

Last Day Events

This is very clear; but note that at this time, before He comes, the door of mercy is shut. Matthew 25:10. Probation for man is ended, and some are shut out, and lost. "When once the master of the house is risen up, and has shut to the door, and you begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and He shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence you are." Luke 13:25. Here is a time when the door of mercy will be shut, and the reply to those on the outside from the One who has shut the door, holds out no hope of "a second probation." "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out." Verse 28.

But why should they weep and gnash their teeth if they are to have another chance to enter in? It is clear that they have no such chance, and fully understand that they are "thrust out" forever. We nowhere read that the "door" which is once "shut" is ever to be opened, and another "chance" offered to all the lost. It logically follows that if the Lord should do this for sinners, He would needs do the same for the devil and all the fallen angels. Why not give them another chance as well as man?

The great lines of prophecy in the book of Daniel throw much light upon this question. In the second chapter, under the symbol of a great metallic image, the history of the world from the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar till the final destruction of all the kingdoms of this world is given. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome were to bear sway successively as universal monarchies. The fourth kingdom, Rome, symbolized by the legs of iron, was to lose its iron stability and become divided, as indicated by the mixture of iron and clay. Between the years AD 356 and 483 the Roman Empire was divided into ten kingdoms; namely, the Alemanni, Franks, Vandals, Burgundians, Visigoths, Lombards, Ostrogoths, Suevi, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons. The territory of these ten kingdoms is today occupied by the nations of the Old World. The Lord further declares, "And in the days of these [ten] kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Daniel 2:44.

This is not a description of the work of the gospel and the conversion of the world. Earthly kingdoms are to be broken in pieces and consumed. They are to be utterly wiped out of existence, and the fifth universal kingdom, symbolized by the stone which is cut out without hands, is to be eternally established in the territory now occupied by earthly kingdoms, when the earth is made new. "You saw till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer thrashing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Verses 34, 35.

This stone represents the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, which is to be established in the earth. When Jesus comes the second time with power and great glory, the wicked nations of earth will wail and lament because of Him. Matthew 24:30. They are not converted, but areas the worthless chaff blown from the thrashing-floor after the wheat has all been gathered out for the garner. They are not to have another probation in a glorious millennial age. Oh, no; they are carried away, and "no place" is found for them in the entire universe. Nothing, it would seem could be more conclusive on this point. See also Psalm 37:9, 10.

Last Day Events

This destruction of sinful nations is described also in the Psalms: "Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession." Psalm 2:8. Here the heathen, or nations, who, we are told, have not had "a full opportunity," are mentioned. Are they to have another probation in an age to come? Listen: "You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Verse 9. This language is so clear that comment would but weaken its force. Having forgotten the Lord, they must needs perish. The wicked nations of the world are only chaff in the Lord's sight, and instead of having a second probation, will be "turned back unto Sheol." Psalm 9: 1.7, R.V.

In Daniel 7 the testimony upon this point is equally clear. Here the same four universal kingdoms are brought to view. Also the ten kingdoms, symbolized by the ten horns on the head of the "dreadful and terrible" fourth beast. The rise of the little horn, or papal power, is then brought to view, and the wicked and blasphemous work which it was to perform during the long dreary years of the papal millennium, is clearly outlined. "And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Daniel 7:25. This brings us down the stream of time to the beginning of that period known as "the time of the end," which began AD 1798, or near the time when the kingdom of Christ is to be set up.

But what is done with this power symbolized by the "little horn"? Is it to be converted? No. Is a "second probation" in the "age to come" promised? No. "I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame." Daniel 7:11, last part. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end." Verse 26.

This same beast power is brought to view in Revelation. When Jesus comes crowned "King of kings and Lord of lords," this anti-Christian power and all the armies of the earth are "gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army." Revelation 19:19. And what is the conclusion of this terrible contest? Are they given another "opportunity" in the millennial age, under more "favorable" circumstances, to accept of the King against whom they are now making war? Indeed, they are not. "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." Verse 20. There is no hint in all this of a second probation. It is utter destruction from the presence of God. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. Instead of a "second probation" they go alive into the lake of fire. They are destroyed in the "burning flame."

A Conclusive Example

Through all the ages the Lord has had His witnesses. The fact that some from every kindred, tongue, and people have chosen to know God and be saved in the kingdom (Revelation 7:9) is conclusive evidence that all might have chosen life and been saved. The fact that they chose not to know God is no argument that they must be given another opportunity to see if they will change their minds. Notice what is said concerning the antediluvians: "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Hebrews 11:7. Noah chose to follow God. All the antediluvians could have done the same. The Lord here says that the antediluvians are condemned because they did not repent. They made their choice, and, having decided they would not have Christ rule over them, the condemnation of God rests upon them. Are these sinful giants all to have another chance in which most of them are to repent and have their condemnation changed into approbation? God has never so stated. Having gone down into the tomb under condemnation because they rejected light, they must remain under it forever. "In the place where the tree falls, there it shall be." Ecclesiastes 11:3.

The Bible Teaching Concerning the Millennium

No discussion of the doctrine of a future probation would be complete without a consideration of Revelation 20:5, which reads as follows: "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection." This scripture stands in connection with the record of the binding of Satan during the thousand years, the millennium, and seems to have been written expressly to