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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." What special sins call upon Justice for extraordinary penalty? The Pastor's text was, "And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come."—Revelation 11:18.

After some introductory comments upon his text, the speaker read a number of corroborative Scriptures—Isaiah 63:1-6; Jeremiah 25:15, 16, 27-38; Isaiah 68:15, 16; Luke 21:24, 25; Revelation 6:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10. Commenting on these Scriptures, the Pastor claimed that their united testimony referred to the present, mistranslated end of the world; properly interpreted, the end of this Age, lapsing upon and inaugurating the New Age—"the world to come."

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. In classing the great mass of Jews and of professed Christians as part of the world the Pastor meant no unkindness; but declared that to understand God's dealing in the present time, nominal Christians, or mere professors, must not be confounded with the "little flock" who have responded to the Gospel Call, "Gather My saints together unto me; those who have made a Covenant with Me by sacrifice"—self-sacrifice. (Psalm 50:5; Romans 12:1.) If we shall recognize these saints Christians of every nation and denomination as being the one true Church, "whose names are written in Heaven," and if we shall recognize all others as Gentiles, we shall be getting the eyes of our understanding into true alignment with the mind of God as expressed in the Bible.

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. Because they have not come into personal contact with God's Messiahs they are not so particularly included in the judgments, chastisements, troubles, foretold to be coming upon the earth at the close of this Age. In other words, unintentional ignorance of God is not a crime to be punished, but a defect to be corrected in due time by the blessings of Messiah's Kingdom.

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. Such a thought might be gathered from some of the expressions of the Scriptures, because of adaptation of language to human comprehension, and more or less loss of the true sentiment in translating and through the mental gloss of the translators.

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 the 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, 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 to full reality

ness to take control. Just so soon as the storm of human passion shall have taught 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 awful 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 Recompenses 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 has Jesus prophetically declared 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 polishings 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 his 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 gibetted by the pulpit, some are "roasted" 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.

Who shall be punished for these crimes against the Saints of God? We answer, Babylon; and Babylon signifies what is today known as "the Christian world"—a very anomalous term; for the world has no identification with Christianity nor Christianity with the world. The so-called "Christendom" of our day corresponds exactly to the Jewry of Jesus' day. Then Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, were banded together with the Sadducees and the Herodians, the worldly and infidel politicians. Their object was one, namely, the perpetuation of their own institution, regardless of God's arrangement. So here, the civilized world, misnaming itself "Christ's Kingdom," is intent upon the preservation of the great Babylon which it has constructed, and willing to do anything to 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. Saintly 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 whosoever would give to the least of His followers even a cup of cold water would not fall 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 ever-lasting destiny was in the hands of the clergy, Protestant and Catholic, and that unless they had the good offices of these in their 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 their own souls could not be rescued from the 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, misrepresenting 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."

Not To Be Trusted.

The party which has made such a conspicuous failure in National affairs by curtailing the revenues through an industry-destroying tariff, and by increasing expenses when economy was needed, thus causing the imposition of a war tax of the hundred millions in times of peace, is not the kind of a party to trust with the management of this country. Vote for Carrington and Zihlman.—Oakland Republican.

TO OUR PATRONS

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

WING to the fact that The Spirit is this week being moved from the Hohing, Lapp & Spier building on Mechanic street, to larger and better quarters in the Frostburg Opera House building on East Union street, we find it impossible, with our plant partly dismantled, to get out this issue in its regular size—eight pages. A 4-page paper is the very best we can give our patrons this week, and we may not be able to get out a larger paper than that next week. In fact, we are not sure whether we will be able to get out a paper at all next week. It all depends on whether we can get our plant installed and in proper running order within the proper time to enable us to do so.

However, we shall do our best to make the move without missing an issue, but we ask our patrons to bear with us and excuse all shortcomings in the size of the paper and amount of news in its columns until we have everything properly installed in our new quarters, where we will be much better equipped for carrying on the job printing and newspaper business than we are in our present quarters.

Furthermore, we intend to more than make good any shortcomings occasioned by our moving, a little later, as we will get out a very artistic 12-page Christmas edition, with a handsome lithographed cover of very artistic design. The Christmas edition will be far the most handsome and artistic newspaper publication ever gotten out in Western Maryland. It will be a publication so handsome and interesting that all who get a copy of it will retain it as a souvenir.

Another Important Announcement

We take pleasure in stating to the people of Frostburg that there is now a splendid prospect to have an exceptionally good semi-weekly or a daily newspaper in this town within a year after we get into our new quarters, as we have succeeded in getting people of wide newspaper experience and ample capital interested in the project who are willing to take over our entire plant and business, if the business makes the good showing in the next six or eight months that we have reason to believe we can bring it to.

Now then, if the business people of Frostburg will do their part toward having The Spirit converted into a good semi-weekly or daily newspaper, under a management that will have ample capital and every facility to achieve a splendid success, this is their opportunity, and we will do all we can to help the good cause along. But remember, fellow-citizens, that neither a semi-weekly nor a daily paper can be secured for this town on wind, and neither can capital be induced to go into such a venture unless capital is met at least half way with substantial evidences of a patronage that will bring fair returns on the investment.

The Spirit is here to stay, mark that, no matter what a few croakers, mossbacks and knoekers may tell you. The Spirit is here to stay, regardless of their threats or their knocks. It may not continue under the present ownership and management, as we have overtures now for the purchase of our plant and business, and we'll sell anything we have if we can get our price. But The Spirit is not for sale at a sacrifice, as we have made more than a living out of it thus far, in spite of many handicaps, such as poor health, etc., during a large portion of the last year, and our business is growing right along, thanks to our many good friends and patrons. We could have sold out ere this, had we been so minded, but we have no desire to sell now, unless the details can be arranged with the projectors of the larger scheme, and our business developments during the next six months will determine whether the proposed deal will go through or not.

Our Last Word

Our last word to our patrons at this time is an urgent request for all of them who have not yet done so, to cash up on subscription and keep same paid in advance, which is to their interest as well as ours. We also want them to bear our new location in mind, the room in the Frostburg Opera House building that was recently vacated by the Cumberland & Westernport Electric Railway Company.

DRASTIC LEGISLATION FAVORED BY CATHOLICS

They are Hard After Booze and the Drinkers and Sellers Thereof—Also Favor Equal Suffrage.

The liquor interests of the country are much disturbed over the Prohibition conference held at Niagara Falls recently by the Catholics. This is said to have been the first Catholic organization in the United States to go on record in favor of nation-wide Prohibition. Aside from effecting an organization, resolutions were adopted which, for comprehensiveness, seem to leave nothing unsaid or implied in denunciation of the liquor traffic.

Among the resolutions were the following: "Favoring nation-wide Prohibition, exclusion of liquor advertisements through the mails, making it illegal to ship liquor through dry states, barring liquor dealers from jury duty, making abstinence one of the civil service requirements, excluding drinkers from public office, making temperance a subject to be taught in public and private schools, and favoring equal suffrage, with the provision that all persons convicted of intoxication be disfranchised for five years."

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EMPTY DINNER PAIL A PAINFUL REALITY

The Tens of Thousands of Workmen Out of Employment Confirm It.

From the Oakland Republican.
One explanation of the remarkable showing the registration figures for the Sixth Congressional District make is a showing of a large majority for the Republican ticket can be found in the fact that "Empty Dinner Pail Makes Republicans Hustle." This tells the whole story. There is but one explanation of this exceptional Republican gain—there can be but one interpretation of this unusual circumstance—"The Empty Dinner Pail Makes Republicans Hustle."

It is safe to assume, also, that not all of these Republicans have always voted the Republican ticket, and that some of them have registered as Republicans for the sole reason that they may consistently vote for the Republican candidate for congressman this year. They have observed the failure of the Democrats to make good their ante-election promises of two years ago that they would give the country improved conditions. They have witnessed the futile efforts of the Democratic congress and the Democratic president to continue the prosperity of the country was enjoying—under a Republican regime, and they have concluded to do their part at the November election to bring about a return of that prosperity just as quickly as it can possibly be done, and they are going to begin right away.

The voters of Garrett county and Western Maryland are not going to be confused by any prismatic halo the Democratic cabinet members may place over the alabaster brow of the Democratic congressman from the Sixth District; they are not going to be again lulled into a quiescent condition by such claptrap as "Washington Needs Mr. Lewis." They are not going to allow either Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, Postmaster General Burleson, Secretary of Labor Wilson or anyone else, whether he wears the Administration purple or not (net excluding Mr. Lewis himself,) to divert them from the common-sense viewpoint of the situation. They know that the essence of this campaign is contained in these questions which they will insist upon having answered.

SOME FACTS.

Read How Congressman Lewis and His Party Have Been Reducing the High Cost of Living.

Ever since being admitted to the bar Mr. Lewis has either been in office or has been striving to get in, and has belonged to all the various political parties in the meantime, and yet we want to ask if any one in Garrett county or the Sixth District feels that he has been benefited by any legislation which Mr. Lewis has helped bring about.

Prior to his election to Congress he promised the people cheaper commodities in that he promised to reduce the high cost of living. Let us see briefly if he has done this. When Mr. Lewis was elected the first time the wholesale price of bacon was 10 1/2 cents per pound. It is now 14. Ham was selling wholesale at 9 1/2 cents. It is now 18. Sugar was \$5.05 per 100. It is now 10 cents, wholesale. Flour was \$5.70 per barrel. It is now \$7.40. The prices which prevail now as quoted increased every year during the time Mr. Lewis had been in office and are not due to the European war, as the advocates of the latter would try to make you believe. Therefore you see, if any one is profiting by the free trade policy of Mr. Lewis, it must be the middleman, as it certainly is not the consumer.

Mr. Zihlman, a man, true to labor, and who toiled in glass factories for twenty-one years and not later than two years ago could have been seen blowing glass at the Potomac Glass Works.

Mr. Zihlman stands for a policy that will rekindle the fires in the workshops, which Mr. Lewis helped to put out. He stands for a policy that always has kept the manufacturing plants in full operation, and brought about good times.

In other words, Mr. Zihlman stands for protection for the miners and every other industry, as against free trade. Vote for Mr. Zihlman—"there is a reason."—Oakland Republican.

Rubber Constantly In Demand.

Semi-official estimates made in India of the world's production of rubber for several years to come indicate a constant increase, passing 200,000 tons in 1910, but never equaling the demand.

India's Plague of Insects.
India's public health problem is vitally complicated by the fact that biting insects are a prominent factor in the dissemination of disease.

ROOSEVELT TO SPEAK IN CUMBERLAND

So Says George "Lonesome" Wellington, the Sorehead Politician Out of a Job.

That Colonel Roosevelt, would deliver a speech in Cumberland before election day in November, was the opinion today of former United States Senator, George L. Wellington.

Colonel Roosevelt has agreed to help the Progressive party in Maryland, and will likely speak in Baltimore and Cumberland. This follows the conference yesterday in New York, when N. Winslow Williams, of the Progressive State Central Committee, visited the former president, at his office in New York, to secure his aid in the campaign.

Senator Wellington stated that while he had no idea on just what date Col. Roosevelt would visit Cumberland, has stated he felt sure that he would come, and when he did, "he would come in a rush." In such event, it is expected, the usual large crowd, regardless of party affiliations will be on hand to greet the ex-president. In his several speeches in Cumberland, Col. Roosevelt, like William Jennings Bryan, has always found an appreciative and enthusiastic welcome.—Cumberland Times.

It is but natural for the Democratic Cumberland Times to speak flatteringly of the great egotist and windjammer, the "Terrible Teddy," the head of the Democratic Aid Society, the party responsible for the present incompetent Democratic administration and its unjust war tax to raise the revenue lost to the country by Democratic tariff tinkering and extravagance.

Really, though, it sounds sarcastic to say that "Teddy" is coming to aid the so-called Progressive party in Maryland. That party has practically ceased to exist, and it seems half cruel and half sarcastic to refer to it. And as to "Teddy"—well, he is getting to be regarded as a public nuisance, and the accounts of his recent whirlwind tour of Kansas that were published in the Kansas newspapers, show that the fallen idol no longer enthralls people. In fact since the people are very wisely refusing to continue to take the great four-flusher seriously, he seems to have lost confidence in himself, and some of his recent efforts at enthralling people were failures almost in the pathetic class.

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BE A BOOSTER, not a knoekler.