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Peace Desired War Continues!

Can Christianity Save the World ?

THIS subject should surely exercise the minds of all thinking people, not only those who have become Christians, because it is becoming increasingly evident to all that if Christianity cannot save the world, then the destruction of this world, as constituted today, must be considered inevitable.

It is not hard to understand why mankind as a whole really desire peace, to be at- rest, unhindered and undisturbed, because man was, created in the image of God, the very God of peace. Turning to the first book of the Bible, just following the account of the creation of man, we read—"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden." (Gen. 2:7- 1 0.) Taking that from a natural standpoint, we can realize what fruitfulness would be produced by the living waters flowing out under those perfect conditions. We also like to think of that river in a symbolic sense, representing the life-giving power of God that would have followed His perfect race everywhere they went had they remained obedient. What a blessing this river would have meant to mankind had they remained near it, and near to the Creator, the God of peace!

But in this connection, turning to Isaiah 48:17, 18, we note from the prophet what happened. "Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord thy God, which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. 0 that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace-been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."

Just to think of that, dear friends. Peace would have been as a river, flowing out to fill the hearts of all mankind and keep them a perfect, loving creation of God, in that condition in which they were created. "0 that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river."

Let us compare this situation from Eccles. 7:29—"Lo, this only have I found, that God bath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." Man was created in the image of God and provided with life-giving food, and the power and spirit of the Lord would have kept perfect His human creation. But as the wise man has found, though created upright, man has sought out many inventions, right from the beginning of disobedience.

Turning to Isaiah 59 we read in verses 1, 2, 8-15 —"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear . . . The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings; they have made them crooked paths; whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us; we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men. We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves; we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know

them; in transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey; and the Lord saw it and it displeased him that there was no judgment." Here we have a description of conditions at that time in the earth. Surely, then, that peace which would have been as a river was not flowing at that time. Man has been the great loser, surely, down the centuries from that time, even though in his heart he has desired peace. "0 that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river."

From the prophet Ezekiel we note from the 13th chapter, verses 1-3, 8-10 and 15 and 16—"And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the Lord; thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! . . . Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord God. And mine hand shall be upon the prophets; they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord God. Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered morter . . . so will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered morter, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof, and ye shall know that I am the Lord. Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have daubed it with untempered morter, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it; to wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord God."

We know from prophecies of this kind the continuing desire for peace. Here we have the false prophets proclaiming peace in Jerusalem, and there was no peace. The whole time the desire was to imply that peace was just ahead. But it was the false prophets who were proclaiming this message. There was no peace in Israel, because they had hearkened not to the commandments of the Lord. Had they done so, their peace would have been as a river of life.

Then when the Prince of Peace came to Jerusalem, and the people were so incapable of grasping the favours and blessings He was ready to bestow, we read in Luke 19:41, 42 the message which He had for the people He came to save. This was the Lord, who had been serving Israel for 3% years from Jordan, and now he comes to view the position, and what does He find? "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now are they hid from thine eyes." If they had only known what the prospect was before them, that this was the real Saviour with them—if they had only known, what peace they could have had from this very One who was the Prince of Peace! We have a similar expression according to Matthew —"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" What a tragedy it was, then, for Israel. "0 that thou hadst hearkened unto my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river." But He said to them, "Your house is left unto you desolate."

But now, what of the time since our Lord's first advent? What have the greatest desires and workings for peace produced? Is there any improvement over the past ages? We know the history of the Gospel Age to some extent, and we remember that the Lord, in the early verses of Matthew 24, gives us a detailed account of what would happen, and amongst those words He said, "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there shall be wars and rumours of wars." This, we all realize, has been greatly the history of the Gospel Age, and we are intimately acquainted with world happenings over the past two world wars.

We must draw attention to the notable efforts of peace that have been carried forth in our own times. We call to mind, during the 1914-1918 war, the notable efforts of men such as Woodrow Wilson of America, who sent his mission to Europe to try and still the conflict at that time. Such men, of course, will have their reward, whatever the Lord sees good for them; their object surely was to try and still the raging war conditions at that time. Then there was the League of Nations. Think of that great organization. It was truly great from the human standpoint, yet it failed to preserve the peace of humanity. After the efforts of twenty years, it passed away. There is the great Peace Palace as a monument to man's effort—notable indeed, but failure occurs. Peace desired—war continues.

In Isaiah 33:7, 8 we have a statement which may apply in respect of such happenings as we saw in that great League of Nations—"Behold, their valient ones shall cry without; the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly. The highways lit waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth; he hath broken the covenant, he bath despised the cities, he regardeth no man." Yes, that actually took place, and the ambassadors of peace did weep bitterly. When the League of Nations was just finishing its course, it is said that the leaders of that organization literally wept when they had to leave the Peace Palace and depart, with their good designs unfulfilled.

Then we think of the United Nations organization of our own day. Many notable efforts, no doubt, were put into that organization, but we can see where it is leading. Peace is desired, and the proclamation comes from the prophets, "Peace, Peace," when there is no peace. Before the recent conflict, a leading statesman made the proclamation —"We have saved peace for our

times." War was held back from nine to twelve months, but the inevitable did occur.

We know what happened when peace was proclaimed—first peace in Europe, and there were great celebrations. Then peace in the Pacific, and there were further celebrations. They were well meant. It was a measure of relief from the tension the desire for peace shown over and over again. Now we see the great United Nations Organization cannot accomplish that which it would. It is pathetic as we review these scenes. It almost breaks the hearts of men who are honest and sincere, because they know not the plan of God. They are seeking to do something with good intention in their own strength, and as they feel, for the good of humanity.

In this connection a newspaper report published about seven months ago is very significant as we review the prophets of the Bible. and what we have been witnessing over the past 25-30 years. It is a report from London:

"A group of eminent people, including Peers and members of the House of Commons, issued a statement stressing the seriousness of the atomic war threat following failure of the Big Four conference.

"The statement points out how Communism, Fascism and Nazism resemble each other and views with concern the growing strength of communism.

"All attempts to control atomic energy have been frustrated by the uncompromising attitude of the Soviet Union. Unless strict international control of atomic energy is established, in the very near future we face a desperate world situation.

"If the peoples of America and Britain have to choose between being engulfed by Communism and a new war, we believe they would choose a war. We think that the Soviet should be told that a policy of wishing to have the fruits of war without a war itself will eventually land them in a war they do not desire," the statement added.

The statement suggested a final attempt be made on the highest level for Russian participation in the atomic control scheme; that Mr. Attlee and President Truman tell M. Stalin that it is in the interests of the Soviet to avert an atomic war. If this appeal fails, the statement continues, freedom-loving Powers with Britain and America should act together to develop a preponderance of defensive atomic strength that no Power dare challenge.

That statement, of course, does not come from the person in the street, but from those in high places, and it gives us an indication of the terrible conditions existing in the world, and yet, peace is desired.

Now the important question is this—Can Christianity save the world?

Let us go back again to the time of the Founder of Christianity, of whom it is said, "Never man spoke as this man." Let us refer to an incident recorded in Mark 4:36-41. This is very interesting, because it really shows something of this One who walked the earth, and of whom men took notice.—"And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow; and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him ?"

There is another record of much interest found in John 11:33-37. This is an incident at the death of Lazarus.— "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, and said, Where have ye laid him? And they said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died ?"

Those two incidents show the power of Christ, the perfect man on earth. "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him ?" "Could not this man also have caused that even this man should not have died ?" And we ask ourselves, Could not this Man also have given peace to the world at that time? If He had the power to command the waves to be still, could not He also have commanded mankind to be still, and to be at peace?

Now there is a surprising statement, perhaps, for some, found in Matt. 10:34-36. These are the words of our Lord, and He says, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." Comparing this with other passages of the Lord's Word, we must come to the conclusion that Jesus did not come to still the raging conditions on the earth. Remember on another occasion He said, "My kingdom is not of this world," or this age. "If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight." No, His kingdom was not of this dispensation, the Gospel Age—from our Lord's birth to the second advent —showing that He was not presenting Himself to

Israel as the Prince of Peace. No doubt He had the power. What could He have done, had He set Himself up as the ruler of Israel! What blessings He could have conveyed to Israel, to mankind, to the whole world! To think He could have healed their diseases, raised their dead, cured all the sicknesses in the countryside. And would that have meant peace? Supposing, for instance, we had conditions existing here that really meant a measure of peace and happiness—if people were not sick, if, we had full and plenty everywhere; and yet people were growing old, and passing away naturally, as we call it. Would that really mean peace? Would it be a peaceful condition if we were losing our loved ones under any conditions, even though there were no wars or strife? These conditions would have obtained in Israel if Jesus had set Himself up as a King and distributed His blessings abroad at that time. If He could still the waves, He could have hushed mankind, but they would have been a dying race. "Dying thou shalt die" was the penalty, and it would have affected them even though the Lord was there.

We see, then, from the Scriptures, dear friends, that is why Jesus did not try to 'set up peaceful conditions for mankind at that 'time. He knew there could be no real peace in the earth until the time when no one would lose his life. That is the only condition of real peace and happiness. So we find that Jesus came, the Just for the unjust, to give Himself a ransom for all. He came to pay the penalty, that in God's plan there may be a time when real peace can be established. Not a makeshift peace that would endure for a while and then fade away. So, while He could have done many great things, He knew that in God's plan He was going to do the greatest thing, and the only thing that could really bring peace to mankind.

But someone says, It is nineteen hundred years since Christ died, and what conditions have we had since that time? Matthew 24 tells us there would be wars and rumours of wars, and that is exactly what we have had. Cannot Christianity save the world today, then? What has Christianity been doing, for this nineteen hundred years?

There is a prophecy in Malachi 4:5, 6 that will assist here. This prophecy speaks of the antitype of Elijah. We know Elijah was a faithful prophet of the Lord, and he was caught up in a chariot of fire. He was a type, fulfilled in the Lord and the Lord's people. This prophecy is undoubtedly referring to a time when this antitype of Elijah would come to the earth and accomplish a measure of work, but if the real feature of the work as mentioned should not be accomplished, then the Lord would smite the earth with a curse. "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

We take it, then, the thought is that the preaching of the Elijah class goes on in all the earth, and it has a measure of effect upon this and that and the other one. But does it turn all to a childlike condition? Does it unite people together? Does it soften their hearts and bring them to a teachable condition? If not, the last part of the verse must be fulfilled— "lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." God's work has been accomplished, but not the uniting and turning of all people to a childlike condition, that they may be united as one great family, and be softened in heart and be ready to hear the Lord's Word. This has not been so, and the Lord, knowing the end from the beginning, prophesied through Malachi of this matter, and the words "lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" must go into effect.

Only a few were saved in our Lord's day. The Lord, the greatest one of all, did not turn the hearts of Israel to a childlike condition. He did not turn them to the heart condition of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. What He did was to find a little band who would be faithful to Him. In Luke 19 the Lord prophesied in respect of Israel as a whole.—"The days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench round about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." By these words, we see they were not equal to the situation, they were not ready for the great Prince of Peace. Therefore, they must be smitten with a curse, and that took place at the end of the Jewish age. In A.D. 70 Jerusalem was laid low. Then began the Christian age, following right down to our own day, and we find the same conditions obtaining. The effect of the preaching of the Elijah class has been that only the few have been softened and brought to a teachable condition, and the desire to be the Lord's people indeed. "Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" must have its fulfilment at the end of this Gospel Age also.

Of much interest in this connection is some verses in Jeremiah 30:4-7. We find that this refers to much that is occurring now in the Holy Land. As we have them there, we will find that those signs will indicate what is to be throughout the whole world eventually, in this smiting time. "And these are the words that the Lord spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

We believe this has reference to the final trouble upon Israel, which would really indicate that God's hand is for them, in saving them as a natural people. This is the great day of Jacob's trouble. "Alas, it is a great day." Yes, and it will be a great sign to humanity, because there the Lord's hand will be so manifest in the deliverance of Israel, that it will be an overwhelming witness that God is really dealing with this people. It is mentioned here to show that that is the final smiting in respect of Israel. God is permitting it, and it can be said that in God's plan He will do it, because He knows the end from the beginning. It means

deliverance for Israel, and we see now these very conditions beginning to come to pass. The division of Palestine has been agreed upon by the United Nations seeking to further the influx of the Jews to their own land. It is going to gather them together, and God will demonstrate to the world and to Israel, of course, in particular at that time that He is really their God, and He is going to save them out of that trouble. They are chastened, then saved.

But what about the world at large? Is that also to have this smiting experience? We believe so, and Isa. 24:1-6 helps in regard to this matter. “Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned and few men left.” We notice these counterparts which show the general levelling which we have seen going on for some years, and which will continue to go on for some time yet. “As with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master,” and so on. During the recent war the nobles and authorities in various countries were reduced to exactly the same condition as the peasants. They had to tramp along the roads as refugees with the least of humanity. Surely that is what the Lord wants, prior to the setting up of His kingdom. “The high places shall be brought low and the valleys shall be exalted,” in due time.

Then reading from v. 17 of this chapter, “Fear,and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, 0 inhabitant of the earth.

And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare; for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.” If that is not descriptive of what we have seen taking place in some countries, and what is yet to take place in all countries, then our thinking is not sound. There could be nothing plainer to show that this present order as we have it is going to be dissolved. It is going to be completely levelled down so that humanity will be really humbled. “Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” How the words from Isaiah come to mind, “0 that thou hadst hearkened unto my commandments! For then my peace would have been as a river.”

Now let us read Ezek. 7:25-27—"Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients. The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled; I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the Lord.” “According to their deserts.” Well, dear friends, the point is that the Lord really wants to impress upon mankind to what conditions their own doings have brought them. The Lord does not take pleasure in this chastening time, we can be sure, but He is a wise God, and He permits man to bring it upon himself. He permits one section of humanity to bring these things upon another. So it is that the various clashings of forces and powers will bring about what the prophet is telling us. War continues, even though peace is desired on every side, because it is a peace desired at their own price, the selfish price; each one for himself.

(To be continued.)

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Two Resurrections.

ONE of our readers has recently queried a statement which appeared in last month's "Peoples Paper" as follows—"I want to draw your attention to a portion in the 'Peoples Paper' this month. It is in 'Pilgrim Way Ended' and reads, 'We believe that he is now forever with the Lord.' I thought that your belief was that when a person died and was buried they remained in the grave until the resurrection."

This query shows alertness regarding this important matter. However, most of our friends will understand the difference in the Scriptural explanation respecting the two resurrections — the First Resurrection to spiritual inheritance in which the Lord's consecrated people only have part during this harvest period of the Gospel Age; and the second or general resurrection to earthly inheritance for all mankind which takes place during the Millennial Age, after the setting up of Christ's Kingdom.

The Apostle Paul in 1 Thes. 4:14-18 explains the operation of the First Resurrection, showing that those saints who had died and "slept in Jesus" (were unconscious in death) prior to the harvest of the Gospel Age would be raised first when the period of the First Resurrection began—"the dead in Christ shall rise first." And verse 17 shows that when the saints who live during the time of the First Resurrection finish their course in death they are "caught up together with them (with those already raised first) to meet the Lord in the air." The same Apostle makes this matter very clear in 1 Cor. 15:51, 52 when he says, "Behold, I show you a mystery, we shall not all sleep (in death, awaiting the resurrection morning) but we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, etc." It is very evident that St. Paul is not discussing the resurrection of mankind in general, but only the saints, the "we" class, and it is equally clear that while the followers of Christ throughout the Gospel Age did "sleep in Jesus" (See 2 Tim. 4 :7, 8) until the First Resurrection began, yet there was to be no "sleeping" in death by the saints finishing their earthly course during the period when "Christ the firstfruits" are gathered into the heavenly garner.

Students of the Scriptures generally are agreed that we have been living in the last days or harvest of the Gospel Age for some time, therefore, it can be said that "the dead (saints) in Christ have been raised first" and each member of the Lord's people now finishing their earthly course do not need to sleep in death, but "are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" — "Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption ; sown in dishonour, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power; sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body." (1 Cor. 15:52, 42-44. See also Rev. 14:13- 16.)

It is true, however, that mankind in general who have died throughout human history are still unconscious in the death condition—"The wages of sin is death," and "the dead know not anything." (Rom. 6:23 ; Eccles. 9:5.) They still await the general resurrection to earthly life which will not begin until the great Armageddon time of trouble is over and the new conditions are operating in the earth under the power of Christ's Millennial Kingdom. That will be the time when "all in the graves (death condition) shall hear His (Christ's) voice and shall come forth . . . they that have done evil unto the resurrection of judgment." (John 5 :28, 29, Revised Version.) "When Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." (Isa. 26 :9 ; See also Acts 17:31.)

Sydney Members' Pilgrimage Ended.

The Sydney friends have suffered the loss of two dear elderly Sisters in the persons of Sister Thompson of Hurst- vine and Sister Walder of Banksia, both finishing their earthly course on the same day last month. Sincere sympathy is extended to the relatives and brethren who will miss them both very much. A short report is as follows

"Our dear Sister Thompson came into the truth about 1911,' and was a most devoted Christian, caring for the members of her household right up to the time of her passing. We all loved our dear Sister who was devoted to the truth and attended the meetings whenever possible, giving a testimony on every appropriate occasion. Her life was one of true sacrifice without complaint of any kind. Our dear Sister Thompson is another of the Lord's children who is now with our dear Lord, 'changed in the twinkling of an eye.'

"Our dear Sister Walder was a consecrated child of God who loved the truth since about 1933, and always gave a beautiful testimony when at the testimony meetings, and was the means of bringing her husband into the truth.

All who came in contact with our dear Sister could not but love her; she was a beautiful character, having the qualifications desired by a child of God, and is now with the dear Master—Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yea, says the spirit, they rest from their labours and their works do follow them.' "

The Rest of the Way.

"Thou hast been my help."—Psa. 63:7.
"I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me."—Psa. 23:4.

Oh, fathomless mercy! Oh, infinite grace!
With humble thanksgiving the road we retrace:
Thou never hast failed us, our strength and our stay ;
To whom should we turn for the rest of the way?

Through dangers, through darkness, by day and by night,
Thou ever hast guided, and guided us right.
In Thee we have trusted, and peacefully lay
Our hand into Thine for the rest of the way.

Thy cross is our refuge ; Thy blood all our plea ;
None other we want, Lord Jesus, but Thee.
We fear not the shadows at close of the day,
For Thou wilt go with us the REST of the WAY.

Note of Warning.

Would our friends generally be on guard against deception by strangers seeking monetary assistance by plausible misrepresentation. It should be understood that advice will be sent direct from this office to our friends giving information in the case of strangers passing their way. A recent case of deception in another State makes this warning necessary.

Correspondence.

Berean Bible Institute, Dear Sir—I am enclosing 10/-postal note for renewal of subscription for the "Peoples Paper." Please keep remainder for your good work. As one reads the Bible there are parts which puzzle me, such as 1 Peter 3:19. Could you kindly explain same. I received the "Peoples Paper" last time but very much missed the Frank and Ernest Talks. I would also like to receive a copy of "The Voice." Yours sincerely.

(An article on 1 Pet. 3:19—"How Jesus Preached to the Spirits in Prison"—is available in a back issue of "Peoples Paper," and is supplied free to enquirers.—B.B. Institute.)

Dear Friends—You have been sending me the "Peoples Paper" also leaflets of Frank and Ernest Biblical Dialogues, but this month you did not enclose the leaflets and I missed them very much. I have saved all you sent me and pass them on to anyone who seems interested. They are indeed tidings of great joy.

I am enclosing 10/- postal note for "Peoples Paper" and also Dialogues when you have them to spare. Your explanations of the Bible have made me very happy. Yours gratefully.

(It is hoped to be able to supply the copies of the Dialogues to all requesting same with "Peoples Paper."B.B. Institute.)

Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—Your frank and earnest talks over the air of a Sunday morning have attracted my interest ever since I happened upon it many months ago. I have not always been able to listen and give you the attention warranted, so am writing to you asking you to let me have your views on some of the many wonderful things happening at this moment and to come. Yours sincerely.

Dear Sirs—This morning I heard the Dialogue on the subject of "Hell." Could I have a copy of same; I did not hear on the air if there was a charge. If there is I would be pleased to send the cost on; herewith enclosed is stamp for postage. I find your talks very helpful on some passages in the Bible and thanking you for same. Yours sincerely.

Dear Sir—Upon reading the booklet "Do the Dead Know Anything?", which by the way was very interesting indeed, I see that you are also offering post free "The High Calling of God," "Distress of Nations," "A Blessed Hope for Suffering Humanity," "Why Do the Nations War?" and "Refrain Thy Voice from Weeping." I would indeed he pleased and grateful if you could send

me these. I listen in to the broadcast over here from 6KY Sunday mornings, Frank and Ernest, who sent me the booklet "Do the Dead Know Anything?" I remain, Yours faithfully.

Dear Sirs—I should be grateful if you could forward me a series of back numbers of your very popular Frank and Ernest Dialogues. I much appreciate the half dozen copies of various ones I have at present.

There is one question I am most desirous of asking. I understand from your various literature (and from Biblical support of same) that there are three types of people who will emerge from the tribulations yet to come. (1) The elect, or the Church. (2) The posterity of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—who are to dwell on the earth as separate from the first named. (3) The sinner—who is yet to learn righteousness during the Millennial Age. So far, so good. But I also learn (from the parable of the Ten Virgins) that the Elect will be composed of two types, the "wise" and the "foolish." Now, what I want to know is, if the wise are called to the feast with the Bridegroom and the foolish are left behind, what is their position. In the first place they are (as virgins) the "church" type, and yet in the second place they are not the "Abraham" type. I was wondering if you could give me some indication (from your literature, or from direct Biblical reference), just what becomes of this class. Enclosed please accept a small donation towards expenses. Yours faithfully.

(Revelation 7 explains very clearly both the Church or "sealed" overcomers who reign with Christ "in His throne" (Rev. 3:21), and the Great Multitude which, while unworthy to be of the Bride, wash, their robes and thus overcoming serve God "before the throne" in the spiritual kingdom. The booklet "Tabernacle Shadows" explains this subject very clearly and in detail.—B.B. Institute.)

Dear Mr. I had intended dropping you a line some time ago, ever Since I saw in the "P.P." that your Institute

was going to print "The Manner of Christ's Return" in booklet form. I thought those articles were splendid and it will be good to have a copy in a booklet. I would like to order four copies and as you will no doubt be announcing the price and when they will be ready in the "P.P.," I will keep my eyes open and forward cost then.

I thought the main article in July "P.P." very good indeed; so like my own experience when first hearing and reading of these great truths. I am pleased to say that I have seen much more light during this last two or three months and it all seems so marvellous, this great plan of God. I have been having quite a lively time in discussion with some of my friends on these matters, and not being as far forward as I would like in my knowledge of these truths, they do manage to cause me some doubt at times, but I have got such a picture of the Truth in my mind that nothing will really shake me off now.

It is hard to understand how people can be so blind to the significance of world affairs today. Some will not read any books pointing out these things and of course miss much that would otherwise astound them. I could write quite a long letter but will reserve some questions I would like to ask re certain Bible passages to a later date. Possibly I may come across their true meaning withstudy in the meantime. I hope and pray that you are able to carry cn this great work. Yours sincerely.

Dear Sirs—Some time ago I wrote to you for books and am writing to let you know that I received same safely, and am now writing for the Diaglott edition of New Testament. I also receive "Peoples Paper" safely.

Since reading the books early this year and since receiving the books you have so promptly forwarded, I feel very anxious to attend Bible Class and hear things discussed, which I have to think for myself, and I would like to know many things I do not understand properly.

I hope to go to Melbourne to work in the warm weather, and am hoping to learn more then and get baptized.

I have read the Bible, and also have attended church now and then, and I never thought it possible to ever have any rational interpretation of the Bible. I naturally thought one died and either went to heaven, or hell, after judgment day which I imagined would be after the great war between good and evil was won. I wondered at times if God would win because of the way everything is in the world, and even thought if evolution were possible. I did not really think so, because I do a little art work, and I know that everything is perfectly designed and that there must be a designer.

I almost turned Roman Catholic, because most people I work with are Catholic, and I considered their religion and could see that at least they have faith in something and go to their church whereas most protestants are heathen and only go to church to be married. I have always gone to Church of England and one year when I was in hospital at Easter the C. of E. minister came to visit his little flock and he came and spoke to only two of us, and gave us each a little Easter card, while the outsiders did not have any notice taken of them and which I have never forgotten. So I was wondering about it all when I read your books and many things I never dreamed of became very clear to me. I have always been afraid to die, because at church or Sunday school one only thinks of oneself as going to heaven and playing a harp and singing forever, or else going to hell forever and suffering without being able to die again.

There is no one here to learn from, except by reading, and I would like to attend the Bible Classes and learn more, and if I can, I would like to be baptized later on. My Catholic friends want me to see a priest and be one of them.

When I try to tell them anything they say, St. Peter was the first pope, and their church has been since the beginning, and that they don't allow divorce and that ethers want them to change their Bible, and it seems useless to explain anything. I would like to talk to people who have ideas like the Berean Bible Students . . . Would you please send me "Peoples Papers" monthly with the change as I am enclosing £l, and thanking you for the ones which you have so kindly sent me. I am, faithfully.

(Literature explaining from the Scriptures the true position of the Roman Catholic system will be gladly supplied on application.—B.B. Institute.)

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