

STRAIGHTWAY

“AND STRAIGHTWAY THEY FORSOOK THEIR NETS, AND FOLLOWED HIM” (MARK 1:18).

CHRISTIAN PURITIES FELLOWSHIP

The Present Distress

Dr. H. T. Spence

The swearing in of our 45th president is the providential appointment of this man for this country at this time; his tenure may prove to be a global epoch of end-time leadership. An epoch is marked by a person, an event, or a new mood that commences an era of strong influence in history. Much of the time, the providential reason for an epoch is only made clear upon later reflection that reveals its evidences and influences upon later ages. Some epochs are distinguished by specific events or personalities that seem to clearly capture the meaning and purpose of such a God-appointed epoch. God's people often can discern that such an event or person was of epoch importance in history.

The Coming of Donald Trump

The unfolding of the weeks since the inauguration of President Trump has indicated his presidency will be a monumental epoch in history, although perhaps not for what we first

believed. Without question, the chain of events ushering in his presidency proved it was a miracle of God that shocked the entire world. Perhaps we should ask what is the reason for his epochal appointment now in our history? Will more time be needed for an answer to be revealed? Is this presidency a God question alone? Or are we witnessing accompanying events that are leaning in a certain direction of purpose?

President Trump has already brought about some important and refreshing changes. Our nation had intentionally fallen into utter disrepair economically with a continued expansion of national debt reaching \$19 trillion. The more accurate estimate of the unemployed has risen to nearly 28 percent. We have embraced the judicial mandate of “public policy” for the interpretation of law, intentionally overthrowing the Constitution of these United States. Our society is in the throes of great violence, intentional governmental

provocation to racism, the escalating promotion of aggravated crime. Our society has reached its lowest ebb in standard of living and dress. The characterless leadership of the past has inspired a characterless society; patriotism has publicly been abhorred, and the natural dignity of American living has become brutish, endeavoring to bring us back to animalistic living, or (as the world would say) resorting to our evolutionary ancestors. Vulgarly and strange immorality have captured the curiosities and public policies of our country. We have become the worst of nations in natural character.

Amidst the intensity of the present distress in our country, it has been refreshing to see some human dignity returning to a presidential family either in their dress, their manner, or

their call to return to some patriotism. President Trump's inaugural speech was rhetorically bold for righteousness, seeming to express some longing for a recovery of a fallen nation. When this president was sworn in, immediate changes came including the content on the White House website and the restoration in the White House of certain statuary of past world leaders. No doubt more radical changes will be forthcoming.

Yet, amidst the president's desire to restore or regain that which was aggressively discarded by the previous administration, the "fake news" against his administration is flooding the populace through the major news networks at constant proportions. His four-year term will be constantly attacked with horrendous lies to wear him down, either forcing a resignation, bringing impeachment, or openly and boldly promoting his assassination.

Dare we ask, what is the purpose of God's appointment for this president at this time in our history? Is it to make America great again, for which we have prayed? Or does God have something else in mind? It may be that the great disruptions across our country witnessed the weekend of the inauguration were the prelude to a far greater tragedy for America. The verbal onslaught in media attacks on the president over these ensuing weeks, the women's march on Washington

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and other major cities, and violent protests orchestrated by the prolific side effects of the previous administration are now all giving evidence of a growing end-time power that we have not witnessed to such treacherous, ignoble proportion. With intense hatred both liberal Democratic anarchists and the major media have collaborated to vehemently distract any positive effect of this president (the same tactic used by the previous administration to bring destruction to this country). Carefully-selected actors have all come on stage from Satan's den of iniquity to assault any righteous memory of a once God-honoring country.

Over the past eight years, the previous administration silently and maliciously pervaded the judicial system with radical judges whose agenda is to destroy the Constitution. All government agencies were filled with federal workers made up of socialists, sodomite activists, and anti-God enthusiasts. With such deep saturation of personnel, it is nearly impossible to extricate their infestation. Does President Trump even know a small portion of people who must fill nearly 18,000 appointments in his administration? Can we dare contemplate the vast subversive people strategically placed over the past eight years within the EPA, the Department of Labor, the Department of Justice, as well as in policing agencies such as the CIA and the FBI. Literally thousands of people

were appointed in the vast network of the federal government, their one intent being to destroy what was left of this country. In addition, there are multitudes of vicious regulations and laws enacted (more than any president in our history, and perhaps all of them combined). The last eight years truly have brought about irreparable damage to the infrastructure of American society. The task before President Trump will be humanly impossible, for there is a throng of blood-sucking, life-draining leeches planted throughout the vastness of the American governmental organization; and he will never find them all until it is too late.

The End-Time Epoch

The End Time will be marked by the growing reality that righteousness will be intensely hated. When truth rises to speak or act, that which is against truth will equally rise and react. The final prelude before the appearance of Antichrist will necessitate an epoch of global proportion to angrily force a transition of societal philosophy and of living; the resulting new philosophy will make palatable society's acceptance of Antichrist. Therefore, any apparent attempt to restore truth "in the streets" will be met with an aggressive, satanic force of great hatred and power. It will take a man like Donald Trump to stir the Devil and his advocates to rise as never before to give a final blow to the truth, to

righteousness, and to any natural or spiritual appearance of God.

Though organized and unorganized protestors have always existed, the world has yet to witness the violent, chaotic protests coming to our country. Inauguration weekend brought visible witness across America as the liberal, pro-abortion, men-hating, godless women marched against any form of righteousness, all being led by the leading women of vulgarity and debauchery. An appropriate question was asked by Vice President Mike Pence, "Where are the husbands?" Our social educational institutions have turned our young boys and men into women, while the women have become the men.

Yes, we are living in a transgender generation; perhaps this is far worse than the "same sex marriage." The Bible declares there will be "men of renown" in the End Time (Gen. 6:4b; Matt. 24:37); this phrase also includes "women of renown." There are George Soros and his son, Alexander; but there are the ageless Gloria Steinman and moral apostates such as Madonna and the male-appearing Ellen "Degenerate." Such women have risen in manipulative authority to intimidate any woman who believes in marriage, the God-appointed family, the raising of children, and being part of the bedrock foundation of a righteous society. Where are their protests against

men such as Bill Clinton, known to molest, defile, and shame women in his debauched escapades? How hypocritical their ranting is against President Trump.

Dear Reader, we have only seen a minuscule prelude in the early weeks of this presidency of what the anti-American, anti-God society is prepared to do to achieve their goals. Yes, it may be that God has chosen this president to prove that our country willfully gave itself to an "obamination"; only *now* we will witness how low our society will stoop to fight against this country's ever returning to a sane and sound mind, and to any form of truth.

The great characteristic of end-time society is the churning of the waters of humanity to a dimension of restlessness and intense anger. We witnessed this in the biblical account of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, when leaders convinced the people that this professing Messiah was no good, and His preaching and even His miracles would destroy the nation. Such leaders convinced the people to cry "Crucify Him"; they further convinced the Roman government to follow through with that crucifixion. They paid the soldiers on the Resurrection Day to give "fake news," to verbally publish that His body was stolen (Matt. 28:12-15). Times have not changed the heart and nature of man. The hatred for

truth will drive men and women to do whatever it takes to get rid of truth and its voice.

This president may be appointed by God to bring about the final churning of the waters of humanity worldwide. It will take his strength of words and actions to stir the hornet's nest, to entice the den of iniquity to bring forth its foulest of beasts, and even for the powers of the rulers of this world to finally make the global change.

The Churning of Waters

What are these churning of the waters? Note the opening of Luke 21:9; it states, "But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions . . ." The Greek term for *commotions* carries the meaning of "instability, disorder, disturbance, confusion, tumult, revolution, or anarchy." In Luke 21, Christ continued with His words of admonition, "Be not terrified." Truly the End Time will rise with greater terror through both people and events.

It was evident in the inaugural address given by President Trump on January 20, 2017, that his desire was for the United States to be first of the nations once again; these were inflaming words against the new world order. It is becoming more evident that the politicians of Washington are against any discomfiting words that will intrude into their governmentally-crafted, elaborate palaces of bureau-

cratic peace. It does not matter what it costs to quell such attacks, including the giving up a nation's independence and the reality of truth. Yes, this president has stirred up the nations and the kingdoms; news media continue to stir the feelings of the world into a frenzy of lawless hatred against him.

With distresses vastly increasing and natural perplexities unfolding in greater proportions, such characteristics give witness that we as a nation have utterly lost our way. There is no way out of the imminent implosion before us; the wholesale dilemmas of worldwide embarrassment are inevitable. There are no resources to avert the tragedy that awaits us in God's providence.

Christ went on to say the following in Luke 21:25:

Upon the earth [there will be] distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

The perplexity that we find ourselves in today reveals to the world that we have lost our way as a nation; we have no solution for our embarrassment, and we will not have the resources to be delivered. The sea and waves are roaring throughout our country; a deafening sound is ever echoing with talk of mournful and painful destruc-

tion. Christ continued in Luke 21:26 to declare that the days will become so alarming that men's hearts will faint, will expire for fear. There must be a beginning to all of this. Will President Trump be the man whom God has chosen to bring about the final confrontation of ideologies and powers in America for its overthrow?

When the world is prepared by Satan's churning of the waters of humanity, when the sea and the waves roar out crying for a man to lead the world against God, then the man of sin, the son of perdition, yea, the beast will arise out of that sea. We are now witnessing the striving of the winds agitating society's waters. Certainly in the next four years, we will hear the loud roaring of the sea and waves in a mighty attack against such a president. The Devil's crowd has unlimited finances even to purchase the lusting GOP to cast their vote with them against their own party president. There is no political party of righteousness; there is perhaps only a righteous individual here or there.

Similar conditions abound in the churches today. Even contemporary Fundamentalism does not have any desire to return to former days, or to reclaim their historic faith. Most Fundamental schools and churches rejoice in the changes that have come, and they love to have it so.

Christ continued in the Olivet Dis-

course of Luke 21:34–36, giving warning about the days surrounding His coming, when stress, distress, and the cares of life will overwhelm. Such things will come upon God's people unawares.

For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Yes, amidst all the increase of cares and distresses coming as snares, the tendency of the heart will be to try to alleviate these things. And there will be the tendency to turn to *pleasures* of life to divert the heart and mind from the *pressures* of life. Luke 17 warns that the end time will draw the disciple's heart to building, to eating and drinking, and to a variety of diversions of the heart and mind (vv. 27, 28). The problem with all the stress in the end time is that we will tend to turn to *things* to be our comfort rather than God.

To Pray and Not Faint

Luke 18:1 states, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." This exhortation follows closely the solemn context concerning the second advent of Christ in Luke 17. In the long, weary season between Christ's first and second advents, there is the consistent need of praying without

fainting. Some commentaries imply this statement by Christ as telling us that, though accurate, the word *always* is somewhat exaggerated.

Amidst the apostle Paul's words of 1 Thessalonians 5:16–22, several injunctions are given in epigrammatical form. One of these imperatives is "Pray without ceasing" (v. 17). Yes, it is true that we are to pray every day. David spoke of praying morning, noon, and night (Psalm 55:17). We are to be men and women of prayer. However, in this context, the apostle specifically wrote, "Pray without ceasing." Similarly, Christ meant what He said when Luke recorded, "Men ought always to pray," referring to His disciples.

Luke's context seems to be telling us that Christ truly lifted the whole subject of prayer to a very high level, revealing to us the fact that there is infinitely more in prayer than the offering of petitions, more than simply the uttering of words, and more than simply taking time to pray. Truly there were deeper depths and higher heights to be found in this matter of prayer.

The Lord had stated earlier to His disciples, "The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it" (Luke 17:22). The days will become so evil that the heart will burn with intensity for Christ to come; yet, we will not see the day immediately. It is true that the Second Coming of Christ

will be a very sudden event. We read in Luke 17:24, "For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven: so shall also the Son of man be in his day." It will come without any previous notice: "in such an hour as ye think not" and as "a thief in the night" (Matt. 24:43, 44; 1 Thess. 5:2). This reveals to us that the thought of Christ's Second Coming is to be a study of continual preparedness of mind and heart.

As there were two segments of the First Coming of Christ (one for the remnant at the beginning in secret, and then the open coming thirty years later), there will be a first advent of the Second Coming for the remnant of the Church and then later His global appearance to set up His kingdom. The warning of Luke 18:1 is not to the world, but to His disciples. The Lord knows his disciples' minds will tend to be cluttered with unnecessary and distressing things in the End Time. (The Second Coming in secret is not of Christ's coming to the earth, but of our going to Him, Luke 17:34–37.)

The Lord Jesus warns His disciples in Luke 18:1 that they "ought always to pray, and not to faint." In the previous chapter Christ tells them, "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it" (17:33). The life of faith is a strenuous life, characterized by

stress, conflict, and difficulty. It is a life that is lived, not by tangible things, but by intangible (but real) faith. Luke 18:8 states, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Because of the pressures of this age for success, for living, and in the light of what is happening to us at this time in our country, the events of the End Time will make life more difficult to live. All of this will draw the heart toward fainting.

What did Christ mean by the phrase "and not to faint"? This is the Son of God's recognition of the strenuous nature of the life to be lived by believing souls in days when so many voices are vying for their attention. The word *faint* means "to be paralyzed, to be weak, to be worthless, to feel the force of strength dying within the soul, as when the enabling power to live the Christian life is diminishing in the life." It also has the understanding of being beaten, broken down and helpless, ultimately becoming a coward with the inability to go on in the Christian life. Fainting is a sudden sense of inability and helplessness, the cessation of activity, a weariness which may eventually bring one to spiritual death.

Christ made it clear that the only alternative to fainting is to always pray. But praying is more than simply the offering of petitions; it is more than just uttering words or investing some

time in general prayer. The conscious pervading spirit necessary in continual prayer is revealed in Colossians 3:1-4:

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Certainly the first attitude of prayer is worship; and within that sphere of attitude the Christian seeks and sets his mind and heart on God's will in everything. What is God's will in this matter that I am facing? Prayer is to bring us into clarity of vision for what we are to do, even living in these United States at this crucial hour. Prayer is to strengthen my life moment by moment in order to live in these distressful days without yielding to the pressure and spiritually fainting.

Conclusion

We must prayerfully lay hold of the words of Isaiah in 40:28-31:

Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary,

and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint.

Four times *faint* is presented here: once to reveal that God never faints, and three times to tell us that God will give power to the faint, that even young people *will* faint, and that in the walking there will be no fainting.

The easiest thing to do is to “mount up with wings as eagles.” The first day we personally caught sight of Christ (at the age of seventeen), our soul did “fly.” We called our parents at 4:00 in the morning to tell them what had happened; we immediately resigned our job that morning before an understanding employer; we packed our few possessions in a day or two and moved to a school that taught us how to live for God. Oh, those days were filled with “flying” as an eagle. There have been other days when our soul did soar as an eagle. Yes, the easiest time of strength is when God is opening door after door and we are quickly going through life as if our feet touched not the ground. But God has not chosen the Christian life to be filled with this “flying.” There is also “running.” Thank God when such times in the Christian life manifest this running “to” God and running “in” God.

Perhaps the most difficult task in

the Christian life is to simply “walk” with God. To walk when the enemies are all around you, to walk when the difficulties seem insurmountable, and to walk when a nation gives no encouragement for a life in Christ. It is then, dear friend, that you *must* walk and not faint. *And*, you must always pray in order not to faint! How is it in your life at this hour? Are you failing, fainting, faltering, or going back on God and His truth? If so, it is the clear evidence that you are not praying; you are not given to prayer.

Luke 18:2–8 presents the parable that follows Christ’s exhortation, “Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” The parable has several enigmas, and if we are not careful, we will get caught up in the enigmas and not find the critical burden of this parable. This parable is presented to reveal the importance of perseverance in prayer. The story speaks of a widow without friends, who obtained justice from a wicked magistrate by her sheer importunity, incessantly crying out to the magistrate. The judge stated privately, “Though I fear not God, nor regard man, yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.” Note our Lord’s application of the parable: “Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?” If importunity obtained so

much from a wicked man, then how much more will it obtain for the children of God from the Righteous Judge, their Father in heaven?

Oh, the daily thoughts that come to our mind about the circumstances confronting us or of all that we are reading and witnessing from our country at this time! If we are not careful, the sheer volume of distress, perplexities, violence, and cares of life will consume our mind in thinking that everything is about to fall apart and what can be done. The private inclination that comes to the heart is to hurry our prayers, or to shorten our prayers, or to become careless about our prayers, or to cease our prayers altogether. We must ever remember that God *does* have His elect on earth and that they are in His special care. But we must ever be in the spiritual posture of prayer to keep at bay the powers of fainting.

What is the evidence of God's elect at this hour in history? In 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 4, Paul declares, "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God." But Christ stated at the end of the parable in Luke 18:8, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Christ Himself reveals that true faith will be

very scarce at the end of the age. And faith is most important for prayer. How sad it is that most Christians in our day tend to only pray when they are in a pressing circumstance or some tangible need. Prayer only drawn upon in times of emergency reveals that prayer is not the norm of one's Christian living. Will we pray or will we faint at this crucial hour in history? God's people ought always to pray and not faint. S

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The Beasts of the End Time

Part One

Dr. H. T. Spence

A new year for our nation has commenced with a new president sworn into the highest office of the land. An honest State of the Union address would reveal that our country is suffering under filthy lucre, demonic powers of chaos, abundance of strange and fleshly sins, a love for evil, and a pervading hatred for righteousness. In more recent years, both visible and invisible political and religious powers have increasingly endeavored to suppress and thwart any semblance of righteousness in the earth. Those who try to take a stand for truth become open prey to the sharks and wolves that have marked their territory of political possession. While ISIS has been planting its “sleeper cells” of terrorism throughout our country, the legacy of “obamination” has entrenched itself throughout the US government with its own carefully-planted sleeper cells awaiting an appointed time to do greater damage to the American hope. May God have mercy upon us as we witness iniquitous vultures pick clean the bones of any remaining legacy of decency.

While hypocritically warning Mr. Trump not to abuse his privilege of “executive order,” the previous Oval Office executive granted the largest number of pardons in our presidential

history. His acts unleashed the worst of criminals back into society to rise again with greater power and wealth attempting to make it as difficult as possible for the next president to establish any law and order in the country. On his last day he attempted to quietly funnel \$221 million to the Palestinians, while executively banning all lead bullets and fishing weights on federal lands.

The weekend following the inauguration of the 45th president witnessed women across the world rising against this president. Rioting was financially supported by world-order elites such as George Soros, a man who has tried to infiltrate governments throughout Europe to come to a new world order. Ironically, he has contributed to the overwhelming violence within Obama’s city, Chicago. The lawlessness that has exploded in our country in recent weeks is the character result of the man who ruled this country; this country has become the personification of the man. Yes, our new president has inherited a whirlwind; only a Sovereign God will be his hope.

Mr. Trump is not allowed to enjoy the privilege of becoming president because of ongoing demonstrations endeavoring to wreck and ruin any

hope of bringing his idealistic vision of “making America great again.” More lives and reputations will be destroyed by secret powers that be; no mercy will be rendered by their covenant with the Devil to melt down any remaining semblance of nobility in this country. In this end-time collaboration of man with Satan, elitist America seems committed to destroying the US Constitution, as well as to blatantly obstructing any attempt at maintaining independence from the tyrannical rule and rapid emplacement of the New World Order.

Democracy inevitably ends in absolute anarchy. Our nation has come to this precipice. Once into the fullness of his duties, what deadly poison and rotting threads will this new president discover woven into the very warp and woof of our country’s present government. No doubt, he already has some such knowledge; if revealed, its very shock would effectively cause an unparalleled stampede of fear and panic to reverberate throughout the world. Already we have witnessed the dissolution of our sensitive national security agencies, including the CIA and the FBI. Scandalous debauchery, corruption, obsessive demoralization, and anti-American ideologies are deeply entrenched in our government. Yes, America presently has become the vilest, most corrupt nation in history. Such a statement takes into consideration the plague of corruption

in countries marked by communism, dictatorship, and all the third world countries.

Nevertheless, we must continue to pray for this newly-elected president, his vice president, his cabinet, and those who surround him by appointment, amidst the powers of evil secretly seeking to infiltrate his inner circle to bring about his demise.

Dear Reader, this is the End Time! The wickedness of man is now empowered by the god of this world to bring global chaos. The belief is that defied man will birth out of the chaos a global utopia; this utopia will be man’s *cosmos*, his adornment, his own anti-God system of world order. The only hope we have is the return of Christ and the setting up of His global kingdom!

The Prophet’s View of the End-Time Governmental Powers

We are drawn once again to the Book of Daniel for insight into our times and the hope of God’s appointed future for this planet. This book naturally divides itself into two parts, each with an equal number of chapters. The first six chapters are mainly historical; the last six are prophetic. While there are prophetic matters in the first six chapters and historical references in the last six chapters, it is noticeable that the first part of the book is largely occupied with Daniel’s own history, and the last with his own visions.

In a previous issue of *Straightway* (October-November 2016), we drew from Daniel 2. In this issue we draw from the personal burden of the prophet Daniel in chapter 7. In this context of Daniel's "dream and visions," he beheld "the four winds of the heaven" striving upon "the great sea" (7:2). This term "the great sea" is often used in the Old Testament for the Mediterranean Sea (cf. Joshua 1:4). This terminology may suggest that the events portrayed in the vision will occur in the geographical area adjacent to this sea. However, the symbolic meaning of the sea seems to be more important in the interpretation of this vision. Revelation 17:15 speaks of the many waters as "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." This perspective seems to be the greater meaning of the four winds of the heaven striving upon the sea. These winds are brooding over the masses of humanity (throughout history) to bring all to a unity that is a manifestation of the spirit of these forces. In this context, we have a key to understanding world politics and the secret behind every worldly organization.

As declared in Ephesians 6:10-12, there are principalities and powers vying for control of mankind on earth. The apostle Paul strongly calls upon Christians to put on the whole armor of God in order to withstand these powers and their influence upon us. At the same time, clearly the world

does not have this protective armor; the world is greatly susceptible to evil spiritual powers. Note 1 Corinthians 2:7, 8:

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The Greek word *princes* means "the high rulers of that age." Likewise, note 2 Corinthians 4:3-6:

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world [this age] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The psalmist of Psalm 2 clearly declares that the kings of the earth are against God. Certainly behind all of this hatred is the Devil projecting evil thoughts into the minds of these kings. A clear example of this ploy occurs in Ezekiel 38:10-12 during the time of Gog (the prince of Magog):

Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also

come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought [what is the thought?]: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwall'd villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

Yes, Satan continues to convince man that he too is able to overthrow God, that he can make the world his own throne against God.

The Man Is a Beast

In Daniel's vision in chapter 7, the sea was thrown into contrary waves by the actions of the winds of the heavens. Out from this sea (evidently because of the operation of the four winds), successively emerged four beast-like monsters. As observed in a previous issue of *Straightway*, the kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were portrayed as a great image of a man (Daniel 2). In Daniel 7, the kingdoms of Daniel's vision are presented as *beasts*. Daniel received heaven's perspective of these kingdoms.

The Scriptures often speak of man as beastly when referencing his depth of sin. For example, when referring to

both religious and political apostates of the last days, 2 Peter 2:12 states, "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption." Paul, in writing to Titus, spoke of the Cretians as liars and evil beasts (1:12). Jude, in writing of the apostates in the last days, declared in verse 10, "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves." Thirty-four times in the Book of Revelation the beast out of the sea (the Antichrist) and the beast out of the earth (the False Prophet) are alluded to. David used similar language in Psalm 22:12, 13, 16, 20, 21 that became prophetic words when Christ Jesus was on the cross:

Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. . . . For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. . . . Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

The apostle Paul states in 2 Timothy 4:17, "And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." Similar to Daniel 7, the prophet Jeremiah in 25:32 states,

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.” What did these winds churning the waters bring forth?

Daniel 7:4 speaks of a lion whose wings were plucked and was made to stand as a man with the heart of a man. This was a description of Nebuchadnezzar and His Babylonian Empire. Because of his pride, God greatly humbled Nebuchadnezzar saying, “Let his heart be changed from man’s, and let a beast’s heart be given unto him” (4:16). At the end of seven years living beastly, Nebuchadnezzar’s understanding returned and he arose and blessed the most High; he was made to “stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it [him]” (7:4b).

Daniel 7:5 mentions a bear, a more ravenous beast, rising on one side, with three ribs in his mouth, one who devoured much flesh. This bear was the Medo-Persian Empire with the latter, or “one side,” being Persia, and the three ribs representing Media, Persia, and Babylon.

Daniel 7:6 references a leopard, an agile animal, describing Alexander the Great and his conquest in the Greco-Macedonian Empire. Following his death this empire eventually was divided into four portions and ruled by four generals.

Daniel 7:7 gives a final beast presented as “dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly.” This indescribable beast has been identified as the Roman Empire.

Collectively, the metallic colossus of Daniel 2 now is seen as four wild beasts. From God’s viewpoint man’s kingdoms are composed of wild, blood-thirsty beasts devouring and destroying one another.

The Final Beast

Ever since the fall of the Roman Empire, world governments have tried and failed to copy it using the force of its symbolic iron. In the end the iron shall try to mix with the miry clay of man. The literal Hebrew for this *clay* is the “burnt clay of the potter: miry clay depleted of moisture leaving brittle, burnt mud.” This iron certainly can be seen in the tenfold division of the Roman Empire into the nations of medieval and modern Europe; and it can be seen in the history of the papacy, as a system, the little horn.

In Daniel 2 there is a great gap between the image’s legs and the feet, the so-called “ankle” area. Similarly, there is a gap between the indescribable beast of 7:7 and the mention of its ten horns (represented by a semi-colon). The ten toes of Daniel 2’s image are the ten horns of Daniel 7’s exceedingly fierce beast. We have not yet come to this period of the ten toes and horns

of these prophecies. However, we are now nearing the time when this “iron” will try to rule through the “burnt clay” of humanity in order to bring about some form of order.

These prophetic gaps seem to be in history the time of Christ’s Church. The Church Age period in history was a “mystery” to all Old Testament prophets, because it had nothing to do with the nation of Israel. This term *mystery* is used by Jesus to declare the Church Age period in Matthew 13:11, 16, 17, 35; it is also used of Paul in Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 3:3–5. We must remember that in the Greek the word *mystery* has a different concept than our English word. The Greek designates something that though now hidden will be brought to light at an appointed time.

The Church is one of several mysteries of the Bible. We believe that the visible Church Age is coming to an end because of its global apostasy. We believe that Laodicea of Revelation 3 is the last of the Church Ages. We look for a rapture to bring the end of the Church Age; the term *church* ceases to occur in Scripture after Revelation 3.

This ankle period’s ten horns are yet to come. They seem to arise out of the geography and ruins of the old Roman Empire. Certainly the twentieth century through its two world wars hastened the process of restoring this

empire, which ultimately will bring a tenfold kingdom ruled by ten allied kings.

Daniel 7:8 mentions another horn that is to come, an eleventh horn, the Antichrist of the Tribulation Period. There has been great controversy concerning whether the Antichrist is a system (the papal system) or a real, personal man. If one takes the position that Antichrist is the papal system of Romanism in nature and spirit, he will still have to acknowledge that the system has always been personified in a “man” who sits in Peter’s *cathedra* (“chair”). Moreover, this Antichrist will physically enter the Holy of Holies of the “temple” (2 Thess. 2:4; Matt. 24:15), not the church. This Son of Perdition, this man of sin, must be a personal, individual man.

Likewise, while we acknowledge that the Spirit of Christ was in the prophets of the Old Testament (1 Peter 1:11), Christ as a man, a person, eventually came. Antichrist is evidently “that Wicked” (or wicked one) of 2 Thessalonians 2:8; the “mystery” of iniquity was working even when Paul uttered this prophecy. Doubtless, this period of the ten horns/ten toes is to be prophetically found at the time of Revelation 13:1–10 and other developments in Revelation 17.

Conclusion

In light of God’s prophecies concerning Israel, the conditions of the

nations of the earth, and even the conditions of Christianity across the world, it is evident that God is sifting and shaking the world as never before known or seen. To the professing Christians the global church is witnessing the words of Hebrews 12:25–29:

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom, which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.

Is this shaking of the Church part of the “vomiting” prophetically uttered by Christ of the final church in Revelation 3:16, “I will spew thee out of my mouth”?

There is also the sifting of the nation of Israel found in Amos 9:9: “For lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.”

Today, Israel is in a most precarious hour of its history. And yet, we also read of the precarious hour of all the nations as found in Haggai 2:6–9:

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

We are in this trilogy of the shaking of the Church, Israel, and the nations. May the Lord help us to see we are in the swirling of the powers of winds and doctrines, and of the coming of the Lord and of the Antichrist. **S**

Foundations Calendar

**Spring Semester of
the Foundations Schools
2017**

**Student Preaching Day
February 3**

**Annual Bible Conference
April 9–16**

**General Recitals
April 28**

**Commencement
May 14**



The Beasts of the End Time

Part Two

Dr. H. T. Spence

Our previous article drew from the early prophecies of Daniel 7 revealing the “beasts” that came out of an aggravated sea. Regarding the fourth beast, it was noted that a final semi-colon set apart the phrase, “and it had ten horns.” These ten horns Daniel saw are identical in meaning to the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s vision (Daniel 2). These “ten horns” prophetically cast us into the Tribulation Period, where nations of the earth (amidst great perplexities) unify in a confederation of ten simply to survive all that is transpiring through the Lord’s judgments upon the earth.

While considering these “horns,” Daniel observes with deep interest the appearance of another horn, an eleventh authoritative power rising among these horns. This eleventh horn we believe to be the Antichrist. The rise of Antichrist will transpire around the time of Daniel’s Last Week or the seven years from Revelation 11 to the mid-part of Revelation 19.

Daniel 7:8 also reveals that this eleventh horn will rise up against three of the ten horns, plucking them up “by the roots,” leaving seven horns and Antichrist. These ten horns are the same ten horns (or kings) of Revelation 17:12–16. Eventually, Anti-

christ devours three horns, leaving seven kings who continue giving their strength and power to this beast.

The Unfolding of Daniel 7:9–28

In Daniel 7:9–28 a different road of events is pursued, giving comprehensive perspective of past, present, and future events (though not necessarily in this order). Hermeneutically, comprehensive chapters (such as Ezekiel 38 and 39, and Revelation 12) are rare in the Bible; however, they are important in that they bring crucial events and truths together.

First, let us draw from these verses to establish a sequence or order of their crucial events:

1. Following Daniel 7:4–7, verses 15–17 continue the prophet’s concern about these four beasts.
2. The intervening verses 9–14 (which address the end of the world and beginning of the next world) culminate in verse 18, where the “saints of the most High” possess the kingdom forever.
3. In verse 19, Daniel is especially drawn toward understanding this most unusual fourth beast of verse 7.
4. Verse 20 then addresses the ten

horns earlier mentioned in connection with the fourth beast.

5. Verse 21 addresses the rise of the great horn out of the ten horns who makes war with the saints. This event is unfolded with greater clarity in Revelation 13:1–10.
6. Daniel 7:23–27 addresses the Antichrist kingdom that overcomes the fourth beast’s kingdom, or the diverse Roman Empire of iron spread out over the earth.
7. The phrase “the judgment shall sit” in verse 26 references God’s judgment that will consume and destroy the Antichrist’s dominion. These events are all a part of the events of 7:8–11.
8. With the culmination of these events upon Antichrist’s kingdom, we are brought to understand the stone of Daniel 2. This stone cut out from a mountain in heaven comes to the earth and destroys Nebuchadnezzar’s image of world empires.

Now, in more detail, let us return to the context beginning in Daniel 7:9.

At the end of the Tribulation Period all the world’s thrones are cast down. This phrase “cast down” either may refer to the destruction of the seven remaining horns with the eighth horn (the Antichrist) or may refer to the putting in place of these thrones for

their final judgment at the end of the Tribulation Period. Christ’s wisdom, purity, righteousness, and justice will pervade His judgment of the world. His “wheels” (providences) will be as “burning fire.” Although certainly God’s holy angels will be involved in this final judgment, the saints also will be present for this promised judgment of nations and governments.

In verse 11, Daniel beholds that great eleventh horn (Antichrist, who had plucked up three of the horns) given to the “burning flame.” Note Revelation 19:20:

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.

Thank God, his reign of terror will finally be over! We believe this beast to be a man, not a system; “he” is given to the burning flames of Hell. This event takes place at the end of the Battle of Armageddon, a battle Daniel’s prophecy does not address.

Daniel 7:13, 14 presents an unusual night vision of the Son of man and the Ancient of days. When did or when does the event of this description take place? Did it take place when Christ entered heaven after leaving the earth (Acts 1, and mentioned in the proph-

ecy of Psalm 24:7, 8)? Acts 2:33 states, "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." At this time did the Father, in the presence of all of heaven, give to His Son the kingdom? Luke 19:12 states, "He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return." Revelation 1:7 states, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." This verse is made clear in Revelation 19:11-19.

Nevertheless, found in these verses of Daniel is another truth: the return of God's saints with Him both to fight and to take the kingdom (7:18). It is amazing to note that Daniel, though a slave in the Babylonian Empire, is a representative of the nation of Israel in its servitude, solitude, and sorrow. But oh, how the prophet triumphed through the empire rulers!

The sequence of Daniel 7:13, 14 is then continued in verse 22 and culminated immediately with verses 26-28.

The truth of the saints of God inheriting the earth is presented in Daniel 7:18 and 27:

But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and

ever. . . . And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Christ also expresses this truth in the Magna Carta of the spiritual kingdom presented in Matthew 5-7: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (5:5). Yes, we will be part of the inheritance of the earth.

The Coming Kingdom of Christ

In the first three and a half years of Daniel's Last Week, the Antichrist will rise in prominence among the ten kings. In the last three and a half years, he becomes the ruling power among the remaining seven kings. The concluding of this seven-year period brings us to the end of Revelation 19. Several events take place leading up to the open coming of Christ. These events are (1) the burning of Antichrist's capital city, Babylon (Revelation 18), (2) the Battle of Armageddon (19:11-19), (3) the capture of Antichrist and the false prophet (19:20), and (4) the destruction of the armies of the earth (19:19-21). With these events we witness the present age coming to a close.

Only at this time does Christ Jesus bring the next age into existence, the Millennium. This term comes from the words *mille* (one thousand) and

annum (years). Over the past six successive millennia since man's fall, the Devil has taken possession of this world. Although these millennia have been filled with great sin, trouble, and sorrow, the Old Testament prophecies of the Day of the Lord are commingled with both judgment and blessing. We believe the Day of the Lord will commence sometime after the Rapture of God's saints. This day will include both the judgment of the Tribulation Period and then the day of blessing, the Millennium! Amidst these blessings, the earth will not witness a complete deliverance from sin during the Millennium, because children will continue to be born with a sin nature. Yet the earth will experience many blessings not known today.

In Revelation 20, Satan is bound in a bottomless pit that is sealed so that he cannot influence the nations during these thousand years. After this binding, several thrones are set up. The Lord Father shall give unto the Lord Son the throne of His father David (Luke 1:32). The world's capital will be established in Jerusalem during the Millennium. Perhaps at this time the saints shall take the kingdom as mentioned in Daniel 7:18. The fact that the saints are to rule all nations (Rev. 2:26, 27; 12:5) may indicate that these thrones will be scattered throughout the earth.

How often ministers have spiritual-

ized these Millennial statements in Scripture. Nevertheless, the binding of Satan is a *literal* event; the thrones set up are *literal* thrones; the thousand years are one thousand *literal* years; the reign of Jesus is a *literal* reign; Jesus and the saints who reign with Him will be in their glorified *literal* bodies.

The Government During the Millennium

The government of the world during the Millennium will be solely in the hands of Christ and His saints. Zechariah declares, "The Lord shall be king over all the earth" (Zech. 14:9). Also note Revelation 20:6:

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

What a glorious season this will be! Satan bound; no political quarrels; no contentions among the nations; peace, harmony, union, and God's love among all the rulers of the world. No unjust laws made; the weak no longer oppressed by unjust measures. As Isaiah declares, "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end" (Isa. 9:7). Oh, we pray for this kingdom to come!

Jesus Christ and His saints will be the political sovereignties of the world; they will be its judicial powers as well.

With saints as associate justices, Jesus will be the Great Chief Justice. David is a pattern of this dual relationship of both king and judge: "David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people" (2 Sam. 8:15). "A king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. . . . and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jer. 23:5, 6). "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" (1 Cor. 6:2).

The Moral and Religious Environment During the Millennium

During the Millennium, the moral standard of the world will be impeccably high! Thefts and robbery will be unknown; Christ will abolish all intoxicants, tobacco, opium, morphine, etc. Righteousness reigning in the streets will be the testimony of a wholly Christian government. There will be no occasion of the media to bombard us with accounts of immoral conduct, fights, homicides, slanders, and terrorism. Witchcraft and the occult will be done away with. Isaiah reminds us that "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:4). "I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will

make them to lie down safely" (Hos. 2:18). Is all this possible?! A world with no war, a world at peace as the Prince of Peace rules. How we all should long for such a day!

The religious environment during the Millennium certainly will be greatly improved over today. Nevertheless, it will not be an age of perfect peace in every individual's heart. Although outwardly all will be at peace as Christ rules with a rod of iron, the hearts of men (those at the transition from the Tribulation Period into the Millennium as well as babies born during this time) will still be given to sin and darkness. Note the promise to the overcomers of the Thyatira Church described in Revelation 2:26, 27:

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers.

Concerning Jesus, the psalmist says, "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Ps. 2:9). These verses clarify that there will be sinners on earth during the Millennium. One would think that by living in such a blessed environment as the Millennium, all would be saved; but, this is not so. Some of the greatest revivals of history may be known among the inhabitants of the earth during the

Millennium:

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths (Mic. 4:2).

At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart (Jer. 3:17).

The Animal World During the Millennium

Even the animal world will be profoundly affected by Christ's government on earth. Note Isaiah's refreshing declaration:

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. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:6-9).

Today, these Millennial promises

would be impossible because God has placed within the animal kingdom an animosity and fear. The wolf kills the lamb, and the lamb fears the wolf; the leopard destroys the kid, and the kid runs from the leopard. But in the Millennium this struggle will not be known. Oh, what a thought! A child will lead the lion and the bear; he will play with serpents!

The Land During the Millennium

We must also remember that it is the saints who shall inherit the earth. This is truly different from the present conditions in our times. Most of the land belongs to the ungodly. During the Millennium it will be in the hands of the saints (Matt. 5:5). David also declares, "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace" (Ps. 37:11).

The Millennium will be witness to a great reformation in agricultural production. Though there may be no direct scriptural grounds for this statement, this thought is inferred from the fact that the saints shall possess the earth. Isaiah asks in 55:2, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?" We dare not think that during the Millennium God's people (those born during the Millennium and accepting Jesus as their Saviour and Lord) will cultivate on their farms anything injurious to the body; no tobacco or poppy plants

will be cultivated. Will the Millennium know a partial or complete deliverance from thorns, briars, and all that hinders the growth of useful plants? Note Romans 8:19–22:

For the earnest expectation of the creature [creation] waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together unto now.

Because the earth will bring forth fruit abundantly, there will be a great increase of food. How refreshing to read Amos 9:13:

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.

This passage reveals that the fields will bring forth such an abundance of grain that it will be impossible for the farmer to gather in one crop before time to plant the next. Instead of the greater part of the year being spent in war, the entire time shall be spent sowing the fields and reaping the fruits of the earth. A truly abundant harvest is implied here! There will be no need to

build new farming equipment because all weapons of war shall be converted into agricultural tools. “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks” (Isa. 2:4).

The Longevity of Life During the Millennium

Man’s life expectancy will be greatly lengthened for those born in the Millennium. Note the prophecy of Isaiah 65:20–22:

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Do these verses indicate that during the Millennium no one will die under a hundred years of age? If the Lord says His people’s days shall be as the “days of a tree,” will the rare occurrence of a death at the age of one hundred be considered as the death of a child? Is this passage the insight that a person (one born during the Millennium) who lives to be a hundred years old without giving his heart to

God will be accursed?

One could assume that during a time like the Millennium every sinner would yield to God; but, this will not be true. Even in the most ideal times, man can harden his heart against his Creator.

Although today one man builds a house and dies leaving it to others, during the Millennium a man who builds will live long enough to dwell for centuries in his own house. Likewise, a man who plants the orchards will live long enough to eat of the fruit.

Business and Literature During the Millennium

It is difficult to accept that the present trend of technology will be used during the Millennium. We dare not believe that God must use the secular hardware and software technologies of Microsoft, Dell, Apple, or even the new-world-order omnipresence of Google or future anti-God, antichrist philosophies. Christ neither needs nor will use them. These inventions of technology will all be obliterated from the memory of the earth, because they are all signs of the Gentile Age.

How will the technologies we associate with energy and transportation be under the rule and reign of the King of kings and Lord of lords? We know that the management of temporal affairs will be in different hands:

In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts (Zech. 14:21, 22).

This implies that all things, even the most common, shall be sacred to the Lord. "Holiness unto the LORD" shall be inscribed even upon the horses' harnesses, upon all that is manufactured. Everything will be under the management of consecrated people. The business world will be run by God's people. Everything that is injurious to health will be non-existent. Oh, to dare contemplate a world of great literature. All pornographic, salacious, and immoral writings that abound today will be non-existent then. Every publication will press "Holiness unto the LORD."

Apart from the Bible, it is hard to imagine that such a world could come into existence. Yet it will be known when the Lord personally comes and sets up His kingdom on this earth.

All the wicked will meet their final doom: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Ps. 9:17). A final picture of this hope is in Revelation 20:10, 14, where even Satan is finally cast with all of his demons into the lake of fire for all of eternity.

Conclusion

Revelation 21 and 22 reveal a new heaven and a new earth where sin is known no more. Here God moves His throne to the earth along with Christ's: "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face" (Rev. 22:3, 4). Upon His footstool, God moves His Throne for unending ages!

What is the purpose of a new earth? I proposed this answer in *A Catechetical Study for the Remnant* (p. 132):

The renewing of the earth is to be brought about by fire burning everything identified with the old order of the earth. Even sin in the sound waves (from radio, music, or conversations still in some decibel form in the air) will have to be consumed so that there is absolutely nothing left, on earth or in the air, from the previous order. All of this purging to bring a new earth is part of the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. That sacrifice was finished when Jesus died on the cross, but redemption of the earth is still largely future. This earth, through the sacrifice of Christ, must come to know a complete release (redemption) as the curse of sin is forever removed. Humanity will know no more death, because there is no sin in conception and no sin perpetrated on the earth for all of eternity. All sorrows, cares, and inconveniences of life will cease. Man will now be given

to perpetual glory. (The Millennium could be a type of the New Birth for the earth and the new earth a type of its sanctification through the purging and baptism of fire.)

In these days when the beasts of men rule the world, aggressively destroying the things of God, may we ever keep the Blessed Hope alive in our hearts. The system of this present world continues to deteriorate despite man's hope of a new world order. With God, we have the true hope of an eternal new world order controlled by God's Son and His saints! **§**

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