



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

The things which will announce, accompany and follow the return of Christ

### No 9. "The Conclusion of the Reign of Christ."

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever," Revelation 20:7-10

We left off our last study with some thoughts on the partial restoration of the creation that will take place during the reign of Christ. *For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody,* Isaiah 51:3.

I say "partial" for what will happen to the earth during the millennial reign of Christ is not to be confused with the full and complete "re-creation" of all things that will take place after the judgment of the great white throne.

The events of the millennial reign must surely be prefigured in the wonderful happenings which surrounded the Saviour on many of His visits to the towns and villages of Israel during His earthly ministry. The restoration of health and life and the general improvements such miracles would have brought about in the homes and families of those so blessed; the abundant supply of earthly comforts which resulted from the miracle of the loaves and fishes; the abundant catches of fish experienced by the disciples on occasions; the calming of the storm and the initiating of good weather in the area of the Lake of Galilee - all these were harbingers of the wonderful overall natural blessings into which the world will enter during the 1000 year reign of Christ. Let us take up our study at that point.

### I. THIS RENOVATION OF THE EARTH WILL INCREASE AND CONTINUE DURING THE REIGN OF CHRIST.

How glorious will be the earth at the end of that reign! Everything that the Lord touches is blessed, benefitted and beautified as a result. Nowhere is that seen more wonderfully than in the poor sinner Jesus saves.

As the prodigal son was washed, dressed and restored upon his return to the father's house; as the poor demoniac of Gadara was "sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind" as a result of the Saviour's mercy, even so is it with the converted sinner. And such a change is a pattern of what will happen in the earth under the Saviour's ministrations upon His return.

**1. The earth will be under the direct governorship of Christ.** How could it not flourish? Order, beauty and profitability will everywhere be seen. Surely this is seen in the song sung by Israel in that day and prophetically recorded for us in Psalm 47:1-9. "To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah. O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah. God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted." The blessedness of which the Psalmist sings stems from the glorious fact that "the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth . . . God reigneth over the heathen."

The prophet Zechariah refers to that glorious time as well. "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one," Zechariah 14:9. It is to this enthronement of Christ over the earth that the Psalm 2 so explicitly refers. There is mentioned first of all the rebellion of the nations



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under Antichrist and then God's response to that apostasy with His enthroning of His Son, the Lord Jesus in Zion and the call to all of earth's rulers and judges to submit to the Saviour or face destruction.

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him," Psalm 2:1-12.

**2. The greatest revival ever seen on the earth will take place and continue during His millennial reign.** "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles," Zechariah 14:16.

The nations "which came against Jerusalem" is a reference to those kingdoms which will give allegiance to Antichrist and send their armies to assist him as he will seek to destroy Jerusalem. This attack will precipitate the glorious return of Christ as prophesied in Zechariah 14:2-4.

I dealt with this matter in the study number 7, "**Jerusalem besieged by Antichrist**".

While the armies of those nations will be destroyed by the Saviour at His return, the nations themselves will not be destroyed. The verse 12 of Zechariah 14 explains this. "And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth." The phrase "the people that have fought against Jerusalem" is a reference to those of the nations who support Antichrist and who "go forth to war as an assembled host". In other words, the soldiers from those anti-christian nations who will rally under Antichrist's banner and attack Jerusalem, with the objective of destroying it utterly as is prophesied in Psalm 83:4: "They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance," will be destroyed but not the nations from which they came.

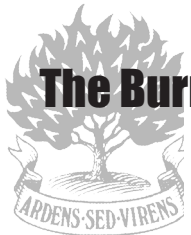
### WORLD-WIDE REVIVAL

Zechariah 14:17-19 shows that this spirit of worship and revival will extend to the whole earth. "And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles."

These verses not only show the world-wide nature of the spiritual blessings that will fall but also that not all the inhabitants of the earth will be obedient to the Lord. The Millennial age is not a perfect dispensation. It is not that "dispensation of the fulness of times."

However, disobedience will be instantly checked by chastisement. There will be a penalty for disobedience and defiance, as Zechariah 14:17 indicates. Now, this is not really that strange. There always has been an immediate penalty to be paid by those who reject the gospel call as well as an eternal penalty. This has been seen in this age as is exemplified in the story of the rich young man. "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions," Mark 10:21-22.

What grief in this life has dogged the footsteps of those who have turned their backs on Christ and His gospel! The greater the privileges the greater the consequent grief and misery. We might well mention Judas Iscariot as a further example of the immediate price of gospel rejection.



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### GREATER PENALTIES

In the Millennial reign, the privileges enjoyed by the nations will be greater than any enjoyed in previous ages in that they will be presented with not just the truth of God but also by a manifestation of Christ and His glory that none has ever seen on the earth before. Rejection of such privileges will therefore bring a more immediate and more severe judgment than was Heaven's practice in previous ages. Hence, the withholding of rain from defiant nations.

What Israel often suffered as a result of her defiance and disobedience in the past will be the experience of defiant and disobedient nations world-wide in the day of Christ's reign.

**3. While there may be a change in the mode of worship, salvation will still be by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.** The worship of God will be centred in Jerusalem. This is seen in Zechariah 14:6. "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles."

### FAVOURED

The land of Israel will be seen as a land favoured above all lands and Israel will be seen as the supreme and ruling nation with her King ruling over all the earth. "Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously," Isaiah 24:23.

Benjamin Wills Newton, in his book "The Millennium and Israel's Future" says this. "The feast of Tabernacles was the most joyful of the feasts of Israel. It spoke of the trials of the wilderness being passed, and of their now resting in the land of their inheritance with all its goodness developed and bountifully poured forth around them - the hand of the Lord their God being turned on them for good. The coming up of Gentile nations to this feast, will be to witness and rejoice in the prosperity of Israel as chosen to be the inheritance of their God, and to own Israel's national supremacy. Their coming up, therefore, will be a test of their allegiance to the government of the Lord God of Israel. Refusal to come up will be treated as rebellion and punished. In the Millennium, the government of Israel and of the nations will be, in the strictest and fullest sense, a theocracy. Not only will Israel themselves be under the direct control, *civilly* and *politically*, of the Lord, but, through them, as the chief and ruling nation, all the nations of the earth will be civilly and politically regulated. Israel, too, as holding a place of such peculiar honour and dignity, will have their *distinctness*, in this respect, marked by certain peculiar ordinances, the observance of which will not only distinguish them as God's peculiar people, but will be a test of their own obedience to Him who is, at the same time, their God and *their King*" (Page 183).

Though there will be ordinances with which we in this age are not directly familiar, the means of salvation will be, as it ever has been, through grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone. As with Israel (Zechariah 12:10), salvation begins with a sight of the wounded Saviour and this is followed by repentance and faith and an enjoying of God's pardon and peace and the joy of salvation. This is how Adam was saved, Abraham was saved, Paul was saved and how each and everyone who will walk within the sacred portals of heaven is saved! There is no other way to the Father but by Christ. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," Acts 4:12.

## II. THERE WILL BE ELEMENTS OF RESISTANCE TO CHRIST.

I have already touched upon this truth but I wish to enlarge upon it and issue a warning to any who are not yet saved.

Please read again what is said in Zechariah 14:17-19. *And it shall be, that whoso will not come of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles,* Zechariah 14:17-19.



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Men will resist Christ despite . . . .

**1. The clearest evidence of the Kingdom of God.** The glorified saints that are raised from the dead will be seen. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years," Revelation 20:4.

The glorious dwelling place of the redeemed of God will be visible from the earth, though it will not descend to the earth altogether until after the new heavens and the new earth have been brought into existence. But the glorious dwelling place will be seen.

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; and had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: on the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life," Revelation 21:9-27.

## SAINTS RULING

Furthermore, the glorified saints will be seen exercising their power and glory that they have entered into as a result of their obedience to Christ during their earthly life.

Paul makes reference to the administrations of the glorified saints in this earth when he wrote to the contentious Corinthians in order to encourage them to instil order into their church affairs.

"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" 1 Corinthians 6:1-3.

Men who hear the gospel today often challenge it by saying, "How do we know it is true and these things will come to pass?" In the Millennial age it will be clearly seen that all the promises of God are kept, for the world will not only see the mercy and love and grace of God set forth in the glorified saints but the wrath and judgment of God in the damnation of the armies of Antichrist and the daily administration of justice that will take place upon defiant men.

## PARABLE



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Do you recall the parable the Saviour taught in Luke 19:11-19? It is at the beginning of the Millennial reign that there will be a fulfilling of that parable and the nations of the earth will witness the events it refers to. "And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me." The rewarding of the obedient and the judging of the wicked will not be an oblique thing as many consider it to be in this age. Rather, there is a clear and direct correlation between the actions of men and the response of the Lord. Presently, it is not always clear to the unbeliever, who really does not wish to see, that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," Galatians 6:7. But on the Millennial earth, moral cause and just effect will be very evident indeed.

Men will resist Christ despite:

**2. There being the visible manifestation of Christ's glory amongst men.** Christ appeared before men at His first advent and following His resurrection. But on those occasions His glory was veiled behind His human nature. However, during the Millennial reign, He will appear before men in His glorious state. "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it," Isaiah 40:5.

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee," Isaiah 60:1-2. The glory of Christ will shine forth from Jerusalem for all to see. ". . . they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God," Isaiah 35:2. The earth will be filled with "the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea," Isaiah 11:9. And yet men will reject the gospel call!!

Men will resist Christ despite:

**3. The innumerable benefits of Christ's reign.** What benefits men enjoy as a result of Christ drawing near to them. Just after I was saved, I learned a wonderful hymn which I loved to sing to myself and anyone who could stand the sound of my voice!

*What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
I have light in my soul for which long I had sought,  
Since Jesus came into my heart!*



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*Refrain:*

Since Jesus came into my heart,  
Since Jesus came into my heart,  
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,  
Since Jesus came into my heart.

*I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray,  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
And my sins, which were many, are all washed away,  
Since Jesus came into my heart!*

*I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure  
Since Jesus came into my heart!*

*There's a light in the valley of death now for me,  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
And the gates of the City beyond I can see,  
Since Jesus came into my heart!*

*I shall go there to dwell in that City, I know,  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
And I'm happy, so happy, as onward I go,  
Since Jesus came into my heart!*

I sit today and contemplate the innumerable, oft forgotten, joyfully recalled blessings that have come into my life since Christ saved me by His grace.

However, in the Millennial reign men will see even more wonderful things following on from the manifestation of Christ's mercy amongst the nations. Longer life, a pleasant Eden-like earth, peace, true, real peace. Not the sham that the politicians of today boast of. And prosperity, real prosperity. Not that which dribbles through the fingers like sand. Please consider these verses.

"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," Isaiah 65:20. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose," Isaiah 35:1.

"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," Amos 9:13.

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more," Micah 4:3.

These wonderful blessings (and I have touched only a few of the glorious benefits which Christ's reign will initiate upon the earth), after which men have longed throughout the ages, will fill the earth and yet men will resist and reject the message of salvation.

### **III. UPON SATAN'S RELEASE A FINAL ASSAULT ON GOD'S PEOPLE IS MADE**

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and



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the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever," Revelation 20:7-10. Satan's confinement worked! The level of deception and defiance was lower amongst men even though it had not been utterly eradicated. Sin still abode within the hearts of the unregenerate and, because there was not the incitement of Satan to encourage rebellion, sin was greatly curtailed. But unregenerate man's heart responded to the allurements of Satan once he was released and open rebellion is once again instigated. Mankind has been exposed for 1000 years to the mercy, the love, the goodness and glory of God but man remains unchanged. Atmosphere and environment, no matter how wonderful they be, will not regenerate a man or alter his nature. He will remain a sinner. This will be evident at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ when an attack upon the camp of the saints is launched.

### HISTORY ENDS

George D. D. Ding has some interesting things to say of these events in his book, "Prophecy and the World." "The Ethiopian cannot change his skin, nor the leopard his spots, neither can the intrinsic evil of the flesh; nor the character of the unregenerate souls, be removed, even if placed in the very midst of millennial blessings. Sin and corruption must be sin and corruption everywhere. This is why so little is said in the Book of Revelation concerning the millennial period. It is rapidly passed over in a few verses, and the period of sorrow that follows it is almost made more prominent than the Millennium itself. The hopelessness of the evil of the heart of man can be witnessed more clearly in the Millennium than in any other dispensation. The manifestation of the evil of the human heart in each passing dispensation has taught us a lesson as such, yet which of these exhibitions of evil can be compared with that which is to be developed at the end of the millennial age? The earth will then be inhabited by people from pole to pole. Perhaps all of them will have known and feared the Lord. They will have before their eyes the bright glory and excellency of Immanuel's land, the glory of risen saints upon Zion, and the glorious scene of the heavenly city in the air. All the experience of past ages and all the displayed excellency of God's power and mercy will have been opened to their souls, and yet what is the result? Not being quickened by the Spirit of God, nor sprinkled with the blood of the new covenant, as soon as Satan is again loosed and tempts them, they fall away instantly and dare to come up from all parts of the world to compass the beloved city in Jerusalem and "the citadel of the saints" on Zion. Here Gag and Magog represent the nations of the whole world, not confined to those countries in the centre of Asia, northeast of Iran as mentioned in Ezekiel 38, for that is clearly at the commencement of the Millennium. Living waters may go forth from Jerusalem, the mountains rejoice, and the valleys be glad, and the pastures be clothed with flocks and sing, yet these very hills and valley are again to be trodden by the foot of evil men from all the nations as many as the sand of the sea are again to gather there in confederacy against God. Satan is the initiator and director of this last and greatest of all apostasies and defiances. Their portion is the destruction of devouring fire coming down from God out of heaven. With this event the history of this fallen earth ends." (Page 187.)

**1. How dreadful when sinners are given their desires.** The folly manifested in these closing scenes of unregenerate man's revolt would be enacted today, indeed, would have taken place long ago, were it not for God's restraint upon sinful men. Who amongst God's saints fail to know that whatever their sin may have been before their salvation, it would have been much more terrible had not God restrained them! Should God give man his head, then like the Gadarene swine, he would rush headlong to his ruin and damnation. Friend, if you are not saved then it is likely you feel that life would be so much better if you were not subject to the constraints of Bible religion and the witnessing of Christians. Oh how wrong you are! You are but one step from hell and it is the restraining hand of God that keeps you from plunging headlong into it! May you be delivered from your own heart's desires and caused to yield to the mercy of Christ.

**2. No matter what is seen and heard by the sinner, regeneration is required before he can enter glory.** Nothing prepares us for heaven but the regenerating grace of God. When the Saviour said: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," John 3:3, He did indeed speak truly, truly. In hell today are those who heard Paul preach, listened to Martin Luther and John Calvin, sat on heather banks under the sound of John Knox's voice, heard the seraphic tones of the great George Whitefield. Aye, more than that, there are those in hell today who ate of the loaves and fishes by



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Galilee, who spoke to Lazarus after he was raised from the dead - just where do we stop with such a list for hell is peopled with those who have enjoyed the most wonderful of privileges but who nevertheless failed to embrace Christ by faith and so were lost.

**3. How evident is the chief cause of evil.** The Lord Jesus and His Word and the people who have obeyed and proclaimed that Word have long been slandered as the purveyors of strife and ill. That which was said of Paul and his companions: "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also," Acts 17:6, has been said of God's people in every age and clime. Paul said, "We are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day," 1 Corinthians 4:13. So it has been throughout the history of humanity.

But it is a vile and wicked calumny!

It will be seen beyond all doubt who the author of misery and wretchedness is when the devil leads those millions referred to in the passage from Revelation 20 that we have been looking at, to their eternal doom.

**4. How futile is resistance to God.** Here is a mighty army indeed. Its number is "as the sand of the sea." But despite that, in a moment they are destroyed. Here is how all rebellion will end, verses 9-10.

There is none who can fight God. "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand," Deuteronomy 32:39. "Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?" Isaiah 43:13

"He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death," Psalm 68:20. None could have clearer warning of the doom to which they are heading than the sinner who is faced with the truth of God. What a warning you are here given.

Here, at the close of this message is the word that I have been commanded to give to you, if you are not saved.

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezekiel 33:11.

May the Lord turn your heart unto Him today.