

GOD'S KINGDOM

NO COMMON LEVEL THERE

"As Star Differeth From Star." "Greatest and Least in the Kingdom"

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S HUMBLE POSITION



Berlin, Germany, March 26—Pastor Russell delivered three addresses here today—one of them to the Jews on "Zionism in Prophecy," another on "Hereafter" and the third, which we report, from the text, "Of those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist, but the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he" (Luke vii, 28). Large and interested audiences attended. He leaves tonight for Copenhagen and Stockholm. Crowds of Jews are reported to have heard him during the last three days in Vienna, Budapest, Lemberg and Krakow.

There can be no better illustration of the sharp line of distinction between the earthly and the heavenly classes and their calling than is shown by our text, said Pastor Russell. The great Teacher freely attested to the loyalty and courage and saintliness of His cousin John, as evidenced by the words of our text. But if so great and honorable a prophet, why could not John be a member of the Bride class? Why could he not be numbered with the disciples of Jesus and be an Apostle, or at least a footstep follower? The answer is that he was not called to the heavenly plane, but to the earthly. He was honored of God in being made one of the Prophets of the Jewish Age—the last of them. Although a different honor from that conferred upon the Apostles, John's was a great honor and we have reason to believe that, under Divine providence when perfected in the resurrection, he will appreciate the earthly blessings and privileges which will be his, more than the spiritual and heavenly privileges bestowed upon the Apostles and the less prominent members of the Church.

"The Lord will choose our inheritance for us," we read (Psalm xlvii, 4). Happy are those who repose implicit confidence in Divine goodness and who seek to obtain whatever may be God's choice for them. If we have been called with the heavenly calling, let us not shrink back and declare ourselves unworthy and decline to accept the favors of God and to choose an inferior position. Let us, rather, be glad to say, "Thy will be done in my heart, in my life, in all my future." "Order Thy steps in Thy Word."

A Friend of the Bridegroom.
Jesus had a two-fold mission:—
(1) He came "that the world through Him might be saved"—that He might give Himself "a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (I Timothy ii, 6).
(2) Incidentally His mission was to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord—the time in which God is willing to accept the sacrifices of such as desire to walk in the Redeemer's footsteps, and to constitute these the Bride and Joint-heir of Messiah.

John the Baptist referred to the latter feature of our Lord's work, saying, "He that hath the Bride is the Bridegroom, but the friend of the Bridegroom heareth His voice and rejoiceth greatly. This, my joy, therefore, is fulfilled (John iii, 29). It was not for him to be a member of the Bride, but to be a friend of the Bridegroom. As our Lord's forerunner he announced the Bridegroom; he called upon the nation of Israel to turn from sin, to purify their hearts, to come back into harmony with God and thus to be prepared to receive the Bridegroom and to become the Bride. So far as the nation was concerned John's mission was a failure, as God had foreknown and foretold. But so far as the Bride class was concerned John's mission was a success, for, as the Scriptures intimate, those who believed and His testimony accepted Jesus and He accepted them.

Greatest in the Kingdom.
We must remember that the Church is the Kingdom of God—now in a formative or embryonic state, but in the end, by "the resurrection," to be spirit beings and partakers with Jesus, their Bridegroom, in His wonderful glory, honor, immortality and Kingdom work. This Kingdom class is not reigning now, but merely forming. It is joined "in probation" after the Methodist style. If the probationary period of the present life be faithfully used, the full induction into the Kingdom, its glories, honors and immortality, will surely follow—by participation in the First Resurrection.

closest in position to the Master we would suppose that St. Paul would be first, with St. John, St. Peter and St. James near by in glorious excellence. And yet we know not how nearly up to the Apostolic standard some may be who have lived very humble and obscure lives, have fought a good fight and finished their course with joy. Indeed, the twelve Apostles seem to occupy, by Divine decision in advance, the very highest stations in the Kingdom, next to that of the Redeemer, Who said of them, "Ye who have followed Me, in the regeneration shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew xix, 28). Again, they are pictured to us as the "crown of twelve stars" to the Church (Revelation xii, 1), and yet again they are pictured to us as the twelve precious foundation stones of the Church in her future glory, as the New Jerusalem (Revelation xxi, 14).

Those called of God to this high salvation, as members of the spiritual Kingdom which shall bless natural Israel and through her all the nations, are required to demonstrate their loyalty to God by faithfulness even unto death—in the narrow way of self-sacrifice. As there is no other Name than that of Jesus whereby any may be saved to eternal life, so, likewise, there is no other path whereby any may reach the Kingdom except the narrow way, "and few there be that find it." All who attain to the Kingdom must be overcomers of the world to the extent of self-sacrifice. The gradations of glory will be because of special manifestations of zeal for the Lord and His cause of righteousness and Truth against sin and error.

A Lesser Spiritual Salvation.
The Scriptures clearly show another class in process of salvation during this Gospel Age, quite separate and distinct from the Bride class. These are referred to in various parts of the Scriptures. They will all be loyal, to the extent that they would not deny the Lord nor wilfully practise sin. Their failure to reach the status of the Bride is indicated in an insufficiency of zeal in connection with their loyalty. This class is described in Revelation vii, 14. They are represented as having failed to keep their garments unspotted from the world—failed to live circumspectly, carefully enough.

Hence in a great time of trouble in the end of this Age these are represented as washing their robes and making them white in the blood of the Lamb and then coming up through that tribulation to glory and honor, but not to immortality, not to the same degree of glory and honor as the Church, the Bride. The distinction in their glory is indicated in that instead of being in the Throne they are before it; instead of being the Bride, they will serve; instead of wearing the crown, they will bear palm branches; instead of being the Temple, they will be servants in the Temple.

This same class is referred to by the Apostle in his declaration respecting the end of this Age. He intimates that some will have an abundant entrance (II Peter i, 11) into the Kingdom, while others will be "saved so as by fire" (I Corinthians iii, 15). The fire of this Day will test every man's work of what sort it is. Some will be proved to be gold, silver, precious stones. These the "fire" will not consume. Others will be proved to be an admixture of hay and stubble, which will be consumed, though themselves will be saved from the fire (I Corinthians iii, 12, 13).

The tribe of Levi pictured the entire "Church of the First-born," but it contained two classes—the "little flock" of priests and the "great company" of Levites—the Bride class and the servant class, none of whom have any inheritance in the earth, all of whom have the heavenly inheritance.

sent disloyalty to God, but they surely do always represent slackness or inattention to the Divine message; though we may be sure of the Lord's faithfulness in enlightening all who are of the proper, teachable spirit.

John the Baptist's Class.
To what class does John the Baptist belong, and what will be his share in the Kingdom, according to our text?

Since the call of God began with the call of the Church, and since the Church began at the First Advent of Jesus, it follows that no one was called of God to salvation prior to Jesus' time—none for forty-one hundred and fifty years after sin entered the world.

God did, however, recognize the loyalty of heart of His Prophet Enoch and commended with him and blessed him, etc. God also recognized Abraham's faith and spirit of obedience, and Isaac's and Jacob's, and that of Moses and Aaron and numerous prophets and other faithful ones less notable. Did he not call these? We answer that he did not call them to salvation, for no salvation could be positively offered until the Redeemer had sacrificed; nor were they called to the Kingdom, for the same reason. God did tell them that in due time He would bless all the world. He did tell them that in due time the great Ruler of the world would come forth from Abraham's posterity in the line of Isaac and Jacob and the nation of Israel. But telling them of a coming blessing and giving them eternal life are different matters. St. Paul declares that none of them got everlasting life, and that "by the deeds of the Law no flesh can be justified before God."

Israel's Law Covenant served to instruct the Chosen People. It was a call to do right, and a promise of eternal life if they would keep the Law. "He that doeth these things shall live." Israel learned the lesson that a perfect Law could not be kept by imperfect beings. Some of them and some of the Gentiles in due time heard of Jesus and how God has provided justification through His sacrificial death.

God Provides Some Better Thing For the Church Than For Ancient Worthies.

St. Paul tells us the status of those noble characters, of whom John the Baptist was the last. They were volunteer servants of God, so to speak. Those of them who were born under the Law Covenant, by their faith lived above it and will be fully rewarded, although they lived before any specific call or offer of eternal life was made. Their faith and obedience were pleasing to God; as St. Paul relates, "All these died in faith, not having received the things promised (them), God having provided some better thing for us (the Gospel Church), that they without us should not be made perfect" (Hebrews xi, 13, 40).

"The Church of the First-born" is to be perfected first, and on the spirit plane, "partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter i, 4). In due time those Ancient Worthies will come forth from the tomb to receive the blessing which God declares shall be the reward of their loyalty. As the Church will have the "better resurrection" on the spirit plane, so those Ancient Worthies will have the "better resurrection" on the earthly plane. They will come forth from the tomb actually perfect, while the remainder of mankind will be obliged to attain perfection by the slow process of faith, works, obedience, during the thousand years of the Kingdom.

Ancient Worthies Will Be Princes In All the Earth.
Moreover, those Ancient Worthies, while not members of the Kingdom, per se, which will be spiritual, will be members of that Kingdom in its earthly phase. They will be the Kingdom's earthly representatives, princes or rulers, in all the earth, as the Scriptures declare (Psalm xiv, 16). We remember the words of Jesus to this effect: "Ye shall see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the Prophets in the Kingdom," but He said not a word about Himself or His disciples being seen; properly so, because they, as spirit beings, will be invisible to men.

The Scriptures still further intimate that during the thousand years of Messiah's reign, all the faithful of mankind, all the obedient, will be privileged to come into relationship with the King. This is figuratively represented in the statement that the great ones of earth "will bring their glory and honor into the New Jerusalem."

With such glorious hopes before us, with such appreciation of our Heavenly Father's glorious character and wonderful Plan, with such a grand view of our Savior's work, with such a hope of a share with Him in His Kingdom, what manner of persons ought we to be in holy living and godliness? Nor should it be thought strange that any of the spirit-begotten now, or the restored of the future, who would turn their backs upon the gracious provisions made for their salvation, would be considered unworthy of further favor or blessing at the hands of God and would die the Second Death—annihilation. As Paul says "they shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power" (II Thessalonians i, 9).

Soon the disciples of the Master will be one with Him beyond the veil, sharers of His glory and Kingdom. Then will come the time when the world will believe. The knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth and all the blinding and stumbling influences of the present will be at an end. The Savior will then exercise His power on behalf of the world, overthrowing evil and uplifting every good principle and all who love righteousness, and destroying those who would corrupt the earth.

TERRIBLE PICTURE OF SUFFERING.

Clinton, Ky.—Mrs. M. C. McElroy, in a letter from Clinton, writes: "For six years, I was a sufferer from fe-

male troubles. I could not eat, and could not stand on my feet, without suffering great pain. Three of the best doctors in the state said I was in a critical condition, and going down hill. I lost hope. After using Cardui a week, I began to improve.

Now I feel better than in six years." Fifty years of success, in actual practice, is positive proof that Cardui can always be relied on, for relieving female weakness and disease. Why not test it for yourself? Sold by all druggists.

Children Cry for Fletcher's CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of Dr. J. C. Fletcher, and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS Bears the Signature of

The Kind You Have Always Bought

In Use For Over 30 Years
THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 77 MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH HOME

IT IS wonderful how much satisfaction can be obtained from a talk over the Bell Telephone.

A letter carries words, but the Bell Service has been brought up to such a point of perfection that the modulations of the voice are clearly heard.

The cheery tones show that the talker is well and in good spirits. The call may come from a suburban village or a distant city, but within the limits of the carrying power of the voice the Bell Service carries the tone as well. You get a personal interview with a friend hundreds of miles away.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Every Bell Telephone is the Center of the System.

OUR PRIME RIB ROAST

Doesn't have to be ticketed as such. As a good housekeeper, you'll know it the minute you see it and know it still better when it appears on your table. Try one for Sunday dinner. We warrant there isn't a single member of the family who will not ask for a second helping.

E. C. CROSS & SON

Phone 1880

Pianos and Organs

from the cheapest to the best sold on installments and rented.

GEO. C. WILL

Edison, Victor and Columbia Talking Machines

A full stock of Records.

GEO. C. WILL

Sewing Machines

Genuine needles, oil and new parts for all sewing machines. Sewing machines rented.

GEO. C. WILL

Latest Sheet Music

Piano and Organ Studies. Violins, Guitars, Mandolins and Banjos.

GEO. C. WILL

SOUTH SALEM MARKET PLACE

POISAL & SHAW

General Grocery Store

We also carry a full line of cigars, tobacco, candy, paints, drugs and stamps. Phone 763

Capital Business College

Money and time invested in a training here, insures the possessor of substantial dividends throughout life. We take a personal interest in the welfare of each student. Living expenses low. Send for catalogue.

W. I. STALEY, PRINCIPAL SALEM, OREGON

The Bosom Sets Flat

The stud button holes exactly meet, the neck band does not bulge on your neck; button holes exactly meet buttons, no bulging front, in fact a perfect fit if we launder your shirts. It is done with our new STEAM PRESSES, which do not rub or burn the fibre, but MOULD the cuts, neck band and bosom to a PERFECT SHAPE. Try the new work. Visitors welcome.

Salem Steam Laundry

136-166 South Liberty Street Phone 25

SOME people ride the bicycle, AND some in autos course LIFE is full of mixed desire. ERECT then what you most admire MY choice remains the horse. BUT when in search of pure delight, EFFERVESCENT, clear and bright EVERYONE can read the cheer RIGHT in these printed verses here

Salem's most popular restaurant

THE WHITE HOUSE

We cater to the public who demand a good meal for a small price.

Wm. McGilchrist & Sons.

Gold Dust Flour

Made by the SYDNEY POWER COMPANY, Sydney, Oregon. Made for Family Use.

Ask your grocer for it. Brand and shorts always on hand.

P. B. WALLACE, Agt.

Special Excursion Rates East.

The Oregon Electric Railway Company

Will sell at the following round trip rates on the dates as stated below, to

Boston, Mass. \$111.00	Kansas City, Mo. \$61.00
Baltimore, Md. 109.10	Milwaukee, Wisc. 74.10
New York, N. Y. 110.10	Minneapolis, Minn. 61.00
Philadelphia, Pa. 110.10	St. Louis, Mo. 71.00
Washington, D. C. 109.10	St. Paul, Minn. 61.00
Chicago, Ills. 74.10	Denver, Colorado
Council Bluffs, Ia. 61.00	Springs and Pueblo 56.00

And various other Eastern points.

DATES OF SALE

May 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29.
June 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 21, 21, 28, 29, 30.
July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28.
August 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30.
September 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Tickets to Colorado Springs, Denver and Pueblo, Colorado, will also be sold at same rates on October 12, 13, 14.
Atlantic City, N. J., \$104.00. Tickets sold May 12, 13; June 28, 29, 30, and July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Going trip to be commenced on date of sale and destination reached within 15 days. Final return limit, October 31st, 1911.

For further information call on or address

W. E. COMAN, G. F. P. A. or C. E. ALBIN, Gen'l Agent.
Railway Exchange Bldg. Mill and High Sts.
Portland, Ore. Salem, Ore.