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Our Lord's Great Prophecy

(Part 7. Continued from April Issue.)

As In The Days Of Noah, "They Knew Not."

"But as the days of Noah were, *SO* shall also the presence [Greek *pamusia*] of the Son of Man be, *FOR* as in the days that were Before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and **KNEW NOT**, . . . *SO* shall also the presence of the Son of Man be."—Matt. 24:37-39.

THE real point of this illustration is overlooked by many who presuppose, without any authority in the Master's words, that the similarity here being pointed out is the wickedness of Noah's day and that of the day of Christ's presence. But while such a comparison might have been justifiable and proper, the fact remains that such comparison was not made, but avoided. The comparison made is similarity of ignorance. Only Noah and his family knew; the people **KNEW NOT**, but proceeded as usual,—marrying, planting, building, eating and drinking. Similarly, during the time of Christ's presence in the end of this age, and while the great time of trouble is impending, the only ones who will know of His presence or have a clear apprehension of what is coming, or why, or the outcome, will be the Lord's people. Others will "know not."

In Luke (17:26-29) the same lesson is taught; and both Noah's and Lot's neighbours are shown to have been ignorant of their impending troubles in the days of Noah, and in the days of Lot, as people here will be ignorant of the coming trouble in the days of the Son of Man—after He has come and is present. We see this clearly fulfilled about us today The world is fearful and perplexed; but it knows not of the presence of the Son of Man, and the "harvest" reckoning now in progress. Even though they may approximately surmise the trouble coming, they can not guess the blessing that is beyond it.

"Even thus shall it be when the Son of Man [already present] is revealed [made manifest—first to His watching "virgins", later in the trouble to all men]. In that day, he which shall be on the house-top, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife! 'Whosoever shall seek to save his life [by compromises of conscience and staying in Babylon] shall lose it 'and whosoever shall lose his life [sacrifice the interests of the present life] shall preserve it.'"—everlastingly.—Luke 17:30-33.

Thus does Luke's Gospel apply these words (already considered, foregoing) to the close of the Gospel age—"the day when the Son of Man is revealed."

"Remember Lot's wife?" is our Lord's pointed warning. How slight would be the appropriateness of this injunction, if applied to those who fled from Judea in A.D. 70; but how intensely forceful it is as a caution to God's people here, in the close of the Gospel age. When we learn that Babylon is doomed, and hear the Lord's message, "Come out of her my people that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues," it is indeed like the voice of the messengers who hastened Lot and his family out of Sodom, saying, "Stay not in all the plain, escape for thy life; escape to the mountain lest thou be consumed; look not behind thee."—Gen. 19:17.

The illustration is heightened when we remember that Christendom is "that great city [Babylon] which spiritually is called Sodom."—Rev. 17:18.

Lot's wife, after starting to flee as directed, "looked back"; coveting the things behind: and so with some now fleeing from Babylon to the mountain (Kingdom) of the Lord; they are more in sympathy with the things behind than with the things before. Only those will run the race to the finish who set their affections on the things above, and not on the things beneath. The perseverance of the saints springs from a full consecration of heart; all others will fail so to run as to obtain the great prize.

One Taken And Another Left.

"I tell you that in that night there shall be two in one bed; the one shall be taken and the other shall be left."—Luke 17:34,—omitted by Matthew.

The Lord, through the Prophet, informs us that though the Millennial morning draws near, a night also approaches. (Isa. 21:12.) It will be a night of trouble in the forepart of which the saints will be gathered out of Babylon. The "bed" here, in harmony with Isaiah's use of that word (Isa. 28:20), may be interpreted to symbolize human creeds which are long enough for "babes" in Christ, but too short for a developed "man" to stretch himself in it. This is true of the various "doctrines of men," substituted for but very different from the doctrines of God's Word whose lengths and breadths surpass human knowledge. For instance, the doctrine of Election, as taught by our Calvinist friends is a quite sufficient "bed"

to rest many who are only “babes” in Christ, whose senses have never been much exercised; but as in the light of present day knowledge the babes get awake and grow in grace and knowledge, they will all surely find the old creed-bed too short for comfort; and as each attempts to wrap himself in the promises of God narrowed by an erroneous theology, he cannot satisfactorily cover himself: doubts creep in to chill him with fear that after all he is not certain that he and all his friends are of the “elect”; and by and by such developed Christians find it a relief to get ‘out of such a predicament; and to such God generally sends the light of present truth to guide them to a “large place” of true rest supplied with abundant coverings for all who seek to know and to do the Father’s will. Others however, the vast majority, remain quite satisfied and comfortable in their various little cribs, because they are “babes” and not “men” in Christian knowledge and experience. “One shall be taken and the other left.”

“Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.”—Matt. 24:40.

“The field is the world,” our Lord explained; and in this discourse it represents a condition outside the nominal “house”—outside of Babylon. Thus we are taught that not all “come-outers” will be “gathered,” but that the “jewels” will be sought wherever they may be—the Lord knoweth them that are His,” and in this harvest gathering He is making up His jewels,—gathering His “elect,” to be joint-heirs in His Kingdom.

“Two shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken and the other left.”—Matt. 24:41; Luke 17:35.

A mill is a place where food is prepared; the ministers and theological schools do the grinding of the spiritual food for “Babylon,” and turn out very poor grist—not “clean provender.” The complaint is a growing one that the food supplied is largely husks and chaff, which will not sustain spiritual life and strength: and each grinder is obliged to prepare what is given him by his own denomination, and he cannot hold, his position and yet provide the “meat in due season,” “clean provender,” for the household of faith. Hence “present truth” gathers some of the grinders and leaves others—one is taken and another left. Those who are loyal to God and to His flock will be taken; all others will be left. While the world and the nominal church declare this to be a time of union and “confederacy,” God’ declares it to be a time of separating.—Isa 8:12.

Whither Gathered—The Attraction.

“And they [the disciples] answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? [Where will these be TAKEN?] And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body [the carcass, the food] is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.—Matt. 24:28; Luke 17:37.

The lesson is that in that day, when the Lord is gathering His “elect” from the four winds of heaven—from every quarter of the Church—He will attract them as eagles are attracted, by food, for which they have a keenness of vision and appetite; that in due time the Lord would provide the proper food, and His true people would recognize it and be gathered to it;—the ready and worthy taken and the others left.

The food of “present truth” now provided by our Lord, and the gathering of His saints by and to it, fits the description of this prophecy exactly. The present call is not out of one “mill” into another “mill”; nor out of one “bed” into another of about the same size. It is not the gathering by one man or many men, to him or to them, into a new denomination; but a gathering together unto Christ Himself, the true and only Master and Teacher.

Moreover, it is worthy of note that great human ability, oratory, etc., have been notably connected with other movements, but not with this present gathering to the Lord. Here the truth, the spiritual food which the Lord is supplying, is the whole attraction: human flourish and oratory find little room for exercise here; they are lacking but are not missed. The gathered and gathering ones come together because they “hunger and thirst after righteousness”: and they are finding the satisfying portion which the Lord Himself has provided; and each for himself is eating thereof.

Watch, If Ye Would Know.

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord cloth come. But understand this [the reason why the time is so secreted under symbols and parables], that if the householder had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.”—Matt. 24:42, 43.

The “master of the house” or “householder” of the present dispensation is not our Lord, but our Adversary, the devil—the “god of this world,” the prince of the power of the air, “the prince of this world,” who now ruleth in the children of disobedience, blinding the minds of all that believe not—whose eyes of understanding have not been anointed with the Lord’s eye-salve. (2 Cor. 4-4; Eph. 2-2; Rev. 3-18.) This adversary is a wily one, and very cunning; and whatever knowledge he has of the divine times and seasons and arrangements he is prompt to use in opposing the divine plan, as our Lord declares in the foregoing statement.

The Heavenly Father’s course toward Satan has been to let him take his own way, except where it would conflict with the divine plan, and so to overrule his evil devices as to use them for the furtherance of the divine plan.

Hence Satan, although he has long known the Bible, has understood but halt of it, for the same reason that man has not understood it; because written in parables, symbols and figures of speech. And now that these are due to be understood, the understanding of them is confined to such as have the guidance of the holy spirit, which, as our Lord promised, “shall guide you into all truth”, but which the world cannot receive. Satan does not possess the holy spirit and is not guided by it, and consequently much of the divine Word is foolishness unto him. But he has learned no doubt as the world to some extent has learned, that—”The Secret of the Lord is with them that fear him.” (Psa. 25:14.) We may presume therefore that his representatives, the fallen angels, are frequently present at the little Conferences and Bible studies, etc., of God’s truly consecrated people, to learn something of the divine plan.

In what way Satan would have managed his affairs differently if he had known sooner more about the divine plan, we can only surmise; but we have our Lord’s positive testimony that such knowledge on Satan’s part would have made necessary a different ending of the Gospel age, and a different opening of the Millennial age, than God had purposed and declared. But instead of knowing and setting his house in order, he was taken unawares by the Lord’s parousia and the “harvest” work in progress: so that with all his wiles and deceptions, all his simulations of the true light, etc., his “house,” present institutions, will suffer complete collapse. As he realizes this, he puts forth the most strenuous efforts to deceive;—even resorting through his deluded servants to miracles of physical healing, although he is the prince of disease, sickness and death. (Heb. 2:14.) But a house thus divided against itself is sure to fall: and great will be the fall of Babylon: it will fall as a great millstone cast into the sea.—Rev. 18:21.

“Therefore be ye also ready, for at such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.”—Matt. 24:44.

Here “ye also,” believers, the Lord’s faithful, are mentioned in contrast with Satan and his household. The time of the Lord’s presence could not be known beforehand, even by the saints. Nor was the fact of the Lord’s presence recognized, until His knock through the word of the prophets and apostles, was recognized. Since that time there are abundant outward signs, evidences, of the presence of the Son of Man; and His devoted ones as they are gathered from the four winds of heaven, are taken into His banqueting house and caused to sit down to meat such as the world knoweth not of, and are served, first of all by the Master Himself, and incidentally by each other.—See Luke 12:3 7.

Dispensing Of Food To The Household.

Matt. 25:45-51; Luke 12-42-46.

“Who then is a faithful and prudent servant, whom his Master has placed over his household to give them food in due season. Happy that servant whom his Master, on coming, shall find thus employed! Indeed I say to you that he will appoint him over all his stores of provisions.”—Matt. 24:45-51; Luke 12:42-46.

The intimation here seems to be, that at the particular time indicated by the prophecy,—namely during the Lord’s presence, and at the time of the gathering of the elect—our Lord, the great Servant of His people, will dispense the meat in due season through His servants to the “household.” But the servant is merely a steward, and liable to be removed at any moment, should he fail to fully and duly acknowledge in every particular, the Master,—the great Servant of God, and His people,— “the Messenger of the Covenant,”—Christ.

Faithfulness on the part of said servants (both to the “Master” and to “fellow-servants” and “the household”) will be rewarded by their continuance as servants ;—so long as they serve faithfully, they may continue, and may serve the household of faith with things new and old,—meat in due season—to the end; bringing forth all the precious things of divine provision. But if anyone is unfaithful he will be deposed entirely and put into outer darkness, while presumably another would take the place, subject to the same conditions. We may be sure that whoever the Lord will use, as a truth-distributing agent, will be very bumble and unassuming, as well as very zealous for the Master’s glory; so that he would not think of claiming authorship or ownership of the truth, but would merely dispense it zealously as his Master’s gift, to his Master’s “servants” and “household.”

Any other spirit and course would surely work a change of servant. This is detailed by our Lord as follows:—”But if that servant shall [become] wicked, and [losing faith] say in his heart, My Master delays his coming; and shall smite his fellow-servants, and eat and drink with the intemperate [of their false doctrines] , the Master of that servant will be present in a day that he looketh not for, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him off [from being his servant] and will appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” -Matt. 24:48-51.

* *

Our Lord was the greatest of all Prophets, and His prophecy likewise the most striking. Moses’ and Jeremiah’s and other prophecies deal chiefly with the rejection and regathering of fleshly Israel. Isaiah’s prophecies besides dealing with fleshly Israel show Jesus Christ the sufferer for our sins as also a light to the Gentiles, and ultimately the opening of all the blind eyes of humanity to “that true light.” Daniel foretells the coming and cutting off of Messiah, the Pentecostal anointing of the most holy, the history of Gentile powers to their end, and the establishment of Messiah’s Kingdom under the whole heaven. He also shows the persecuting power of the Papal little horn, its wearing out of the saints during the age, and the days of waiting for the Kingdom, etc. But no other prophet than our Lord has given us the needed details of this ‘harvest’ time, connecting these with the prominent events noted by the other prophets.

Our Lord’s prophecy, like those of the others, is veiled in symbolic and parabolic language, and for the same purpose;—that “none of the wicked should understand,” but the meek, honest and faithful of God’s people only,—in God’s due time and way.

“Unto you it is given to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God: but to others in parables [“dark sayings”]; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.”—Luke 8:10.

(Concluded.)

PEOPLES PAPER AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM.

Berean Bible Institute General Report

ANOTHER year's work for the Berean Bible Institute has been completed with the close of April, and our desire is to express sincere thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for His blessings and guidance upon the efforts of all dear brethren who have so willingly co-operated in this service of the truth, in, this corner of the harvest field throughout another twelve months.

There is no claim of accomplishing "many wonderful works" in the Lord's name, for the efforts of God's people are mainly in the small ways of "holding forth the word of life" for the encouragement of fellow members in the Christian walk, as well as finding others who have ears to hear the joyful sound of the Gospel message—even as many as the Lord our God shall call." To this end our monthly "Peoples Paper and Herald of Christ's Kingdom" goes its way to our brethren and friends generally throughout this continent and across the seas, and it is encouraging to receive the reports of appreciation of the message of the "Paper," the following extract from England being typical:—"I do enjoy its quiet, simple way of ministering the truth to us who are seeking to know and to do His will."

At this time again appreciation is expressed to our brethren who contribute to the pages of "Peoples Paper" by means of the Convention addresses, etc. Friends having other helpful articles are asked to submit them, as in this way good messages of truth can be passed on to the "household of faith," by the Lord's overruling.

The greatly increased cost of producing the "Peoples Paper" necessitated an increase in the yearly subscription rate to 4/6 six months ago. While this increase is of assistance and additional subscriptions also help considerably, yet there is a substantial deficiency in meeting the full publishing cost which is made up from the General Tract Fund.

As considerable numbers of "Peoples Papers" are provided free for general witness work, it is felt that this expense on the General Fund is well used, though additional subscriptions to the "Paper" would make it more self-supporting. Samples of the "Peoples Paper" are gladly supplied free for distribution, and three months' issues are sent out free to all interested people, including all from the radio witness.

During the year quantities of books and booklets have been despatched over a wide area and supplies on hand are sufficient to meet the demands for some time to come. The booklet "The Manner of Christ's Return and Appearing" is proving a valuable piece of literature, and shortly it is expected that the articles on "Our Lord's Great Prophecy," the last of which appears in this issue, will be produced in booklet form. Having the important explanations of our Lord's prophecy pertaining to the harvest time assembled in handy form should prove helpful. Good supplies of "The Plan of God—in Brief": are also available; this booklet and the two above mentioned make a well balanced selection of literature for general use. A special offer of these three booklets will be announced later.

The tracts and Kingdom Cards have been used by various friends for witnessing to the Kingdom message, and these are especially good where other means, such as the radio witness, are not available. The same applies to the coupon advertisements in newspapers from which a number of good responses have been received in the past year. The Consolation Cards for use amongst the bereaved have again proved a means of help to those longing for the message of hope and comfort which is found only in the truths of the Scriptures. It is a privilege to be able to serve the Lord's cause and all friends willing and desiring to co-operate in any of this work should apply for supplies of tracts and cards which are provided free from the General Tract Fund.

Some public lectures have also been held over the year past and the most profitable are found to be those where the message for newcomers is combined with the spiritual truths of God's Word; by this means the brethren are encouraged as well as providing help for seekers after the truth. It is always appropriate to "preach the Word" publicly as well as privately and those Classes and friends who are active in this respect are no doubt blessed of the Lord as they seek to do all as unto Him.

Most of our readers will be aware that the work of the Institute is carried on by the voluntary contributions of all friends desiring to assist in this service of the truth, and the General Tract Fund indicates the good assistance received for the general work, by the Lord's providence. No doubt much sacrifice is represented in the contributions listed, by which all expenses for the year have been met and the small credit balance is in hand for the year ahead.

There is much cause for praise and gratitude to the Lord as we view the fulfilment of prophecy in these last days of the Gospel Age; however, possibly none of the Lord's people can fully estimate the privileges and favours enjoyed while the world at large is in darkness and ignorance of such stupendous events about to come to pass—the establishment of Christ's Kingdom with all the faithful overcomers assisting their Lord in the blessing of all the families of the earth. Such a prospect should surely encourage each one of the Lord's people to use fully all their talents in the service of Christ, assisting their fellow pilgrims and all who have ears to hear while the opportunities are still available in our midst. "He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." The prayers of our dear friends are requested that the Lord's blessing and guidance may be upon all the efforts of His people, to His praise.

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The Radio Work.

The broadcasting of the truth message for another year has also been completed and it is with gratitude to the Lord for His blessings on this feature of service that this short review is presented at this time.

There is continued marked evidence of much good being done by the witness over the air through both stations 3GL Geelong (Victoria) and 2KY Sydney, the number of new responses being encouraging, and the benefits to others who have progressed in the truth since first hearing the sessions are cause for rejoicing and thankfulness to the Lord.

It has been found beneficial to continue the offer of printed copies of each broadcast, thus encouraging listeners to obtain these and meditate upon the truths heard, and other literature supplied increases the desire of those who are seeking for the satisfying message of Divine truth. Considerable numbers of the printed Dialogues are also posted out each month with the “Peoples Paper” and in this way the broadcast messages reach many more friends.

The advertising of the broadcasts by the distribution of radio cards has been continued, though more may be possible along this line by those friends able to give some time to this work. The cards are made available free from the Radio Fund to all willing to place these in the hands of people within range of the stations. The newspaper advertising has been on a reduced scale, though some of our friends are doing what is possible in this way. All friends desiring to assist with this witness over the air should apply for information.

Once again the financial support for this work is most encouraging; the voluntary sacrifices of earthly good things enables this witness to go on, and after meeting all expenses the credit balance has been increased to 197/8/- to commence the new year. It is requested that our brethren join in prayer also for God’s blessing upon this feature of His work, that His good will may be done in the hearts of all sincere people, “While it is day.”

Radio Fund.

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<u>Free Booklets, etc.....</u>	53 6
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The Marriage of the Lamb.

(Convention Address.)

“Let *US* be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife made herself ready.” (Rev. 19:7.)

THE Bible’ uses many similes, and as we search it from day to day, we are struck by that fact. Pictures are given of hills and mountains, illustrating to us types of governments; then seas, rivers, trees and men and women are used to picture other things, likewise sowing and reaping, the harvest time, feasts and so on; all these things are used to picture certain great things.

Our text draws attention to the beautiful picture of the marriage of the Lamb. The Lamb, of course, is another picture within this one, with which we are well acquainted—“the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” There are very interesting aspects to this picture. If we think of the beginning of our association with the Lamb of God, we look back to the time when we were without God and having no hope in the world. Then we realised the wonderful love that the Saviour has exercised toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. We wish to draw attention particularly to that love. It was, while we were yet at enmity with God that the redemption was made, and at what cost! The Bible tells us that He loved His own right unto the end, and that is the extremity of the test of love. Surely we realise when we look at the position, that it was indeed a very great love that was shown toward those who were born in sin and shapen in iniquity.

When we consider the life of our Lord, the ministry that took up 3 1/2 years, we see the love that was shown towards those with whom He came in contact; the miracles He performed in relieving the suffering and comforting the sorrowing, even raising the dead. These things showed forth the glory of His kingdom to be set up at a future time. They were just miniature pictures of the great love that He would show to all mankind at a later date.

Surely a responsive chord was struck in the hearts of those who saw our Lord’s love during His ministry. So it is with those who are touched by that love now; they want to respond and have a similar love dwelling in their own hearts and minds. The question they ask is that which was asked in the days of old—“Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” So we begin to feel after God and He draws us near to that wonderful Son of His, as we view the light that shone from Him at that time.

But that is not the full extent of the love shown by Christ. There was opened the great opportunity of being associated with our Lord in His coming Kingdom, the miracles He performed being but a small indication of what He would do in the future. God knew that much assistance would be required for the uplifting and blessing of mankind, and He set aside a long period of time, now nearly 2,000 years past, in which to prepare and separate a class of people to be associated with Christ in the work of that glorious Kingdom. Seeing it is such a great exaltation to be with the Lord in that Kingdom and share His honour and glory, no wonder a long period was required. We cannot but be interested and inspired as we see the evidence about us of that day being now near at hand when the marriage of the Lamb will take place—when the Bride has made herself ready to meet her beloved Lord. Soon the remaining experiences associated with the preparation of the Bride will be fully accomplished.

There is a great love shown between the Lord and the Bride class from the time when we are engaged to our Lord; that is, we have fully given up our own wills to have the will of God done in us; we have consecrated our all, that we may follow in the steps of our Master. The more we keep in touch with our Lord and Head the greater will that love grow, because “Looking unto Jesus, like Him we would be.” If we keep close to the Master, He will be with us in every trial and temptation and provide a way of escape, and as He said to the Apostle Paul, “My grace is sufficient for thee, My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Our part is to rely entirely upon Him, having a love for Him greater than for anyone else, or even our own life; because of the love He has shown to us, our confidence in our Lord will naturally increase as the days go by.

It is necessary for us as Christians to make preparations for the time when the marriage of the Lamb will take place. There is much work to be done, because we do not want to have the filthy rags that we had while we were yet estranged from God. We want to have His spirit; we could not expect to be with the Heavenly Father in realms of glory unless we had the Father’s spirit, the spirit of our Lord, and in that respect our Father and our Lord are one. We remember the prayer that He made on our behalf, that we should also be one with them; that is, that we would have the same spirit governing our every action that governs the actions of the great Creator and His great Son.

We learn as we walk in His steps that

“Love is the filling from one’s own

Another’s cup:

A daily laying down and taking up

A choosing of the stony path through each new day,

That other feet may tread with ease

A smoother way.”

We want, as is pictured to us in the Psalms, to commence that work of fine needlework, the putting on of those fruits and graces of the holy spirit pleasing to our Lord. We see this exemplified in Him, and we want to have the same character and disposition as He had, doing the same things and having His likeness implanted in our hearts.

-There is a great work to be done in this respect. It is not done just by reading the Bible from day to day. We must act upon our knowledge, and there is comforting assurance given us in the Scriptures, that if we do these things we shall never fail, but an abundant entrance shall be given to us in that great kingdom of our Lord and Saviour. Because of the promises and hope set before us, we are looking forward to the great day, and endeavour to do our best in putting the fine needlework on the robe that has been given us, to the end that we may have the same disposition as our Lord and be meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

The Church experiences great jubilation because we are living in the days of the Lord’s presence now. We see the work that He is doing. Troublous times were foretold for the world preparatory to the complete overthrow of the kingdoms of this world and the power of Satan; and seeing these things being accomplished, we know that our Lord is at work. Soon we will undoubtedly see other great events taking place that will indicate we are drawing near to the end of the Narrow Way. No doubt we will rejoice even in the tribulation of those days, for we are assured that it will be through much tribulation that we shall enter the kingdom. Why should we be downcast, disheartened, because of these things?. The thought before us, that the consummation of our hope, the great marriage feast, is very near, will be a sustaining portion to all those who cast their

care upon Him. It will not be long before all difficulties and trials will be past, and the world itself will have the benefits of the tribulation that the Church, the Bride, has been going through. That tribulation will have a refining effect upon them, just as, when gold and silver is refined in the fire, the dross is all burned away.

It is rather wonderful, when we come to think of it, that in the little time of our span of life we can be made ready for that great day. It is not that we will be made perfect in that time, but that our intentions will always be to be like our Lord. Our love for Him will be such that we can trust Him, no matter where we may be.

While the Bride is performing this necessary work, the Bridegroom has a work of which He had told us. He said that in His Father's house are many mansions, and that He was going to prepare a place for us. The Bible assures us that we will be well looked after, because our Lord has been making the necessary preparations and He will have everything ready for us, even to the spreading of the feast and the drinking of the new wine in the Kingdom, as He promised to the disciples.

There will be the bridesmaids also, the virgins her companions who follow her; and what a wonderful time it will be when they are all united at the wedding feast!

We have stated that the marriage of the Lamb is not very far distant. Many things have taken place to indicate this; many prophecies respecting the walk of the Church throughout this age have been already accomplished, and are now things of the past, and as we look upon them we realise that all things do not continue as they were. Large numbers of people seem to think things still carry on as they were, but surely they have not taken heed to the Master's words and been watchful. Those who do watch see many things taking place, one of the most important of recent times being the establishment of the government in Palestine by the Jews. Last year they set up a provisional government over Palestine, notwithstanding that apparently the world was against them, not only the Arab world, which was very considerable. But evidently God has been with them, and He will be with them to a much greater extent yet.

In their work of preparing Palestine before the time of Jacob's trouble there is much to be done; there are many more of that nation to be regathered, and undoubtedly the Church will see much of that work accomplished, although God has promised that the Bride will be saved out of the extreme trouble coming upon the world, which will be about the time of Jacob's trouble. Therefore it gives us great confidence to look into the prophecies and see how they are being fulfilled before our eyes. We realise the day is coming when everything will be at an end so far as the reign of sin and wickedness is concerned.

A harvest work has been going on now for many years with the bundling of the tares and the gathering together of the wheat class. That gathering seems to be almost accomplished, for to-day there are not many who have the hearing ear, the desire to come out from Babylon and consecrate fully to the Lord; they seem to be tied up with a form of Godliness and delight in those things in which God has said He has no pleasure.

Then, too, the rolling together of the scroll of the heavens is taking place in the World Council of Churches. Momentous things are passing before our eyes to-day, and they are well worthy of our notice.

How diligent and earnest we should be in our walk in life as we have these things before our minds. There is not too much time to complete our preparation—we feel that way at all events. It is many years since we first entered into this way, and even now there seem to be many things we would rather not see in our life, the weaknesses of the flesh that still crop up and are manifest possibly to other people much more than to us, because they see things from a different angle. Nevertheless, because of the opportunity of exercising unlimited faith and trust in God, we are counted as being righteous in His eyes, even as was Abraham. That is a wonderful thought, and helps us to overcome that downhearted feeling when we so often fall. As the Scriptures tell us, "A just man failed seven times, and riseth up again." It is only because of the promises and assurances given us that we are encouraged to press on and to walk more closely in the footsteps of our Lord and Head.

So, let us look forward to that time now near at hand, when this marriage of the Lamb will take place. Let us use every opportunity we have of making ourselves ready, and we are sure we will find it will be well worth while, because as the Apostle says, "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, the things God has in reservation for those who love Him" supremely.

"We see the marriage splendour
Within the open door ;
We know that those who enter
Are blest forevermore.
We see our King, more lovely
Than all the sons of men— •
We haste, because that door, once shut
Will never open again."

Correspondence.

Scotland.

Dear Brethren—Loving Christian Greetings. I sent my subscription up to Brother and I had word back that he would see to it. Thanks very much for the booklet “The Mystery of Christ.” I did enjoy it and if you have them in stock I would like you to send me a dozen. . . I enjoy the “Peoples Paper” very much also; some of the articles are more outstanding than others. “The Lord’s Great Prophecy” has been good. How privileged we are to know these things. I remember all in prayer who are seeking to build up the household of faith, and I ask a remembrance in yours. May we all be kept faithful to the end of our journey here, is my earnest prayer. He is faithful that has promised; His Word faileth never; Praise His name. With thanks and Christian love, from your Sister by His grace.

Dear Frank and Ernest—I am a constant listener each Sunday morning, and I am sure many receive help and light on God’s Word as I do; you make everything so clear. I would like a copy of today’s broadcast, which was about the living talking with the dead. . If it would not be too much to ask I would like a few copies to give to friends, but will be thankful for one if no more to spare. Praying God’s blessing on your labour for Him, in spreading the light of the Gospel to the world. Yours in Christian fellowship.

Dear Frank and Ernest—After listening to your broadcast this morning I feel that by getting your script it may be as much a blessing to others of my friends as it has been to me, so I would be grateful if you would send it to me, also the small booklet as advertised. . . Hoping the Lord will further bless you in your wonderful radio work. I remain, Yours fraternally through Christ.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—Would you kindly forward a copy of your Talk on Station 2KY yesterday please, also the •booklet “Hope Beyond the Grave” ? I have friends who are spiritualists and I want to show them the truth; I would really like two copies, one for my mother and myself. Please keep up the good work and thank you very much.

My Dear Friend—Many thanks for your letter, and for the copy of “Divine Plan of the Ages” which you forwarded to me. I think the book is a wonderful production. The copies of “Peoples Paper” and the Dialogues continue to come to hand each month. I much appreciate these helpful services, and am hoping, as time goes on and as a result of study, that I shall be enabled in turn to pass on the knowledge acquired to others. What a lot of wisdom in the higher things of life one misses by failing to study the Scriptures, and what a lot of mistaken ideas they nurse in their minds by just taking things for granted? . . . Enclosed please find a small donation towards the work. . . With all kind thoughts, Sincerely Yours.

My Dear Friends—I am writing to you to thank you for sending me the wonderful literature that I asked for; I can assure you that it will be a great benefit to me to help increase my knowledge of the Bible. There is no doubt that we are living in a world of trouble, chaos and fear. . . Enclosed you will find a postal note for 10/- for your radio work to help you to bring comfort and peace of mind to poor sinners, and may God spare you and give strength to carry on the good work that you are doing. I remain, Faithfully yours.

Dear Frank and Ernest—I would be pleased if you would send me a copy of last Sunday’s Dialogue, also “Plan of God in Brief.” I would also like you to forward the same literature to the address I will give below. . . I think that you are doing a good work and hope that you will be spared to carry on indefinitely. I would also like two copies of “The Manner of Christ’s Return,” one copy for myself and the other for the following address. Yours sincerely.