

## **On The Eve Of Armageddon**

fire that falls upon them from heaven at the close of the millennium will consume them altogether. Each person will be punished “according to his deeds” (Romans 2:6), but ultimately the fire will bring them all to utter death and destruction. “The wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23.

The father of sin, together with sin and sinners and all their evil results-sickness, disease, pain, sorrow, grief, and death -is to be destroyed forever. Thank God, His mercy is seen even in the destruction of those who refuse salvation.

## **THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF PEACE**

PEACE is coming-peace, lasting and world wide. Through the ages of the ages it will endure.

We have already seen that peace will never come through man or through any of his works. Man has failed to produce a government which can give permanent peace. All that man can do is to produce, in the end, an Armageddon.

When man has demonstrated his failure, God will take charge. He will destroy sin and sinners, and then He will establish His own kingdom of eternal peace on the earth.

### **GOD’S COVENANT OF PEACE**

It was a covenant of peace which God first made with man. It is to a fulfillment of this covenant of peace that the prophets confidently point. The messenger who brings good tidings of great joy is one who publishes peace. Jesus Himself is the Prince of Peace. There is to be no end of the increase of His government and of peace.

“In His days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endures.” Psalms 72:7.

Psalmist and prophet together look forward with eager eyes, and sing of the time when Jehovah shall bless His people with endless peace (Psalms 29:11); when “the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (Psalms 37:11). When peace shall be within the walls of Jerusalem (Psalms 122:7); when men “shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace” (Isaiah 55:12); when the very officers shall be peace and the exactors righteousness (Isaiah 60:17). When peace shall extend to Jerusalem like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream (Isaiah 66:12); when “the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever” (Isaiah 32:17). When God’s “people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places” (Isaiah 32:18).

### **THE EARTH PURIFIED**

The earth will be purified by the same fire which consumes the wicked. The ruined works of men will be burned by great billows of flame that sweep over the earth. The last remnants of sin will be thus consumed.

“The elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” 2 Peter 3:10.

The long rebellion against God is ended. Man’s last foe, death, has been destroyed. The sinful, restless, warring world has at last been overthrown, and all creation is now at peace with God. The first heaven and the first earth, the great amphitheater of sin, the scene of strife and rebellion, have passed away, and when they have been dissolved by the fires of the last day, then by the word of the Lord are brought into existence “new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:13.

Upon the billows of flame which have purified the earth, the Holy City, with the righteous nations of the saved within it, has ridden safely, even as the ark rode the angry waters of the Deluge. When the purifying flames subside, having fully accomplished the work of cleansing the earth, the city settles into its place in fulfillment of the scripture: “The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Revelation 21:1

### **THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ANCIENT PROMISES**

Then the earth will blossom again and become the home of the redeemed people of the Lord. “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.” Matthew 5:5.

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Then shall be fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them [the redeemed]; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away!” Isaiah 35.

Then will be seen the fulfillment of many of the ancient promises. “Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” Isaiah 65:17.

“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness!” 2 Peter 3:13.

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth.” Revelation 21:1.

“The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” Psalms 37:11. At that time also the promise found in Micah 4:8 will be fulfilled.

“Thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion [the church], unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion [the earth when first created;] the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.”

### THE ETERNAL HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS

When the earth has been fully cleansed, and sin and sinners are no more, the righteous will go forth from the Holy City, and “they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.” (Isaiah 65:21.) The whole earth is to be filled with the redeemed of the Lord. They will build homes which will never be destroyed. They will have no fear of fire or earthquake. Sin has passed out of existence forever. There will be none to make afraid. Peace and contentment and unspeakable happiness will fill every heart.

Sabbath by Sabbath and month by month the people of the new earth will gather at Jerusalem to engage in the worship of the King of kings. (Isaiah 66:22, 23.) Here in the city of God the redeemed will partake of the fruit of the tree of life. Here also they will wander through the groves which border the “river of water of life,” which proceeds “out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” Revelation 22:1, 2.

“There shall be no more curse.” Revelation 22:1 Sin will have been eternally destroyed, and will never return. Every one of the created intelligences on the other worlds, all the angels, and every soul that has been redeemed at such an infinite cost, will have fully decided that God is righteous altogether. They have had enough of sin. We do well to rejoice in the certain promise of God that when He destroys sin, “He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.” Nahum 1:9.

### NO MORE VIOLENCE, WASTING, OR DESTRUCTION

There in the glorious land of the new earth “My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” Isaiah 32:18. “Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shall call thy walls salvation, and thy gates praise.” Isaiah 60:18. “Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle tree.” Isaiah 55:13. “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4. “The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.” Isaiah 33:24.

The beautiful city of God, the New Jerusalem, shall “be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.” Isaiah 62:1 “Her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” Revelation 21:11. “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.” Revelation 21:24. “There shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign forever and ever.” Revelation 22:5.

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And in the new' earth I shall "know even as also I am known." 1 Corinthians 13:12. Companions and loved ones, long separated by death, will then be reunited. Their love and their sympathy for each other will be greatly deepened, and will continue throughout the ages of eternity, never again to be broken by death.

There all the faculties of the human mind will be developed, and the mind's capacity for knowledge will be constantly enlarged. No enterprise which is entered upon will be too great to be carried forward to completion. No aspiration will be formed which cannot be reached. No ambition will be too high to be realized. There will be no end to the acquirement of knowledge. It will be possible to travel from planet to planet, and from system to system, in the study of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge of the universe of God. Our associates and companions will be the angels of God and the unfallen intelligences of the other worlds.

### THE UNFOLDING OF THE AGE OF ETERNITY

And to all this there will be no end. As the ages of eternity unfold, there never need be any fear that the years to come will bring a termination to the happiness of the redeemed. When millions of ages have rolled by, still beyond will stretch eternity.

And you, dear friend, to whom this book has come, may I not press upon you the urgent need of being prepared for these things which are coming upon man? There is a way of escape from the appalling destruction of the last days. The close of human probation, followed by Armageddon, will fall swiftly upon a world all unprepared. It need not come thus to you.

Jesus is the way. In Him is safety. And in Him is eternal life, and an abundant entrance into His eternal kingdom of peace. Now, while you have opportunity, become acquainted with Him, make your peace with Him. Mercy's gates are still open, though they are soon to close. God's ear will yet hear the penitent's cry. The blood of Jesus will yet atone for sin, and cleanse whiter than snow. Make no longer delay. Now, now, go to God with all your sin, accept His sacrifice, believe His word. He will graciously receive you, and pardon all your guilt.

And may "the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13.

## BEYOND THE STORM

THERE is a place of sacred rest,  
Far' far beyond the skies,  
Where beauty smiles eternally,  
And pleasure never dies;  
My Father's house, my heavenly home,  
Where many mansions stand  
Prepared by hands divine, for all  
Who seek the better land.

When tossed upon the waves of life,  
With fear on every side,  
When fiercely howls the gathering storm,  
And foams the angry tide  
Beyond the storm, beyond the gloom,  
Breaks forth the light of morn,'  
Bright beaming from my Father's house,  
To cheer the soul forlorn.

In that pure home of tearless joy  
Earth's parted friends shall meet,  
With smiles of love that never fade,  
And blessedness complete.

### **On The Eve Of Armageddon**

There, there adieus are sounds unknown,  
Death frowns not on that scene;  
But life and glorious beauty shine,  
Untroubled and serene.

Anonymous