

seen that at this time the judgment of God is executed upon the wicked in the lake of fire. This is the second death. This ends the great rebellion against God and his government; everything contaminated with sin is destroyed from the face of the earth. Then will be heard the voice of God as he sits upon his throne, speaking to the saints, and saying, "Behold, I make all things new." And out of the burning ruins of the old earth there will spring forth before the admiring gaze of the millions of the redeemed, "a new heaven and a new earth," in which they shall find an everlasting inheritance.



CHAPTER IX.

The Saints' Inheritance

1. For what purpose did God create the earth?

"Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens, God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited." Isa. 45: 18.

NOTE.—We find the earth largely inhabited to-day by a race of rebels against God. Death, sin, misery, and high-handed evil stalk about on every side. This is not God's plan. His purpose was that the earth should be inhabited by a race of righteous beings. This is seen by the fact that when he made man, he made him after his own image and likeness. Gen. 1: 26, 27. He made man upright. Eccl. 7: 29.

2. After creating man, what did God commission him to do?

"God blessed them, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Gen. 1: 28.

3. What special provision did God make for Adam's comfort?

"The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." Gen. 2: 8.

NOTE.—In the midst of the garden were made to grow beautiful fruit-bearing trees, among them the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man's work was to dress and keep the garden. Had Adam and Eve proved loyal to God, their family would have been gradually multiplied until the whole earth would have been subdued, and filled with a race of righteous beings. Eden would have been the capital of the earth, the Jerusalem, to which the twelve nations of the sons of Adam would have come up at regular periods to worship Jehovah, and to partake of the fruit of the tree of life. Adam, under God, would have been the prince and ruler of his happy family on earth. There never would have been a funeral or a broken family circle. Sorrow and sickness would have been unknown; for these, with all other evils, come to us as a result of sin. What a glorious prospect lay before the holy pair in Eden; yet how soon lost by man's deception and fall. And had not the Son of God come to the rescue of man, and interposed himself in the breach, and girded on the armor against Satan in man's behalf, these glorious prospects would have been forever lost to man. But thank God, Christ "came to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19: 10. Hence whatever was lost by the fall will be restored through the gospel.

What Man Lost By the Fall

Let us now enumerate some of the principal things which man lost by the fall, and this will enable us to determine what Christ will restore to those who are saved. (1) When man sinned he lost righteousness. (2) Man lost his home in the garden of Eden. (3) He lost his right to the tree of life. Gen. 3: 22 - 24. (4) He lost his life, and his body began to return to dust. Gen. 3: 19. (5) He lost dominion over the earth, and became a servant of Satan. Rom. 6: 16. (6) He lost the privilege of communing with God face to face. (7) He

lost his robe of glory which served as a covering. Gen. 3: 7. Now, if Christ saves, and restores to man that which was lost by the fall, it is evident that he must first save man *from* his sins, thereby restoring him to the ways of righteousness; man must be restored to life by a resurrection of the body which returns to the dust, and again be permitted to enjoy every blessing and privilege which was lost as a consequence of the fall. That this is a correct conclusion, the following treatise will show.

The Restitution of All Things By Christ

4. What awaits those who die in Adam?

"Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Cor. 15: 21, 22.

5. Unto what is this present earth reserved?

"Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished; but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. . . . But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3: 6 - 10.

NOTE.—There are three worlds spoken of in the Bible,—the world which was before the flood, the world that now is, and the world which is to come. See Heb. 2: 5; 6: 5; Luke 20: 34, 35. The antediluvian world ended with the flood of water; the world which now is, will end in the lake of fire at the judgment day.

6. When this present world is destroyed by fire, what will follow?

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:13. “I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.” Rev. 21:1. This is the world to come.

7. What privilege will be accorded those who overcome?

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.” Rev. 2:7; also Rev. 22:14.

8. Will man again be permitted to see God’s face?

“They shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.” Rev. 22:4.

9. What great city will be located on the new earth?

“I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Rev. 21:2.

10. How large is this city?

“The city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth; and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs.” Verse 16.

NOTE.—The wording seems to indicate that it was twelve thousand furlongs on one side of the city, the city being a perfect square, but the least it could mean would be twelve thou-

sand furlongs around the city. Counting eight furlongs to the mile, this would give us 1,500 miles, making the city, at the least calculation, 375 miles square. This would be a great city; but when we take into consideration the fact that God dwells there, its greatness and magnificent glory will not be wondered at.

11. Who will walk in the light of this city?

“The nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it; and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.” Verse 24. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matt. 5:5.

12. What tree is in the midst of this city?

“In the midst of the street of it, on either side of the river, was there the tree of life.” Rev. 22:2.

NOTE.—Thus everything which man lost by the fall will be restored by Christ in the new earth, and the plan of God will have been fully carried out. The earth will be inhabited by a race of righteous beings formed in the image of God. The garden of Eden will be incorporated in the New Jerusalem, and all the redeemed will be permitted, not only to see but to partake of the fruits of that long-lost home whence our first parents were driven because of sin.

13. When the nations of the saved are restored to their inheritance in the new earth, what will they do?

“They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.” Isa. 65:21.

NOTE.—The redeemed will not be idle in their new home. Man was created an industrious being, capable of imitating,

to some degree, the beauties of God in creation; and it will be his delight to beautify the earth, until it shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Many may at first thought rebel against this idea. People have been educated to believe so differently from this that they feel rather disappointed when first shown that this earth in its renewed state is to become their eternal home. But when we take into account the fact that the great city of God is to be located on this earth, and that the throne of God and the Lamb will be in it; that from this city the universe will be ruled, and that from all parts of the universe will come delegations of unfallen beings of other worlds to pay homage to Jehovah; that this earth, which has been so long cursed with sin, and upon which and for which the Son of God bled and died, will become the most honored and glorious spot in all the universe, we are made to appreciate more fully the glorious privilege accorded us in being among the honored residents of the new earth.

The Promise Made to Abraham and His Seed and Its Fulfilment

14. What special promise was made to Abraham and his seed?

“The promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” Rom. 4:13.

15. As a result of this promise, for what did he look?

“He looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Heb. 11:10.

16. Were these promises ever fulfilled to Abraham or any of his seed, during their lifetime on earth?

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. . . . Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”
Heb. 11:13-16.

NOTE.—The city for which Abraham looked, which hath foundations, which God has prepared for Abraham and his seed, is the holy city, New Jerusalem, and has twelve foundations. And inasmuch as this city is to be Christ's kingdom in the new earth, and since God has promised the earth to Abraham and his seed, and has specially prepared this city for them, we therefore conclude that the promise made to them will be fulfilled in the earth made new, the world to come.

17. Who are the seed of Abraham to whom these promises are made?

“Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.” “And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
Gal. 3:7, 29.

18. Because one is a Jew, a descendant of Abraham after the flesh, is he an heir of the promise?

“They are not all Israel, which are of Israel: neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children. . . . That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” Rom. 9:6-8.



For he looked for a city which
hath foundations whose
builder and maker is God. Heb. 11:10

The seed of Abraham, to whom the promise was made, are not the descendants of Abraham after the flesh, but "the children of faith;" those who believe on Christ and are converted. Paul says, "They are not all Israel which are of Israel." The meaning of the word "Israel," as originally given, is, "A prince of God." See Gen. 32:28, margin. It is applicable only to those who are born of the Spirit, who have been born again. Thus it is true that not all the descendants of Israel (or Jacob) are Israel, or are "the children of God;" because they have not become members of the royal family of God by the new birth. This makes it clear that the "Israel," "the seed of Abraham" to whom God has promised the new earth and for whom he has prepared the New Jerusalem, are none other than those who have been born of the Spirit, those who are Christ's.

19. Into how many nations will the seed of Abraham, or spiritual Israel, be divided in the new earth?

"Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Matt. 19:28.

NOTE.—There will be just twelve nations of the saved. The Holy City has twelve gates, and over each of these gates is inscribed the name of one of the twelve tribes. These nations will inhabit the earth, which is divided equally among the twelve. Each nation enters the city through the gate over which its name is inscribed. The twelve apostles will reign as twelve kings, under Christ, over these nations. Christ, as he sits upon the throne of his glory, reigns as "King of kings and Lord of lords." Thus the seed of Abraham, over whom Christ reigns on the throne of his father David, embraces "many nations," and the promise of God to Abraham is lit-

erally fulfilled in saying, "A father of many nations have I made thee." All this is simply carrying out God's original plan. For, that he designed the earth to be inhabited by twelve nations, is fully proved by the word of God through Moses, saying, "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee. When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel." Deut. 32:7, 8.

Israel had twelve sons, and the bounds of the nations of the sons of Adam were set according to this number; so that when the nations of the saved are settled in the new earth, their boundaries will be as God originally fixed them, and it can be truly said that they inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. Matt. 25:34. Thus the glorious prospect which was lost to the human family by the sin of the first Adam, is saved by Christ, the second Adam; "for he came to seek and to save that which was lost."

