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Good News

(FORMERLY THE FOOL-KILLER)

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JUST SOME COMMENTS.

Well, folks, I am just going to talk some. I am going to fill this issue of Good News largely with running comments on the happenings of the day, considered in their relation to Bible prophecy. So many folks are cranky about prophecy. Some go to one extreme and some go to the other extreme. Some believe too much and others won't believe anything. Seems to me that there ought to be a middle ground of reason and common sense that we could find somewhere. That's what Good News wants to do.

We often hear it said that this business of setting dates for certain future events to happen is folly and fanaticism. Well, generally speaking, that's very true, but there are two sides to every question. I have come to believe that there are actual dates and numbers given in the Bible, and that they have been hidden in such a way as not to be seen and known until the proper time for them. Now if some folks have guessed at a thing and missed it, we know that reduces by just that much the range within which the truth must be found. For instance, if William Miller said the end of the Age would come in 1844 and it didn't, it is an evident fact that the next man who "guesses" is bound to be nearer right than Miller was. And if the end is ever going to come, and people keep on "guessing" about it, somebody is going to hit it pretty close.

But if, as I contend, the dates of certain things are actually given in the Bible, then it isn't a matter of "guessing" at all. It is merely a matter of understanding the symbols and figurative language used. And every time an interpretation turns out wrong, that reduces by one the number of wrong interpretations that are possible. So I contend that it is possible to arrive at the truth by the process of elimination.

Bible prophecy has been a very live subject all through the years, but there never was a time in the history of the world when it was so much alive as it is right now. The great time of trouble that is now upon us has caused at least

part of the people to stop in their mad rush and do some thinking. They are wondering what it all means, anyhow. Some of them are asking, "What if old man Russell was right, after all? What if this is the end of Gentile times and the beginning of a new dispensation?" And to all such questions there is only one answer—yes Russell was right. There is not one chance in a hundred for it to be any other way. Dear reader, it was just as hard for me to come to it as it is for you. But I came to it and you will have to do the same. The longer you cling to your old creeds and your old conceptions, the harder fall you will get when you do have to let loose.

People were not looking for such a war as this. They didn't think such a thing could come in this highly civilized and Christianized age. A few far-sighted men, among them Russell and Redding, predicted this thing 25 or 30 years before it came. They named the very YEAR it would come. With great positiveness they repeated the date 1914 over and over in their writings. But of course nobody believed them. They were laughed at as cranks and fanatics or denounced as false prophets.

But now even their bitterest enemies are bound to admit that they hit it exactly. No reasonable person would ask for any better proof that they knew what they were talking about. The great Time of Trouble started exactly at the time they said it would start. And there is plenty of reason to believe that it will go on and end just like they said it would.

One thing is certain—the old dry-rotted creeds and the old stand-pat theologies have got to go. The events that are due to come in the end of this Age (the "end of time" as the creeds call it) will not be anything at all like what the people have supposed. They have had it all mapped out, even to the smallest detail, and they are going to find that the actual events will hardly resemble their map anywhere at all. Their outline of the events was all wrong and their creeds are all wrong. They are looking for a certain series of events that will fit their creeds, and they

will never see it. It will all be as different from what the orthodox folks are looking for as day is different from night. And that's why they are so befuddled about the things that are happening now. The old-line preachers and teachers are all at sea concerning the momentous events of these days. They see that a great crisis of some sort has arrived, and they see that it ain't like anything they have taught the people to expect. In their hearts they know they have been wrong, but they are too stubborn to admit it. And so the only thing they can do is to jump up and down and cuss Russell and Redding—men whose prophecies HAVE COME TRUE to the very letter.

Wait a Minute.

Wait a minute. Or maybe it may take two minutes. But wait. Got sump'm to tell ye. Are you still waiting? That's right. Just be patient. A good story like this is worth waiting for. This introduction is just to get your appetite whetted for it right good and you will enjoy it better. Some people have no patience about a thing of this sort. Always nervous and on the jump. They run clean ahead of their good luck and never give it time to catch up. Don't do that, my friend—it isn't best. Wait till—

Yes, I'm coming to it, but wait. Take a deep breath and close your eyes. Pray a little if you want to. But don't cuss. This ain't no cussing matter, if it does look like it.

The Bible says—Oh, that reminds me. I was going to tell you something. But please wait a second. What I started out to say was that it would please me plum to the gizzard for every reader of this paper to get up a big bunch of subs for it and send them in right away. Now don't wait any longer. Get busy.

Some good old souls will tell you that it requires the aid of the Holy Spirit to understand the prophecies, and then they will try to make you believe that nobody but their own little sect have got the Holy Spirit. Which makes God seem like a mighty sectarian sort of a Being, and I tell you that just won't do.

The Prodigal Son.

We are all familiar with the story of the Prodigal Son in the New Testament, but it has a meaning that very few people have thought of. We know the sense in which it is usually understood, and it means that. But it also means more. It is a perfect illustration of the Children of Israel and their wandering and homeless condition in the world.

The Jew is the real Prodigal Son. He was the chosen and favored of God, and he had everything he needed to make him happy. But he wasn't satisfied. He wanted to leave home and forsake his God and go out and do big things in the world for himself. God knew very well what would happen to him, but He also knew it would learn the Prodigal Jew a lesson he would remember.

We know the rest—how the proud Prodigal went out and wandered over the earth and squandered his substance in riotous living, got hungry and ragged, and had to eat with hogs, and be kicked and cuffed around like a dog.

The Prodigal Jew was proud and haughty, and it took a long time to humble him. But he finally came to it. Now he has made up his mind to return to his Father's house and take a servant's job, not feeling worthy to be called a son any more.

But God looks out and sees the Prodigal Jew coming back, and runs to meet him, and weeps over him, and gives him a great welcome. He puts a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet, and orders the best robe to be brought and the fatted calf killed, and—oh, you know how it goes.

Well, the Prodigal Son is the Jew, and his welcome back home, and the great feasting and happiness, is the Millennium just now at hand.

Some people tell me that they are not interested in the study of prophecy and its fulfillment. Well, the man who is asleep on the railroad track is not interested in the approaching train, either, but he had better be.

God is a heap better God than His orthodox followers think He is. And that's a fact.