Christ Jesus, and are resting on Calvary's finished work (and this is not mere dogmatism but the truth of God's word; search the Scriptures and see if these things are not so), then, before that night, in its awful intensity, breaks upon an unbelieving, Christ-rejecting, truth-neglecting world, the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

And—
"Some one will knock when the door is shut,
Shall you, shall I?
Hear a voice saying, I know you not,
Shall you, shall I?
Some one will call and shall not be heard,
Shall you, shall I?
Vainly will strive when the door is barred,
Shall you, shall I?"

Obtainable in tract form at 2 cents per copy from the author, Leonard Newby, 2 Herbert Rd., Southsea, England.

ty to mention it to any one. I came to the conclusion that had death been intended, it would not have been indicated by the drawing near of Christ; for our Lord is never represented as coming personally for His people excepting at the Rapture.

"Some months later (I believe six) at one of our Pentecostal Union meetings, while listening to an address on the coming of Jesus and praising God for it in my heart, I noticed myself repeating in tongues in a low tone a short sentence, which on close examination I found it to be so similar to Spanish and French, that I was able to translate it. The translation gave the length of time revealed to me in September, 1907, (the time that should elapse between that date and my being with the Lord) less six months. The sentence being given in connection with the coming of the Lord clearly implies translation rather than death.

"For several years I was given no liberty to mention the year of promise to anyone; but after the war broke out that restriction was removed. On September 29, 1907, in answer to the question, 'How many are the days of thy servant,' I was made to count to the figure ten. This brings us to September, 1917. The little sentence spoken in tongues—'nine years and a half—suddenly!' some months later, pointed to the same year. I therefore believe that my departure will take place on or shortly before September 29th, 1917; and as the evidence is so strongly in favor of translation I believe it will be by this means. It seems presumption to class oneself amongst the overcomers, but what God has promised He is able to perform; and because of His wonderful love and omnipotent power, the writer cannot but believe that she will be found among the missing ones.

"In confirmation of this, a lady in America, an earnest woman of prayer, humbly besought the Lord to tell her the year of His appearing. One day while thus engaged, she saw before her the figures, '1917' and knew that she had received the answer. A lady in Canada writes, 'I believe with you that the coming of Jesus is very near. Three years ago I was awakened in the night and heard a voice say 'The Coming of the Lord draweth nigh.' The number of years was then given. I have not had liberty to mention it to anyone but, oh how precious the memory of that night has been to me! I can only say that in 1917 glorious things await the children of God."

"In 'When will our Lord return?' a book written by Harold Norris in 1914 prior to the war, the author gives the most probable year for the rapture as 1917 or 1918. In the preface to the third edition he clearly shows the most probable season to be September or October.

"On page 52 I hint that an appropriate time for our Lord's return would be about the time of Pentecost, but in this I now see good reason for thinking I was mistaken. I have had a booklet sent me on this subject, the main conclusions of which confirm those set forth here, but on this point the view taken is that the Advent will be at the time of the Feast of Trumpets, and to my mind the case is made good. I will therefore briefly set before you the evidence of this.

"In the 23rd chapter of Leviticus, we have an account of seven feasts of the Lord; the first four of these have had a definite antitypical fulfillment, and these fulfillments have been at the times set forth for these feasts; can we doubt that the other three are to have their antitypical fulfillments, and that this will also be at the times specified?....

"The Feast of Trumpets, vs. 23-25, the first day of the seventh month (Tishri, our September or October). This feast began the second series of 'Jehovah's set feasts,' it commemorated the commencement of the new year (civil), and of the Sabbath month, the rest month. It was announced by the 'blowing of trumpets.' The antitype of the feast must surely be the return of our Lord, the commencement for us of the great New Age, the Sabbath Millennium of rest. 'The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed' (1 Cor. 15:52). 'He shall send forth His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect' (Matt. 24:31). 'For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive and are left shall together (Concluded on page 3, Col. 1.)

THE GLORIOUS HOPE.

To all who love His appearing, Greetings:—

Having been asked to pen a few lines for the "Evangel" readers—the saints scattered abroad—I do so on this cold, biting stormy day of March fifth with the full, glorious intuition of the Rapture's near approach; the consummation of the Gentile Age; Jacob's trouble; the restoration of Israel and Jerusalem; and the sucking child playing on the hole of the asp, and the weened child putting his hand on the cockatrice's den; the wolf with the lamb, the leopard with the kid, the calf, young lion and the faling together—"And a little child"—leading the way. Glory to God!

No wonder it's "joy unspeakable and full of glory." No wonder the presses shall burst with new wine. No wonder! Ten men shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew and say, "We will go with you," for "Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among the gods, Who is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power. Thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed the enemy in pieces. The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation. He is my God and I will prepare Him an Habitation—my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

Do you wonder at Billy Bray, the Cornish miner, saying that if they put him in a barrel, he would shout glory through the bung hole? I don't! Neither do I misunderstand, when he said to his Sunday-school lads, "I feel I'd make the very poker and tongs shout Hallelujah." In other words, they were his translations of "Did not our hearts burn within us," and "We beheld His glory," his translation of our Brother Peter's words:—

"We were eye-witnesses of His majesty, when We were with Him when in the Holy Mount."

An "Elim" indeed is it not? Yes! Beloved, that is what it is to me indeed. It is "God's bow in the cloud; and more than all, the "Revelation of Jesus Christ." It is this which keeps us alive unto God, this which stays His east wind in the day of His rough wind; this which enables us to "cast not away our confidence." Yours, a brother, Wm. J. Taylor, 10 of 24 Yamamoto Dori, 4 Chome, Kobe, Japan.

PALESTINE FOR THE JEWS.

A Jewish conference was recently held in Winnipeg, which surely must have been unique of its kind, being attended by Russian, Polish, British, Roumanian, French and American Jews by birth, and by those of Radical, Orthodox, Socialistic and Zionist opinions. A unanimous resolution was passed, asking that at the peace conference which will be held at the close of the present war "demands be made for international guarantees for free immigration, colonization, economic development and national autonomy of the Jews in Palestine." It seems clear that the Jew has great hope from the readjustment which must follow the present upheaval, and especially that there will come civil, religious and political rights and perhaps the restoration of Palestine to the people who are its rightful owners. It would be a great thing from every point of view if, as the outcome of the war, Jewish aspirations are fulfilled.

To Petition the Powers.

A great movement is in progress among the Jews of overseas countries, and of the United States, a movement into which Jews of Canada are now entering, to petition the powers when peace settlement is made for equal rights for the Jews all over the world and the restoration of Palestine to the Jews.—From the Toronto Globe, sent by A. E. Sidford.

WHEN SHALL WE RISE.

(Continued from page 2.)

with them be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." (1 Thess. 4:16, 17). "And it shall come to pass in that day that a great trumpet shall be blown" (Isaiah 27:13).

"The identity between the feast of trumpets and the first stage in the return of our Lord is most marked....

"The chief point that concerns this work is that the season when we are to expect our Lord is that of the Feast of Trumpets. This was the first of the seventh month, or with us some time in September or October."

"Mr. Norris' conclusion was reached by a diligent study of the prophetic Scriptures: mine was given by Divine revelation; and, as will be seen, both agree."

THE LORD IS AT HAND!

Prepare to Meet Him!

"Behold I send my Messenger before my face, to prepare the way of the Lord."

Is the great world war a means in God's hands of "Preparing the way of the Lord?" Is it a call to the wise virgins to arise and trim their lamps? And that because "BEHOLD THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH?" That cry, it seems, has to go out at midnight. Surely it is dark enough now! Earth's fair surface is rent and bloodstained by devilish engines of destruction; and hearts are sore—torn with anguish! We may indeed listen just now for that "midnight cry."

That the Lord Jesus is coming in person to take up His people surely should be one of the supreme messages of the great world war. The coming of the Lord is at hand! JESUS IS COMING! Any day now may see the "Flaming of His Advent Feet."

Who, then, among us is READY? You, who read this, does it thrill you with joy to know that Christ may come TO-DAY? That He MUST certainly come before very long? Or are you like one to whom the glad news was told.

"Is it not delightful," said his friend, "to know that Christ's Second Coming is so imminent? In fact, that He may be here any day—perhaps to-day?" The man addressed was one who had been ordained to preach the Gospel, and the speaker was expecting a glad response. But instead, the surprising answer came:

"HOW DREADFUL! I hope not." Which did not argue much love for the Returning Master! How do you feel about it? Do answer that question honestly!

The Bishop of Durham has written recently to his clergy on the subject. "Modern preachers," he says, "are usually silent on the subject of the Second Coming—the Parousia—Christ's bodily appearing. Or, if they touch on it at all, they leave the impression that scriptural language about it is merely figurative, and that Christ's Coming means a perpetual spiritual coming." They overlook the express statement that "He will come IN LIKE MANNER as He went up." And certainly they fail to see that we are now in the END of the age, and that that glorious appearing is at the very doors.

May not this great world war be the prelude to that return, inasmuch as souls (as we trust) will be pouring into the kingdom of God, and so be getting prepared to meet Him whom they have just learned to love?

We are entering the dawn of a new age. The titanic struggles of this terrific war are its birth-throes. It ushers in "THE DAY"—not "the Day" to which the Chauvinists of Prussia drink their toasts, but "The Day of the Lord," which is to usher in the reign of the Prince of Peace, when swords and spears, guns and cannon, will be forged into ploughshares and reaping-hooks, implements of peace.

Who has inspired this proud spirit of world-mastery, but the one called, in Scripture, the "prince of this world," the devil? We find it stated in Rev. 16:14-16 that he is the inciter of this war spirit. We read there that there is to be a universal war, a conflagration at the end of the age, and that "kings of the earth and of the whole world" will close in deadly grip—"Armageddon" it is called.

We see the word "Armageddon" as the headline of newspapers now and again, but probably not one man in a hundred knows from whence the word comes, nor how appropriately it is applied to the present struggle.

If you who read this were to take the trouble to open your Bible at Rev. 16, and look at the verses 14-16, you would notice that after speaking of the "great war" as one in which the whole world is implicated, and the "kings of the earth," there occurs a break in verse 15, with these remarkable words (inserted as an illuminating paragraph), "Behold I come as a thief!" It is Christ who is speaking, and He puts in this announcement of His coming as a parenthesis between the commencement of this great war and its close. That is mentioned in verse 16, and it is really to the latter part of the great war that He gives the name "Armageddon." So that we are not yet in the Armageddon struggle proper, but at its commencement, and it may be, if students of prophecy read the signs aright, that Christ will come before the present war closes, and before Armageddon. Surely it concerns

us all to get these matters clearly into our minds.

Do not think that what follows are the ideas of a crank. They are merely a statement of facts. Let me put it in plain English.

**CHRIST IS COMING SOON!
HIS SECOND COMING IS UPON US!**

I do not mean that the final judgment day is imminent—that follows later.

* * * * *

Recently I stood upon the Mount of Olives, and as I looked up into the azure sky, with here and there a fleecy cloud, I recalled that group of disciples who, 2,000 years ago, stood looking up, because their Master had been lifted from the earth. Clouds received Him out of their sight, and angels stood at their side recommending them not to continue looking up, because, they added, "He will come again in like manner as He has gone" (Acts 1:9-11).

It is this coming to which allusion is made in the words I just quoted as to take place in the middle of Armageddon, "Behold I come as a thief." "In like manner," those angels said. Then, the Christ will bodily descend as He once ascended!

Do you want to know "How?" And what phenomena will accompany that coming? If you do, read the close of 1 Thess. 4:15-17. "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise." (Please notice it is not a general resurrection of good and bad, but only of the saints of God.) And then it goes on to say, "we which are alive" (those, of course, only whom the Bible designates as ready, lovers of God and true followers of Christ), such "shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air." If you want further detail, turn to 1 Cor. 15:51, 52: "We shall not all sleep (i. e., die), but we (i. e., Christ's loyal servants) shall all be changed at the last trump, in the twinkling of an eye." Those who are already changed and prepared in heart and soul will, in that supreme moment, be changed completely, changed into the glorious condition of immortality!

Well, all this will happen when those words, "Behold I come as a thief," are fulfilled, as it seems they may be in the middle of this present war, which leads, as we have seen, to Armageddon; Christ's own people will be taken out of the world, and the rest will be left to a world given over to such horrors of carnage and iniquity as passes man's imagination. "One shall be taken and another left." Oh! that every reader would ask himself "Shall I be taken—or left?"

Scripture details many other events which will follow before the second stage of Christ's coming. At that second stage, He will return to the earth with (not for, as He had already done) ten thousands of His saints (see Jude 14).

After which will follow His personal reign of a thousand years upon the earth, i. e., the Millennium (Rev. 20:4).

But all that is beyond the scope of this paper, which is put forth simply that all who read it—(you who read it now)—may PREPARE TO MEET THEIR GOD.

The war preliminary to Armageddon, it seems, has commenced. Before its close Christ may come. ARE YOU READY TO MEET HIM? If not go to your Bible and your knees, and find out there the blessed FACT that Christ died for YOU.

Let this time of the great world war be a time when you surrender yourself absolutely into the hands of the Saviour who died for you. Take Him for your own Saviour. He will receive you just as you are! Then you will be prepared to meet Him.

"IN SUCH AN HOUR AS YE THINK NOT THE SON OF MAN COMETH."

"COMING! In the opening east, herald brightness slowly swells; COMING! Oh my glorious Priest, hear we not Thy golden bells?"

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SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE.

The following is an extract from a letter written by a soldier in the British trenches in France to his mother in England: "This morning about 12:30 or 1 o'clock, we saw a most beautiful white cross in the sky. It sailed along until it reached the moon. I think everybody about here saw it, and for about ten or fifteen minutes there was not a shot fired. There was absolute silence on both sides. We are wondering what it all means."

THE YEAR 1917.

Dr. Grattan Guinness, in his book "Light for the Last Days," written in 1886, said of the year 1917: "The year in which these two periods—the one of over twenty-five centuries, and the other of over thirteen centuries, (the one concerning the children of Israel, and the other concerning the Turks)—run out together is astronomically a notable one. There can be no doubt that those who live to see this year 1917 will have reached one of the most important, perhaps the most momentous of these terminal years of crisis."

FROM THE JEWISH STANDPOINT.

"Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Rev. 16:15.

This admonition of the Lord affected me very deeply when I first read it, for I knew at a glance its meaning. All night long the watchman in the temple kept on duty. The overseer of the temple was always likely to appear at unexpected hours to see if these were faithfully attending to their charge. If he came across any watchman that had fallen asleep, he quietly drew off his loose garments, and bore them away as a witness against him when he should wake. My Lord may come in the second or third watch; therefore I must always be ready lest, coming, He find me sleeping, and I be stripped of my garments.—Rabinowitz.

We may glance at the various positions taken by devout students of prophecy and history, as to the time of the end, and seek to get the outlook from their points of survey, noting in advance that, by at least twelve independent methods of calculation and computation, they all reach a common conclusion that some great crisis lies between the years 1880 and 1920, or thereabouts.—Pierson.

SIGNS OF THE TIME.

At the present time Great Britain is driving the Turks before her at two different points, Mesopotamia and Egypt, from the east and from the south working towards Palestine and Jerusalem. God said unto Abraham, "Unto thy seed have I given this land from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." Gen. 15:18.

That has never been entirely fulfilled. This promised land has been for hundreds of years under the heel of the Turk, Gentile of the Gentiles and anti-Christian. The very site of the ancient temple at Jerusalem used for the worship of Jehovah is now occupied by the Mosque of Omar. But this state of things was to go on "until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled." Luke 21:24.

The evidence is pretty plain that there must be a change if Britain obtains possession of Palestine. She, of all nations, has been most friendly to the Jews. A Jew has been prime minister there, also the lord high chancellorship and other important state offices have been filled by Jews. If Britain obtains Palestine she may simply hold it in trust for the Jews. South Africa was conquered from the Boer, or part of it, and afterwards the whole of British South Africa was practically given back to the Boer, and in many ways the Boer has more power of freedom than he had before the war. The Jew will flock back, Britain merely being the trustee for the Jew and guarantee against outside molestation. Jerusalem then will be trodden under Gentile feet no longer. The times of the Gentiles will have been fulfilled. Then we may look for the closing of this dispensation. The Lord's coming is very near. These are not theories, but Christ's own words and the facts you can verify from your daily paper.

When ye see these things . . . lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh! Amen.—A. W. Frodsham, Fergus, Ont., Canada.

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THE WATCHERS.

There's a general unrest o'er the nations,
There's a stirring throughout all the world;
There are storms and commotions prophetic,
And war's flag is o'er millions unfurled;
There are fig leaves full many appearing,
There are multitude signs in the sky.
What is it all meaning, O watcher?—
That His long-awaited coming draws nigh.

There's a deep hush of glad expectation
In the hearts of His little ones true;
It is almost the hour for the Bridegroom
To come for His own purchased few.
And the thrill as He draws near to meet her
Quite raptures the heart of His bride,
For she knows He is coming to take her
To a place evermore at His side.

So we are not in doubt of the meaning
These signs so portentous contain;
Nor walk we in darkness uncertain,
As those who seek earth's honors vain.
As the darkness grows blacker and deeper,
We rest in His promise secure,
"Lo, I come very quickly, dear watcher;
Keep your garments unspotted and pure."

Alice Reynolds Flower.

"ANATHEMA MARAN-ATHA," OR "AT THE COMING OF THE LORD."

A Message for Pentecostal Saints.

By Andrew D. Urshan.

The benediction of the great Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth is a very important one; although it seems peculiar why he should pronounce such a benediction at the conclusion of his first great epistle to the saints of God. God knew what was best for His people at all times. What is this benediction? Read in the last chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians, the 22nd verse: "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maran-atha."

These three last foreign words in this text are so solemn that all the Bible scholars or translators in all ages have not dared to translate them literally. Anathema Maran-atha are three words of the ancient Syriac language. Anathema literally means, "under the curse"—something, being examined thoroughly, is found to be only fit for a curse. Maran means "Our Lord." Atha (should be itha) means "coming One." When read together these words mean "Let him be accursed at the coming of the Lord;" or, "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, he shall be cast away at the appearance of His hallowed presence!"

From this great warning we see that the main preparation for our meeting the Lord at His coming in the air at the Rapture of His saints is *our true love to Him*. We may say we have this and that experience, we do this and that for the Lord, but what will count at that day is our

sincere love to Jesus Christ. Reader, do you *LOVE* the Lord Jesus?

True Love.

We are all aware that there is such a thing as true natural love, and that this natural love is as strong as death. The history of humanity proves that many strong men and women have risked their lives for this passionate love; they were willing to lose their life for something that they loved but were not able to obtain. Ambitious scholars who loved their profession have been known to commit suicide when they failed. Many inventors have lost their lives for the sake of perfecting their inventions. How many have been killed by the invention of trains, automobiles, aeroplanes, etc., before they became perfected for the use of the public?

Volumes could be written upon the subject of natural love, which is as strong as death; but this human love is only a shadow of the true, glorious, divine love between Christ and His church. This mystery was revealed to Paul, and he often speaks about Christ and His church in the language of relationship between bride and bridegroom, or husband and wife. To say I love the Lord Jesus Christ is not a small thing, it is the greatest thing—yea, the greatest experience a man can have in this life.

The great history of martyrs from the time of the Apostles until this day proves this true love of the faithful saints to their Lord. Some of us were put to such a test of our love to Christ at the massacres in Persia. We were only disappointed not to be butchered for the testimony of Jesus. We were more than glad to have the privilege to die as martyrs of this age; and because of our true love to Him He was present, smiling upon us, and saying: "Fear not, I am with you." Therefore this perfect love to Him had cast out all our fears. Reader, do you love the Lord Jesus Christ *in truth*?

Some of the Proofs of our Love to Jesus.

Our glorious and mysterious God had to come in the flesh and speak in human language to make us understand the divine, unsearchable riches of His grace. He has created this very world, the visible things which we see, that by these we may understand invisible, eternal things.

First Proof.

The persons whom we dearly love, we never hesitate to be in private with them, and talk heartily to them, and never feel weary, although we may spend a long time in their company. A day or night pass as but an hour. Reader, if you love the Lord would you not love to be in private with Him and talk to Him for a few hours, and it would seem to you but as a few minutes? Yes you would, if you are a true lover of the Lord. Thank God we find the lovers of the Lord even in these days, who love to be away from everybody and everything, and spend days and hours "alone with God," praying, interceding, in behalf of the whole world, for a long time talking to their beloved Lord with great enjoyment. Do you mean to tell me that you love the Lord Jesus Christ and you do not love to pray, and pray, and pray? What is prayer if it is not talking to our Lord whom we love? Is the prayer service and private prayer a burden to you, or a pleasure? By this you can measure your love to Jesus, for if you love Him you will delight to talk to Him.

Second Proof.

The person whom we love, we not only love to talk to him, but we love to hear him talk to us. Now, if we love the Lord we would love to keep quiet, at His feet, looking in His face, hearing Him talking to us, opening our whole being for His blessed words, like Mary of old, sitting at His feet and enjoying His blessed fellowship.

Do you love the Bible, dear reader? Do you read it and re-read it over and over, and not get tired of it? Is Bible reading a great attraction to you or a waste of time? Some people say they love the Lord Jesus, but as soon as they begin to read the Bible, or someone reads it to them, they begin to yawn as though they had had no sleep in the night, and they want to sleep right now; the Bible is a sleeping medicine to them instead of honey upon their lips. What is the Bible if it is not the inspired Word of our God? Are you anxious for the revelation of the Word of God to you by the Spirit, the new light coming out of the pages of the Sacred Book, as much as you would be anxious for the mail-man bringing a letter from your beloved friend? I know some people, the first thing when they waken in the morning they remember the mail-man, and every minute seems like an hour to them until he comes. When the bell rings their heart leaps. Why all this anxiety? Because they are anxiously waiting for a new letter or message from their beloved friend.

Third Proof.

The person whom we love, we not only love him, his fellowship, his voice and his personality, but for his sake we love all persons and things belonging to him. A son loveth his father's property, and is greatly concerned about it; he is happy over the prosperity of his father. He will do his utmost to help his father to advance in his business. Why? Because he is the son of his father, and all which belongs to his father belongs to him. If we love the Lord Jesus Christ in truth we will love Him as our Elder Brother and Father and Dearest Friend. If we do love Him this way we would be intensely interested in the work of His great redemption. If we are truly interested we would spare no time, no money, no energy, nothing, but constantly do our best with all we have, all we are, to see His work accomplished, and the travail of His Soul being made satisfied in our life.

Reader, if you love the Lord, you would love missionaries, you would love the native converts, and you would strive to encourage them, and pray without ceasing for them, writing comforting letters to them, anxious to hear about their welfare. You would also love you brothers and sisters in Jesus all around you at home, and would not criticise, judge, accuse them, and if they should fall, you would not blow the trumpet about it, saying, a certain brother or sister did this or that, but you would pray for them, helping them, lifting them up when they fall, weeping with them, rejoicing with them, doing all this because you love the Lord, who gave His life for them, and who said, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And this is the commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another even as I have loved you."

Brethren, the present day message for us is: "Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves, for charity covereth a multitude of sins." Why should we have this? The previous verse explains it. For the end of all things is at hand, be ye therefore sober, and watching unto prayer, with love to one another. (1 Pet. 4:7, 8.

Fourth Proof.

When we go to visit our most honored friends, we do not go unprepared, but put our best clothes on, so that we will appear pleasing to them, so that when they see us they not only love to meet us, but love to look upon us with admiration. Even so, he that hath this hope of meeting the Lord at His coming, "purifies himself even as He is pure."

Many Christians profess to love the Lord but their life is not pleasing in His sight. If you love the Lord Jesus you would quit sin, and all ungodliness, and you

would pray until you receive all grace, and thereby be adorned and beautified in your everyday life. You will not be like the man who went into the marriage supper, not having on the wedding garment, and was cast away; but you would go and visit your Lord with the loud cry of your daily life, even "Holiness unto the Lord."

Reader, if you love the Lord Jesus Christ, when you are tempted to sin you will cry aloud, like Joseph of old, "How can I sin against my God?" And you would say, also, as in the songs of Solomon: "I have put off my coat, how shall I put it on; I have washed my feet, how shall I defile them?" Yes, you would say to Satan and the world and the flesh, I have put off the old life, how dare I take it on again, and I have been washed by the blood of my bleeding Lord, how dare I to defile myself, being His Bride? (S. Sol. 5:3.)

We see in the Scriptures not only Christ is waiting to meet His Bride with beauty and holiness, through His shed blood, but even the heavens are interested, waiting to see the gloriously adorned Bride of Christ. As we read in Revelation: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And unto her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the 'saints.'" What was that righteousness preserved in heaven, to be in due time given to them—there as heavenly garment? It was their holy, sanctified, pure and loyal life to their Lord on the earth. They obtained this by the grace of God, which brings salvation to all men, "teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Tit. 2:11-14.)

Conclusion.

The first time that the Holy Spirit drew my special attention to that Scripture, viz: "He that loveth not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maran-atha," a horror seemed to take hold of me. I was wakened from a deep sleep to the consciousness of the fact that this Scripture was the voice of God through the Apostle, not to sinners, but to the believers, and that I, as a believer, if I did not love the Lord Jesus Christ in truth, I would be left behind at the rapture of the true and faithful saints at His coming.

Dear reader, you can put this solemn Scripture away from your mind if you will, but I want to take no such chance as that. I would rather repent and cry to God to change me completely, and give me grace to love Him, because He first loved me, to the extent that I will love to pray more than anything in the world, and to read His Word more than all other writings, and to love His people more than my own life, and to keep holy, preserved for His glory and pleasure only.

You can hear more on this important subject at the Pentecostal meetings being held at

"THE COMING CRISIS."

"The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind, and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet." Nahum 1:3.

The clouds are gathering very fast, growing darker each day that we live, and a storm of great fury is about to break over this whole world. Pent up offenses, differences among the nations, and the wickedness in men's hearts, is culminating in this terrible carnage across the sea, and the issue in America today is, "Shall we escape?" God knows, for He holds the destiny of nations in His hands. "And Thou Lord in the beginning, has laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands, they shall perish, but *Thou remainest*, and they all shall wax old as a garment, and as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed, but Thou art the same and Thy years shall never fail."

Yes, they will soon be folded up, and the tents of His own that have been in affliction so long, for the burden of His people, shall be put away, and His own people, whom He has formed for His praise, shall inhabit their new dwelling place, wherein dwelleth righteousness. No longer pilgrims and strangers on the earth, but kings and priests, to reign on the earth under the blessed administration of the King of kings and Lord of lords!

Iniquity is abounding on every side, the love of many waxing cold, evil doers waxing worse and worse, and while they are seeking the pleasures of this world, the storm is gathering.

David said, "I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest." Oh! precious soul, are you going to escape with the redeemed ones of earth? You may if you strike the trail, in time, but it's growing dark and there is not any time to lose.

Our eyes focused on the headlines in the daily papers impel us to search the Word as never before, for they have shown us the rapid fulfilment of prophecy, and we are assured that we are coming to the close of this dispensation. Note Jerusalem encompassed with armies, her desolation is nigh even at the door. Oh! daughter of Zion awake, put on thy beautiful garments, for thy King is coming, coming in glory to restore thee to thy place.

The golden cup of the rich men will soon be broken, then whose shall these things be? For Jesus is coming, and His reward is with Him to give unto every one according as his work shall be.

For yet a little while and the wicked shall not be. Thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be, but the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Precious soul, there can be no peace till Jesus takes the government, then shall the curse be lifted for a thousand years, and the desert shall blossom as the rose, this old earth with its sad scenes and panorama of suffering will give place to this wonderful reign with Jesus. God's Word is forever settled in heaven, and this is the inheritance of His redeemed saints.

Oh! beloved ones, as we read the signs of the times with evelids waking, let us be faithful, let us hold out steadfast a little longer, and to you, dear souls, that have not yet found Jesus, come while mercy and pardon is still offered. Don't wait till the storm is upon you, for then shall darkness cover the earth and gross darkness the people and they shall not escape.

Do not wait till the door is barred, but come now, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh, and blessed is that servant whom His Lord shall find watching when He comes.—Ethel W. Boothby.



DAILY PORTION FROM THE
KING'S BOUNTY

MRS. A. R. FLOWER

Sunday. "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning." Luke 12:35.

He is coming! My heart is a-tremble
With rapture and expectancy;

I am faithfully trimming my candle

That my light all a-burning may be.

It is small, but I know He will see it,

For He lit it Himself long ago,

And He said, "Till I come keep it burning—

With My love and my grace let it glow."

Monday. "Surely I come quickly. Amen."—Rev. 22:20.

When pressed by the prospect of heavy burdens or labor just ahead, I always find comfort in simply looking up into His face, with the thought that perhaps He is coming before I must meet the impending difficulties. And the very thought so strengthens me that when I do meet the burdens—their weight is lessened and the labor is made easy. True it is that with those who are really looking for Jesus some task will never be finished: some day will never end; some night will know its day-break in all the glory and brightness of His very presence.

Tuesday. "Let us walk honestly, as in the day." Romans 13:13.

If we are really expecting Him any time we will of necessity keep short accounts with God, and not let things accumulate. Mind the checks of the Holy Ghost, and humbly, prayerfully ask God to help you retrace every doubtful, crooked place immediately. It will mean speedy forgiveness of everyone, and the absolute refusal to take up a reproach against another. "The Lord is at hand!"

Wednesday. "Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." 1 Thess. 4:14.

Blessed certainty of the resurrection! It is God's own comfort for the sorrowing heart. The dear one was laid to rest in all the weakness and corruption of the natural body. But he shall shortly come forth in the glory and life of a resurrected body. What an unprecedented stir His coming will cause amongst some of our grave-yards!

Thursday. "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34.

The church needs this constant admonition. Too quickly do we forget. The goal becomes dim; the high calling is lost sight of, as the one-time earnest watcher begins to seek his own ease and pleasure. Let the trumpet-note sound through the land! A cry of warning to all, He surely cometh—He quickly cometh. "As a snare it shall come on all them that dwell on the face of the earth." Expect Him—watch for Him! WATCH! WATCH!

Friday. "This is the Lord: we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Isa. 25:9. "He is faithful that hath promised, an' He'll surely come again.

He'll keep his tryst wi' me, at what hour I dinna ken;

But he bids me still to watch, an' ready aye to be,

To gang at any moment to my ain countrie.

"So I'm WATCHING aye, and singing o' my hame as I wait,

For the soun'ing o' H's footfa' this side the gowden gate,

For His bluid hath made me white, and His hand shall dry

my e'e.

When He brings me hame at last to my ain countrie."

Saturday. "And Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel." Gen. 24:64.

Our long journey is almost over. Our Isaac is even now going forth "to meditate in the field at eventide." He sees us very plainly on the last toilsome round of our journey. And very soon we shall lift glad eyes to see Him—and our journey will be ended. Glory! Glory!! Can words express the joy of that meeting?