

On The Eve Of Armageddon

tongues.” Revelation 17:15.

The water of the river is a symbol of that power which occupies the territory in that part of the earth drained by the river Euphrates. The drying up of the waters of the river would mean the setting aside or the destruction of the power. And that power is Turkey. Turkey, then, according to the Word of God, is to be overthrown and destroyed.

But it may be objected that Turkey now controls only a part of the territory drained by the upper Euphrates. Very true; but a stream can be dried up only by drying up its source. When it was decided to change the direction of the flow of the Chicago River so that instead of emptying into Lake Michigan, its polluted waters should be discharged through the south fork into the Des Plaines River, finally reaching the Mississippi by way of the Illinois River, this was not done by raising the mouth of the Chicago River, but by lowering its source, so that its waters would naturally flow south instead of north. Even so, if the course of the Euphrates is to be changed or its waters are to be dried up, the change must be wrought, not at its mouth, but at its source, still controlled by the Turk.

When the Euphrates is dried up, or, dropping the figure, when Turkey is destroyed, there will be a scramble for this territory, which will result in general war. This will be the certain result, both in the opinion of world statesmen and also in the teaching of the Bible.

As a result of the downfall of Turkey, “the kings of the earth, and of the whole world,” will be gathered to Armageddon.

Resulting from the downfall of Turkey there will be a repercussion throughout all the East, and a “road” will be “prepared for the kings from the rising sun” to attack the war weakened powers of the West.

They will come up with “the kings of the whole habitable world,” mustered for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

Who are these kings from the rising sun, the “kings of the east”? They are the Asiatic nations lying east of Palestine, the heathen nations, the colored races, constituting more than half the population of the earth.

Here, then, is outlined the real “yellow peril,” long foreseen and feared by the West. Here, indeed, is “the rising tide of color!”

Armageddon will not be merely an international conflict; it will be interracial and religious as well. In connection with Armageddon there will be the pouring out of the seventh, and final, plague.

“The seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightning; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the Plague thereof was exceeding great.” Revelation 16:17-21.

As a result of Armageddon, human governments, as now constituted, will pass out of existence forever. Man, with his works his cities, his kingdoms, his glory, and all his pomp, pageantry, and pride, will be overthrown.

At Armageddon international, interracial, and religious strife will give place to that phase of man’s effort to retain the dominion of this earth described in Revelation 19:19 as a contest between the armies of earth and the armies of heaven. The war between nations will be interrupted by the personal, visible return of Jesus Christ in power and great glory, for it is then that He comes to “break” the nations “with a rod of iron,” and “dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” Psalms 2:9.

THE RETURN OF JESUS

THAT Jesus will come again the second time is one of the plainest teachings of the Bible. No other stands out so clearly as this.

If we take only the testimony of Jesus Himself, who repeated again and again to His disciples the

On The Eve Of Armageddon

teaching that He would come the second time, we shall have sufficient evidence of the truth of this doctrine.

JESUS PROMISED TO RETURN

Just before His death, for the comfort and encouragement of His disciples, Christ said to them:

“Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:1-3.

Certainly this is a clear-cut, unequivocal promise, the meaning of which there is no possibility of mistaking. The Master Himself said, “I will come again.”

To the unbelieving Pharisees and scribes, just before His betrayal, He said:

“You shall not see Me henceforth, till you shall say, Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!’ Matthew 23:39.

When instructing His disciples, in answer to their question, “What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3) Jesus said:

“Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory!’ Matthew 24:30.

And to His disciples again He said:

“The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels!’ Matthew 16:27.

When adjured by the high priest at His trial, Jesus answered:

“Hereafter shall you see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven!’ Matthew 26:64.

Finally, in the last chapter of the Bible, this same Jesus repeats three times to His servant John this truth of His Second Coming. “Behold, I come quickly”; “And, behold, I come quickly”; “Surely I come quickly.” Revelation 22:7, 12, 20.

This uniform testimony of the Savior is enough to create conviction in every heart that accepts Him as its guide and teacher. There is no doubt here. Jesus is coming again.

THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING

The purpose of the coming of Christ the second time is set forth in the Bible just as clearly as the fact of His coming. He is coming to receive His people unto Himself.

“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:2, 3.

His people will be gathered together by His angels when He comes.

“He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:31.

At the time when Jesus comes, most of His people will be sleeping in death. And therefore one of the primary purposes of the coming of Christ is to awake the sleeping saints and give them an immortal existence.

“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.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Some of the people of God, however, will be alive at this time, not having tasted death. These will be united with those who have been raised from the dead, and both classes will be caught up together to be with Jesus.

“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.” 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

When this takes place, both classes will be changed from their mortal, corruptible state and given a glorious immortality.

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

On The Eve Of Armageddon

TO JUDGE THE WORLD

Another purpose for which Christ will come the second time will be to judge the world.

“For He comes, for He comes to judge the earth; He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth.” Psalms 96:13.

Paul makes it very clear that the judgment of the living and the dead will take place at the Second Coming of Christ.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word.” 2 Timothy 4:1, 2.

It was at this time also that Paul expected to get his reward for faithfulness. He says again:

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing!” 2 Timothy 4:8.

It is at the time of the second advent of Christ that the great and final separation of the righteous and the wicked takes place.

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.” Matthew 25:31, 32.

At this judgment every man will be rewarded in exact accordance with his works. Rewards and punishments will be apportioned to the righteous and the wicked.

“The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.” Matthew 16:27.

THE SALVATION OF HIS PEOPLE

The Second Coming of Christ is also for the purpose of bringing complete salvation to His people—salvation from death and the grave forever.

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” Hebrews 9:28.

Of this glorious time we read:

“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation!” Isaiah 25:8, 9.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED

Another purpose for which the Lord will come the second time will be to destroy from the earth the wicked, those who have rejected His mercy and His truth.

“The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8.

Concerning this same punishment, we read:

“With righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked!” Isaiah 11:4.

John writes of this destruction of the wicked at the coming of Christ as follows:

“The nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou should give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and should destroy them which destroy the earth.” Revelation 11:18.

THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

Another great purpose of God in the Second Coming of Christ is the restoration of all things which have been lost through the introduction of sin into this world.

“He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:20, 21.

Jesus will come as King of kings and Lord of lords, to reign forever and ever.

On The Eve Of Armageddon

“I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and make war.” “He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:11, 16.

TO ESTABLISH AN ETERNAL KINGDOM

The kingdom over which He will rule will be an everlasting kingdom.

“In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: ... and it shall stand forever.” Daniel 2:44.

“There was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:14.

“The Lord shall reign over them in Mount Zion from henceforth, even forever.” Micah 4:7.

“Of His kingdom there shall be no end.” Luke 1:33.

And to this kingdom the people of God shall be joint heirs with Christ, and the coming of Christ will assure to His people the kingdom which has been promised the faithful.

“The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the People of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him!” Daniel 7:27.

“Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34.

“And has made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:10.

THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING

In order to prepare the people on the earth for His coming, that this great and glorious event may not come upon them unawares, the Lord has set forth in His Word many signs which show the nearness of this event.

The unparalleled running to and fro, the remarkable increase in knowledge, the striking activity in invention-all were foretold in the prophecies.

“Thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4.

The world-wide distress of nations and the fears that strike into the hearts of the human race when they look into the future were also given as signs of the coming of Christ.

“There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.” Luke 21: 25, 26.

The trouble which is brewing and constantly breaking out between capital and labor is also foretold as a sign of the times.

“Go to now, you rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is rotted; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. You have heaped treasure together for the last days.” James 5:1-3.

The condition of the religious world, its love of self, its boasting, its pride, its blasphemy, its disobedience, its ingratitude, its lack of holiness, its lack of natural affection, its truce breaking, its false accusing, its hatred of goodness, its treason, its headstrong recklessness. Its haughtiness, its love of pleasure, its formalism and hypocrisy, and the corruption that permeates our entire social fabric-all are pointed out in the Bible.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers. False accusers, incontinent, fierce, despising of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

THE MANNER OF HIS COMING

The manner of Christ’s coming is also set forth with great plainness in the Scriptures. His coming

On The Eve Of Armageddon

is to be literal. He is actually to appear in the sight of men. This is made very plain.

“Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation!” Hebrews 9:28.

“Looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13.

“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear.” Colossians 3:4.

“When the Chief Shepherd shall appear.” 1 Peter 5:4.

“And now, little children, abide in Him, that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence.” 1 John 2:28.

“We know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him.” 1 John 3:2.

“Might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:7.

“Until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Timothy 6:14.

“Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.” 2 Timothy 4:1.

“They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven.” Matthew 24:30.

That the coming of Christ will be witnessed by the entire world is also made plain.

“Behold, He comes with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him.” Revelation 1:7.

The Second Coming of Christ will be accompanied by such a demonstration of power and glory that nothing in all the annals of history will compare with it.

“The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

“As the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:27.

“They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30.

“He shall come in His own glory, and His Father’s, and of the holy angels.” Luke 9:26.

A PERSONAL COMING

The Second Coming of Christ will be a personal coming. He Himself will actually return.

“While they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:10, 11.

“The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

“He’s coming once again,
To set His people free;
There where He is, in glory bright,
His saints may also be.
Then lift the drooping head,
Look up, rejoice, and sing;
He comes, in majesty sublime,
Salvation’s glorious King.”

THE MILLENNIUM

THE Second Coming of Christ is the event which ushers in the millennium. The millennium is not, as so many suppose, a thousand years of glory and peace on earth. It is not an age of progress. It does not result from the conversion of the whole world; nor will the world be converted during that period. Neither Christ nor His people will be on earth during the thousand years. That period does not offer a second probation to any.