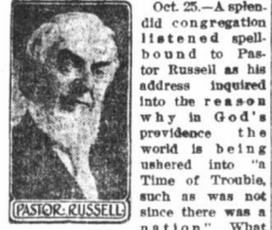


WHY GOD IS ANGRY WITH THE WORLD Exposition of the Justice of the Day of Vengeance.

"THE CONTROVERSY OF ZION"

Explains How Jehovah Balances the Books—Wrong Thoughts of God's Wrath—Preparations for the New Dispensation of World-Wide Blessings to Both the Church and the World—Terrible Fruitage Now of False Doctrines Taught For Centuries



Oct. 25.—A splendid congregation listened spell-bound to Pastor Russell as his address inquired into the reason why in God's providence the world is being ushered into "a Time of Trouble, such as was not since there was a nation."

Only Jews, Gentiles and Saints. The Pastor declared that the whole world are Gentiles, according to the Scriptural presentation, except the true followers of Christ and the loyal-hearted Jews, who are still God's people under their Law Covenant.

But the sin of their persecutors must be liquidated, even though the persecutors themselves will all eventually be forgiven. From this viewpoint, the "Time of Trouble such as was not since there was a nation," and which is now beginning gradually to be consummated, will be the squaring of God's accounts with the world, preparatory to handing the Kingdom over to Messiah for the blessing of all.

Thus seen, God is not merely calling nations to war, to battle, as nations; but in a more particular sense the call is to this Gentile class irrespective of national boundaries. And it is worthy of note that throughout the Scriptures the great masses of India, China, etc., are comparatively ignored.

Wrong Thoughts of God's Wrath. When thinking of the wrath of God coming upon the world, we are not to think of the Almighty as having exercised great patience for centuries and finally losing His temper and wreaking vengeance upon His creatures.

In any event let us remember that this wrath of God and the judgments coming upon the world are wholly different from the legends—namely, eternal torture at the hands of demons, taught us by our creeds. Instinctively, a part of the dread we have of death in every form—by war, famine and sickness—is the fear of that eternal torture nightmare thrust upon us from childhood, inculcated by all the creeds of Christendom, but without Bible foundation when the latter is properly translated and rightly understood.

Furthermore, we should remember that while God has foretold the troubles of the Day of Wrath for centuries and indicates that He will have to do with their precipitation upon the world, nevertheless elsewhere He also shows us that these troubles really come from ourselves, that they are the outgrowth of human wrongdoing, and that these dire penalties of sin would have wrecked our social and religious fabric long ago, had not Divine Providence forbidden us holding back the storm of human passion and avarice, and permitting it to come only now, in the end of the Age, at the time when Divine Providence has Messiah's Kingdom in full readiness to take control. Just so soon as the storm of human passion shall have taken humanity its needed lesson and shall have liquidated the long standing accounts, Messiah's Kingdom, with a clean slate, will be inaugurated.

Accounts Yet to Be Squared. In Jesus and in His saintly followers throughout this Gospel Age, the world has had God's Cause, the Cause of Righteousness and truth, more or less clearly manifested. Every persecution against these members of the Body of Christ is a crime against God and against righteousness. Of such

sufferings the Apostle says, "If any suffer as a Christian, let him glorify God on this behalf; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth on such." As a blessing rested upon all the Lord's faithful people who have suffered unjustly, so correspondingly a Divine curse, or penalty, has rested upon all persecutors of these, their responsibility being gauged by the degree of their knowledge, and their punishment proportionate. On the books of Justice, however, God represents that the lives of all His faithful ones cry out for vengeance; and that while mercy comes to all mankind through the sacrificial death of the Saviour, this does not alter the fact that Justice calls for punishments for crimes more or less willful and therefore not included in the Saviour's atonement.

Thus it was in the end of the Jewish Age, which may serve us as a pattern, or illustration of the ending of this Age. St. Paul, writing of that time, says, "Wrath is come upon this people to the uttermost, that all things written in the Law and the Prophets concerning them should be fulfilled." Notice, however, the vast difference between these Bible judgments and the eternal torment judgments falsely declared by every one of our creeds, which indirectly tell us that every Jew at death goes to eternal torment because he is not a Christian.

But the Scriptures declare that the punishments upon the Jews which culminated in the destruction of Jerusalem in A. D. 70 were, some of them, for sins committed long before. Notice Jesus' words, "The blood of all the Prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, shall be required of this generation; from the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, who perished between the Altar and the Temple."—Luke 11:50, 51.

Wherein was the justice in exacting all that of the people living in the close of that Age? We reply that those people had far more responsibility than all who preceded them. They had a great light amongst them, shining from Jesus and the early saints. In their treatment of these lightbearers, crucifying them and variously injuring them, upon that last generation of the Jewish Age "wrath came to the uttermost."

"The Recompense of Zion." The Bible intimates that similar aggregations of punishment are to be expected in the end of this Gospel Age. The great Time of Trouble, or Day of Wrath, is the "recompense of the controversy of Zion"—the saints, the true Church. For eighteen hundred years Jesus has prophesied that the Kingdom class would suffer violence; and the violent have usurped the place of the true by force.

All the while, the violent have outwardly been posing as the True Church of Christ, while the saints of God in every epoch and in every century have suffered—"as deceivers and yet true; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing all things." (2 Corinthians 6:8-10.) "Heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17), they have been counted "the filth and offscouring of the earth," "of whom the world was not worthy."

But the sin of their persecutors must be liquidated, even though the persecutors themselves will all eventually be forgiven. From this viewpoint, the "Time of Trouble such as was not since there was a nation," and which is now beginning gradually to be consummated, will be the squaring of God's accounts with the world, preparatory to handing the Kingdom over to Messiah for the blessing of all.

As illustrative of this principle, note the lesson of Revelation 6:9-11: The cry is, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" The message for all these martyrs of Jesus was, Wait a little season, the vengeance will come, but not until all of this class shall have experienced their share of "the sufferings of Christ."

To these martyrs the suffering brought peltings of character, testings of faith, Divine approval and an increased glory on the spirit plane as members of the Bride of Christ—the blessings to be given to them in the First Resurrection—the chief Resurrection, referred to by our Lord in Revelation 20:6. Then will be accomplished the binding of Satan; and then Messiah's Kingdom, with all its blessed and uplifting influences, will bless the whole world with the long-promised "Restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all the holy Prophets since the world began."—Acts 3:19-23.

Modern Persecutions Differ. We do not say that the persecutions of the last members of the Body of Christ will be by literally cutting their tongues out, by literally burning them at the stake, by literally crucifying them or beheading them, as was done with some of the other members of the Body in the past. In our day there is a more refined process often used. Some are gibbeted by the pulpits, some are "ronsted" in the public press, some have their tongues cut out in the sense that their words are misrepresented, and that they are denied a hearing. And yet there are things in the Scriptures which seem to imply that there may be a literal assassination and destruction of God's faithful people in the end of this Age, as well as a figurative one. But the Lord's grace will be sufficient for them; and the more they shall suffer for His sake, for the Truth's sake, the greater will be their glory and station in the Kingdom.

structed, and willing to do avoid its foretold destruction. Hypocrisy the Greatest of All Sins. Taking into account the persecutions endured by God's saints throughout this Gospel Age, there must be a heavy account on the book of Justice to be settled. Sincerely Catholics, saintly Presbyterians, saintly Baptists, saintly Methodists, saintly people in and out of all denominations have suffered; and Jesus' words still stand true—namely, that whoever would give to the least of His followers even a cup of cold water would not fail of reward, and that injury to even the least of these would be punished.

Are we asked what are the special sins of our day? We reply that here, as in Jesus' day, hypocrisy is the greatest of all sins. There were thefts, murders, adulteries, and injustices of various kinds in Jesus' day; yet while denouncing all these in spirit, He practically ignored them all in His denunciations of the hypocrisy of the religious rulers of His time. We believe that His judgment of so-called "Christendom" today is the same.

There was a time when the world ignorantly thought that the kings of earth were ruling as part of Christ's Kingdom. There was a time when men really believed that their everlasting destiny was in the hands of the clergy, Protestant and Catholic, and that unless they had the good offices of these in baptism, marriage, funerals, &c., they would be eternally tormented; but that day has passed—a more enlightened day has come.

Our Bible is better understood; the clergy are no longer deceived. They know that the word Sheol of the Old Testament and the word Hades of the New Testament represent the state or condition of death, into which the whole world goes—good and bad. They know that these words could not represent torture or fire in any sense of the word. They see God's character more clearly; they perceive that the kingdoms of this world are merely political institutions permitted for a time, waiting for the glorious epoch of Messiah's Kingdom to bring in the New Order of things.

But notwithstanding this knowledge, the Divine character is still blasphemed. The kings of the earth, told during the "dark ages" that they were the sword of the Lord and servants of the Church, have not been undeceived. Hence the Czar of Russia, the Head of the Greek Church, believes he is working out a Divine destiny; the British under King George are equally convinced that they are working out a great destiny as God's Kingdom. The German Kaiser is similarly deceived into thinking that he is the sword of the Almighty, as indicated in his reported proclamation to his army in Poland.

These false doctrines of the "dark ages" are bearing a terrible fruitage in the present war. Similarly the teachings of eternal torment, misrepresentation and blaspheming God's character, are bearing an evil fruitage. Millions of people are being turned away from faith in a God of Love and from faith in the Bible as His Message by the most monstrous blasphemies of the "dark ages." I charge the responsibility of all this against the sects and creeds of Christendom.

A great fraud, a great hypocrisy, you say? I answer, Yes; the most astounding the world has ever known. Two hundred thousand professed ministers of God and Christ are standing before the world today telling the legends of the Dark Ages and seeking to hinder the people from coming to a knowledge of the Truth, meanwhile receiving the people's money and reverence. Does not such hypocrisy, such blasphemy against God, such deception of the people, such keeping of them in darkness, deserve a great punishment?

What shall we do, do you ask? I answer, Be honest! Be true! Come out of Babylon. Stand free from all such slandering of the Almighty God and His gracious provisions. Stand for the Bible, the Truth, the God of Love and Wisdom, Justice and Power. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

The forecast of the present distress of nations is graphically set forth in the volume, "The Battle of Armageddon," cloth, 960 pages, written in 1897 by Pastor Russell. This coupon with 25c. will secure to you this valuable book post free. Its chapter expounding the 24th Chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel is worth many times the price of the volume. Address, International Bible Students Association, 17 Hicks street, Brooklyn, N. Y., and principal bookstores.

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Associated Press Letters From the War Zone

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 12.—While a dramatic story of the escape of Durbar II, winner of this year's Derby, from German hands has already been circulated by the press, its circumstances do not at all agree with those vouched for by Edward Johnson, the head trainer of H. P. Duryea's stable at Chantilly, near Paris. Instead of Durbar being spared because he wore an American flag with the words "Shoot me not" across his breast, the trainer, who is now in London, says the Germans never saw Durbar, nor did they see his champion, Stanton, and the two American colored men in charge. The reason of their escape, he explains, was that during the German raid the two horses were hidden in a shed on a peasant's farm while the two negroes lay in a protecting haystack.

For ten days a dien nights the negroes lay in fear of the Germans. By a mistake in the road, they had led the invaders into territory occupied by the protection of the peasant, who told the hostlers that if captured by the Germans they would be mistaken for the heated Turcos of Algeria, who had been distinguishing themselves with the bayonet work. Hence the pair would be tried by a drumhead court and shot dead. The peasant promised to look after the horses and to bring food to the hiders. During the ten days Uhlans rode by frequently but they did not discover the raiders or their guardians.

When news first came to Paris that the Germans were sweeping south, Mr. Duryea, as an American citizen, obtained permission from the French government to send his stock to his stud farm in Normandy. But Durbar and Stanton were unequal to the trip, as their legs had been fired and badly swollen. They were left with the two negroes to follow up a' leisure. Not knowing the roads, the negroes went north instead of west. It was their unexplained absence that led Duryea to think the Germans had made a capture.

Durbar will never race again. His legs have given away, although improved by the fire treatment. But his value has not decreased on this account, as he may be the sire of future Derby winners.

London, Oct. 19.—Refugees have been telling the American Relief committee queer tales of pretended relief workers operating in Holland. Most of these pretenders are steamship and hotel agents working on commission, who circulate among the incoming trains with badges on their sleeves. Some of them warned passengers that rooms were unobtainable at Rotterdam and advised Amsterdam for a reason overheard by one of the refugees.

"What do you mean by telling these people they can't get rooms in Rotterdam," asked one agent angrily of another. "We want some of the business, too," responded the Amsterdam man. An American lady complained of giving an endorsed check for twenty pounds to an American stranger who treated her gallantly in Germany. Since he was going ahead of the party, he volunteered to draw the money in London, and send her the rest after paying six pounds to a friend in London.

Celia Coleman, Negro Maid of the Carman, Swore Mrs. Carman Admitted Killing Mrs. Bailey



This is Celia Coleman, chief witness in the prosecution in the sensational murder trial at Mineola, L. I. of Mrs. Florence Carman for the murder of Mrs. Bailey last June. The Coleman girl has been held under cover by the district attorney for months, and it was not believed she would say anything damaging to Mrs. Carman. But on the stand she said Mrs. Carman showed her the pistol after the shooting, and said the next day she was sorry she had shot Mrs. Bailey.

Coming to Fargo, Nov. 1 Orpheum Theatre "From Molten Steel to Automobile" THE \$40,000-5 REEL FEATURE FILM SENSATION The Big Theatrical Motion Picture Entertainment and Exhibition produced and presented by the Maxwell Motor Co. Free Tickets Upon Application. Ball Auto Co. Fargo

Ask any man who's smoked Tom Moores these past 20 years. (And such men aren't hard to find). He'll tell you that their full, mild flavor has never varied. He'll tell you that one shape has the same aroma as all the rest. He'll tell you that Little Tom has all the good qualities of his big brother. No cigar like the mild Tom Moore for dependability. TOM MOORE CIGAR 10¢ LITTLE TOM 5¢

knife, C. J. Diebold; yellow flint, watch for Miller Drug Co.; yellow dent, pair of gloves, B. Pederson; northwestern dent, one year's subscription to Balfour Messenger, Delia; white Soo R. R. corn, a meat saw, by N. C. Billie; exhibit of fruit, a box of apples, by C. Coney; potato prize, one halberd, by Balfour Harness shop; longest alfalfa root, as prize a fire extinguisher by J. Marsh; largest head cabbage, one bushel marquis wheat, by E. W. Melnhardt. We hope to make this one of the biggest days in the history of our town. Mrs. C. Neuhberg will entertain the W. C. T. U. Oct. 27. Mr. and Mrs. Gould and Mr. and Mrs. Lombard and families are attending the exposition at Bismarck. Rev. Mr. Wyand has accepted a charge at Perth for next year. Mr. Wyand has the best wishes of the people here. Mrs. Johnson entertained the Ladies' Aid Wednesday and there were present over forty ladies. Mrs. Hammer, our milliner, has an excellent supply of millinery on hand. The piano contest will close Oct. 31. On that day N. B. Anderson will give a fine piano to the person having the largest number of votes. Five other prizes will be given at that time, four ladies' watches and a toilet set. Owing to the absence from town of both our city doctors, Dr. Coffin was called here this week. Cor. B.

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