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Good News

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THE MILLENNIAL AGE.

In the January issue of Good News I proved that the literal restoration of literal Israel to their Promised Land—Palestine—is one of the prominent subjects talked about in the Bible. And then I went on to show from present developments of the war and from current newspaper comment that the prophecies concerning a literal restoration are already beginning to be literally fulfilled.

Now in this article I want to give you some idea of what sort of a world it will be during the next thousand years, during which time the devil will be bound and Christ will be the supreme ruler of the earth.

I don't ask you to take my word for it, but please read the scriptures that I will quote in this article. And first in order is a famous one from Isaiah:

And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and many nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.—Isaiah 2:2-4.

The word "mountain" in prophecy nearly always means "government." So the "mountain of the Lord's house" is the "government of the Lord's house", and it is to be "established in the top of the mountains"—that is, it will tower above all the other governments in power and importance. The "hills" spoken of are the small governments, and the new government is to be exalted far above them.

The above language quoted from Isaiah is repeated almost word for word in the 4th chapter of Micah. There is a class of people who have tried awful hard to blot out this beautiful picture by twisting it around and trying to make it appear that "many people" are saying it, and that the people are mistaken—that the true conditions will be just the opposite. Read the first verse of the chapter and see how this picture is introduced. You see it is the word that God put into Isaiah's mouth concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Not a syllable to indicate that it is the idle gossip of some "people" and that they have got it all wrong. No sir,

these are God's words, and they are true: Now read Micah 4:1-4. There you see the same picture, and it winds up by saying: "For the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it." That surely is plain enough to convince anybody that the glorious conditions outlined in these verses are not merely the idle dreams of "many people," but the plain and positive word of God—the very conditions that He proposes to bring to pass.

The center of all this is going to be in Jerusalem—the literal Jerusalem over yonder in Palestine—where Jesus Christ will have charge of things. There will still be other nations in the world, and Christ is going to "rebuke strong nations afar off." The United States is a strong nation, and it is "far off" from Jerusalem, hence we will very likely be one of the strong nations afar off that will be rebuked. This nation will still be standing here and will still have its capital at Washington, but it will have to take orders from Jerusalem. Whenever our government at Washington does something that is not in accordance with divine right and justice, there will come a "rebuke" from Jerusalem that will straighten things out in a hurry.

In that glorious time (which I believe is now almost ready to dawn) there will not be any more war, and more than that, there will not be any armies drilling up and down the land "learning war." "Neither shall they learn war any more."

But don't take my word for it. Go to the inspired prophets and see what they say:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever.—Isaiah 9:6-7.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain (government); for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.—Isaiah 11:6-9.

Take particular notice that the above is talking about the EARTH, and not about some visionary place up in the skies.

"For the EARTH shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Surely we can all agree that there never has been such a condition on the earth YET, hence it must be FUTURE.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.—Isaiah 35:1-6.

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 a hundred years old; but the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them. For as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.—Isaiah 65:20-22.

You see from the above that the elect are going to build houses and plant vineyards and do various kinds of work during that age, and they shall "long enjoy the work of their hands."

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.—Jeremiah 23:5.

Don't forget to notice as you go along that this all applies to the EARTH—not away up yonder above Jupiter somewhere.

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord.—Jeremiah 31:34.

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.—Amos 9:13.

And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.—Micah 4:8.

I could go on and on with these quotations, but this is enough. Certainly there is a good time coming on this earth, and I am glad to believe that the day of its beginning is not far away.

One man writes advising me to keep myself free from all sects and isms and not tie myself to any man-made creed nor accept any man's views, but go straight to the Bible and stay there. And then before he finished his letter he was just pawing the air trying to make me accept HIS views. There is consistency for you.

People who pretend to love God, and who claim that He is a good God, yet go through life charging Him with things that even the German Kaiser wouldn't do.

Think About This.

If you have not made a careful study of the "Times of the Gentiles" and the "seven times" punishment of Israel, it would pay you to do so. These periods began together in 606 B. C., ran along together for 2520 years, and ended together in 1914. We have already seen the first steps taken toward the restoration of Israel, and we will see the rest of it if we live three or four more years. Just keep your eye on the Jew. And also keep a sharp lookout for the "Lost Tribes of Israel," as they will join with the Jew and will have a big part in the new government. There is strong evidence that the English-speaking peoples of the world are part of the Lost Tribes, and if so we will be among the favored class in the final reckoning. America is now helping to bind the devil, which indicates that she belongs on the Lord's side. Let every American be true and loyal to his government in this time of trial, for the victory we are fighting for is going to be greater than even President Wilson has ever dreamed of. I am thinking it will not be just the kind of a victory the Allies are looking for but it will be greater and better than any living statesman has dared to hope for.

TO BIBLE STUDENT WRITERS

I am accumulating a great quantity of good contributed matter that I will print just as soon as the Weekly paper starts. In some instances the writers may not express my own views exactly, but I propose that my policy shall be broad enough to let them have a hearing anyhow. We are dealing with big things, and we can't hope to all be exactly together on every little detail. I am only a student of prophecy, and the true student always admits that there is more to learn. If I should begin to claim that I knew it all, I would no longer have the right to call myself a student. And so I hope to not only teach others, but to learn something myself every day.

Of course in any true Bible Student a certain degree of advancement is taken for granted. The person who has gotten beyond the A B C's of Bible study has naturally had to drop a good deal of the old creeds. And so Good News will be open to contributors only within certain reasonable limits. You know I couldn't afford to throw my columns wide open to just every crank that might come along. The paper will be made to stand for what the very best Bible Students believe to be the truth.