

Bible Study Lectures

“IN a previous address we viewed the Bible picture of the chaotic desolation, and ruined and broken cities that will characterize this earth during the millennium. Now with the aid of the inspired Word of God, I plan to lift that long 1,000 years’ veil, and catch a glimpse of the surpassing splendor of the Edenic Paradise restored after the smoke of the purifying fires of the closing events of the millennium are cleared away for ever.”

Thus spoke Pastor Mitchell in the Naval Hall on Wednesday night, when introducing the subject of “The Final Home of the Saved.”

“Of the 450,600 words or more in the English language, one of the sweetest is ‘home.’ The ideal home—a world of anxiety shut out, and a world of Christian love shut in—is the grandest place in all the world. But in this world of sin, how few are the ideal homes! And subject to the earthly maladies of sickness, sorrow, pain, and death, how great the grief that mars even the happiest of earthly abodes!

“With my wife and family we have made many a home in different countries and cities. Some of these have been more pleasantly situated and satisfactory than others. But using the telescope of faith I see a home, in the shadows of which every residence of our present mundane sphere will eventually sink into irretrievable oblivion. That home of which I am now thinking is the final home of the saints. If you are a saint of God, and do not have a very pleasant home at present, you will certainly be interested in this better home to which you are heir.

“The first chapter of the Bible opens with the, glorious picture of this world in all Edenic beauty, unmarred by sin—the birth of a beautiful world. Isaiah tells us that it was not created in vain; ‘God formed it to be inhabited.’ Yes, on the sixth day of creative preparation, the earth was ready to be given into the care of its king and his beautiful bride. They were to have dominion over all living creatures. And the delicacies which grew upon plant and tree, except the tree which God reserved as a mark of His supreme ownership were for the free use of our first parents. They were to be ‘fruitful, and multiply,’ filling the earth with perfect, sinless beings.

“The seventh day was given as a gift of sacred rest, a weekly reminder of the glorious creation and its Creator. All was ‘very good.’ The tree of life, to perpetuate glorious eternal youth was there.

“But the next scene is a tragedy! The deed that brought old age—sin. Sin entered and death began to claim its victims. Farewell, garden of God! Farewell, tree of life! Farewell, beautiful home, land of eternal youth! ‘The wages of sin is death.’

GOD’S PLAN

“But was God’s original plan eternally frustrated? Oh, no! Behold the Lord revealing the plan of salvation even to the first sinners. Genesis 3:15 was God’s assurance that He had a plan which would defeat Satan, who had usurped authority, through man’s yielding to the temptation. Isaiah 14:27 states, ‘The Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it?’ Genesis 3:16 teaches that more would be born into the world than according to God’s original plan. Now, because of sin, the earth will finally be ‘replenished,’ or filled to the required number through the new birth, or regeneration, rather than by the natural birth. A plan was devised to save all, but all are not willing to be saved. But when the number required to ‘replenish’ the earth is made up, God’s original plan of a world filled with sinless being will be effected.

“Even the earth, now under the curse of Genesis 3:17, will be redeemed. Luke 19:10 says: ‘For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that [not only those] which was lost.’ And one of the things that man lost was his original glorious home. That indeed will be restored.

“Behold the Lord promising Abraham, the ‘father of the faithful,’ that he should inherit the whole world, north, south, east, and west. Genesis 13:14-16; Romans 4:13. And yet we read in Acts 7:2-5 of how Abraham received no ‘inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on.’ He had to purchase a piece of ground for the burial of his wife. Did the promise fail? Let us understand the promise as Abraham did. Hebrews 11:9-16 teaches that he looked for the city which answers to the description of the ‘New Jerusalem’—a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Abraham expected to receive the promise, not in this world in its present sinful condition,—but when it is renewed after the millennium. At this time Revelation 21 describes that city with its twelve foundations, descending to this earth ‘prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.’

NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

“Bible writers under the influence of the Holy Spirit tell of an ‘inheritance that shall be for ever,’ of the land where the inhabitants shall not say, ‘I am sick,’ of a country where ‘the sun shall no more go

Bible Study Lectures

down,' of a kingdom that shall 'stand for ever,' and of a 'new heaven and a new earth' that shall never pass away. Then will be fulfilled the truth of Matthew 5:5, 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.' That inheritance which will be for ever shall not be bordered on either side by cemeteries. And the inhabitants will have learned the ways of God during their millennial reign in heaven, so that at their return to this earth in its renewed state, His will may indeed be 'done on earth as it is in heaven.'

"Think of the thrills that await the faithful saints who are now blind, deaf, dumb, or crippled. For Isaiah 35:5, 6 states: 'The n the eyes of t he bli nd shall be opened, a nd t he ea rs o f t he dea f s shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.' Picture the lover of animals viewing the scene described in Isaiah 11:6, and 65:25: 'The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the Young lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, said the Lord.'

"There is something very tangible about the rewards of the saved, very different from the vague ethereal conception entertained by many. I have been asked, 'Will we know each other there?' I Corinthians 13:12 says: 'Then shall I know even as also I am known.' Isaiah 66:22-23 gives evidence of literal worshippers coming 'from one Sabbath to another' to worship before the Lord. Isaiah 65:17-25 pictures the dwellers in the 'new earth' building houses, and planting and eating the fruit of their labors. That is a picture of the rural home of the saved. But they also have a city residence just as real.

THE "NEW JERUSALEM"

"And what a city! The 'New Jerusalem,' as described in Revelation 21. It is built in a perfect square, 375 miles on each side, having an area of 10,625 square miles, or 90,000,000 acres. Its twelve foundations beautifully colored bear the names of the twelve 'apostles of the Lamb.' And the twelve gates, each composed of one pearl, are named according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 'And the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.' And all this surpassing splendor is illuminated with a brilliance eclipsing the sun. 'For the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.'

"The curse pronounced in Genesis is lifted in the last page of inspiration. Revelation 22. The tree of life is restored. The throne of God is established. Jesus will be there. 'They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads and they shall reign for ever and ever.' Revelation 21:4 says: 'And 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.'

THE "NEW EARTH"

"I will conclude with a description of the 'New Earth,' from the pen of Uriah Smith, author of the book, 'Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation.' He writes: 'I see fields smiling in living green, trees majestic in their wealth of verdure, flowers dazzling with their rainbow hues, and on neither field nor tree nor flower do I see the touch of frost or the pale hand of decay. I see no footprints of the curse, no scars of sin. I see no pestilence walking in darkness, nor destruction wasting at noonday. I see no forms distorted with pain, nor brows furrowed with anxiety and care. I see no mournful shafts telling where weary forms and sad and broken hearts have gone down in dust and darkness. I see no painful messages passing over that land, telling that a friend, a brother, a fellow laborer, has fallen beneath the cruel stroke of a relentless foe. I see no darkened room where the tide of a precious life is ebbing slowly away. I see no bosoms heaving with anguish, no badges of mourning, no funeral trains, no yawning, insatiate graves. But on the other hand I see a glorious company who bear bright palms of victory over death and the grave.'

"I see every eye sparkling with the fullness of the joy that reigns within. I see on every cheek the bloom of eternal youth and everlasting health. I see every limb lithe and strong. I see the lame man leaping as a hart. I see the blind gazing with rapture on the celestial glory. I see the deaf listening enchanted to the heavenly melody. I see the dumb joining with loud voice in the anthems of praise. I see the mother clasping to her bosom the children she had lost awhile in the land of the enemy, but now recovered for ever. I see long-parted friends meet in eternal reunion.

"I see a river so clear and pure, so charged with every element of refreshment and life that it is called "the river-of-life." I see a tree overarching all, so healing in its leaves, so vivifying in its fruits that it is called "the tree of life!" I see a great white throne, in whose effulgence there is no need of moon or sun to give us light. I hear a voice saying to that victorious company, "This is your rest for ever, and you shall no

Bible Study Lectures

more be acquainted with grief; for there shall be no more pain nor death, and sorrow and mourning have for ever fled away.”

“And in all the universe I then see no trace of sin or suffering, but I hear from every world and from every creature a joyous anthem, like the sound of many waters, going up to God; and they say, ‘Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the lamb for ever and ever!’ Surely we must be there.”

25. CHRISTIANITY’S FOUNDATION PLANK

Justification by faith; Subject that shook Europe.

A FERVENT address, evidently animated by the speaker’s conviction of its truthfulness, was delivered in the Naval Hall on Sunday night. Man’s natural condition, and the only possible way to escape the “wages of sin,” was graphically described. The speaker, Pastor Mitchell, said:

“The subject for our consideration tonight is that which is generally known in theological phraseology as ‘Justification by Faith,’ or ‘Salvation by Grace.’ Personally I always think of it as ‘the subject that shook Europe four centuries ago’; for at that time this very subject changed the whole history of Europe and the lives of millions of earth’s inhabitants, then and ever since. It is the basis of the Christian’s hope, and the foundation platform of Christianity.

SEARCHING FOR THE LOST

“When we use the term, ‘salvation,’ it immediately implies that those in need of such are lost. Have you ever been lost in a forest? Think of the feeling of doom that would overwhelm you. And how it stirs our souls to hear of one that is lost. Dozens, scores, hundreds, if need be, volunteer for the search. In the Australian bush many have searched for hours or days as the case may be, for someone that was lost.

“In New Zealand there are times when one becomes lost in the snow that covers the ranges. I have before me newspaper photos showing a party of men searching for the body of a college student who was swept to his death by an avalanche of snow not many miles from the metropolitan city of the South Island. Days of time were spent, and hundreds of tons of snow were shoveled, for the sake of recovering the lost body.

“Back in 1929, when air pilots Smith and Ulm were lost in the interior of Australia, noble-hearted rescuers set out in planes, some even forgetting to take adequate supplies of food and water for themselves. I was in New Zealand at that time, and read columns concerning the incident. Here is part of a report from a New Zealand newspaper: ‘From Ulm’s diary: ‘Friday, April 12, 9:50 AM. Saved!

Captain Holden’s Canberra appears from the south-east-God! It’s all too wonderful! Food! Smithy and Litch rushed down from Darlinghurst Hill with tears in their eyes and giving whoops of joy-Holden returned to Wyndham, dropping a message that he would come again with more food. God bless him! God bless everybody!’”

“What I want you to notice particularly, however, is the following statement published in the same paper: ‘Not since the Armistice has any item of news stirred Australia as did the brief announcement that the Southern Cross was found on Friday.’ Yes, as a duty, we search for the lost, and rejoice in their salvation.

“In the midst of a storm that shrieked like a band of demons, a life-saving crew succeeded in saving all but one from a sailing ship which had been wrecked on the rocky coast of Scotland. After pulling ashore, one strong man said, ‘If another will go with me, I will go and get that man on the wreck.’ His mother restrained him. She reminded him that his father had been a sailor, and was lost in just such a storm., ‘And eight years ago,’ she said, ‘your brother William went to sea, and we have not heard of him since. No doubt he ‘too, has found a watery grave. You are my only support, you must not go.’

“But gently removing her arms from around his neck, he said, ‘Mother, out there a man is in peril. I believe it is my duty to rescue the man clinging to yonder wreck. If I am lost in doing my duty, God will take care of you.’ Then, after kissing her, he with his companion pulled the boat through the storm to the wreck. For those on shore a long and anxious wait followed. Finally through the mist and gathering darkness, they saw the boat returning. ‘Have you got the other man?’ they shouted. The noble, unselfish