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THE PEACE CONFERENCE

President Wilson is in France to attend the peace conference and to lend his aid in an effort to establish universal and everlasting peace. The undertaking is a commendable one, and from a human standpoint it may look like it has a chance to succeed. But to anyone who looks deeper than the surface—to anyone who knows that men in their own strength cannot give lasting peace to the world—the proposed undertaking seems almost pitiful in its hopelessness.

In spite of all the boasted claims about what good "Christian" nations we are, there has been nothing said about giving God a seat at the peace table. The only Power that CAN establish permanent peace will be absolutely ignored. The devil will be well represented by the Pope or his agents, but God will not be in it. The prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Revelation, will not be read nor considered in connection with the peace settlement. It is a safe bet that no nation will have on hand a delegate who believes in the Bible prophecies or has any thought of their literal fulfillment in our day.

Having, therefore, no correct key to the situation, the best they can do is to make a mess of it. We will have to wait just a little while longer, until man's puny efforts go to smash one more time, and then the Prince of Peace will come and fix it right. It is worth waiting for.

FALSE PEACE

This present time is the time of which it is said: "They shall cry, Peace, Peace! but there is no peace." There will probably be a little spell of peace now, but it will be a false peace. It will be built upon a false foundation, and every pillar under it will be a powder-keg.

And I tell you that as long as the world tries to maintain an "armed peace" it will have no peace at all. And the whole tendency is toward greater armament instead of smaller ones. The United States is now to have "a navy second to none in the world." It don't require any Bible knowledge nor any prophetic eye to foresee the inevitable end of it all—the utter collapse of the whole rotten fabric and the setting up of an entirely different order. The soon-coming of Christ to set up His righteous government on earth is the only hope for this world.

This peace is only the calm before another storm. Don't fool yourself.

CAN HE COME BACK?

It has been a very common thing to speak of the Ex-Kaiser Bill as "The Beast." He was put into a moving picture called "The Beast of Berlin." He was put into a novel called "The Blonde Beast." He has been everywhere tried, condemned, and burnt in effigy for the crime of impersonating a human being. And all nations have with common consent referred to him as The Beast. And so far as I know he is the first and only character in history to be so commonly spoken of as a "Beast."

Truly his conduct has been such as to give ample room for doubting whether he is a human being. He cut a wide and bloody swath while he was at it, but to look at him now it don't seem possible that he could ever come back. If he is just a human being, of course his career as a leader of men is about done. But if it were to be true that he is the "Beast" we read of in Revelation 13, he may get help from the devil and manage to wheedle his way into power again. You will notice that the Beast in that chapter got a deadly wound with the sword, and his deadly wound was healed. Maybe that could refer to the crushing defeat which the Kaiser has just suffered, for surely it is a deadly wound with the sword. The question is, can it be healed? Is there any way for Bill to muster his forces and recover his power after such a defeat? There is only one chance for him—supernatural power from the devil—and he may get it. Notice that "the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority."

Some great devil-possessed being is to get control of Europe in the near future and drench the land once more in blood and ruin. It may be the Kaiser, or the Pope of Rome, or a new Napoleon. But just keep your eye on the peace conference and I think you will be pretty apt to see him stick his head up.

Just because we know that the Golden Age of peace and happiness is near at hand, let us not delude ourselves with the belief that it has come before it really gets here. It has not come yet, and when it does come you will know it. We are still in the "time of trouble," and we are going to be in it for awhile yet. Remember that.

President Wilson has never once suspected that he was going over there to help make the TOES of Nebuchadnezzar's Image.

A SERMON ON PERSECUTION

Text:

Cursed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Tremble, and be exceeding scared, for great is your punishment in hell; for men didn't persecute the prophets that way.—Matt. 5:11-12.

With the above scripture as a text I want to preach you a little sermon on Persecution. To be sure that I got it right, let's go back and read the text again. Do you see anything wrong with it? Seems to me it don't sound exactly right. What do you think about it? I believe it would sound better this way:

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.—Matt. 5:11-12.

Yes, that's better. I thought I could get it fixed after awhile. Now we can go on with our sermon. I just tangled it up and made it read different in order to show you how ridiculous it would sound that way.

And yet, to look at the attitude of the world and the orthodox church toward persecuted people, it seems that they all think it reads like I first had it. They think if you believe and teach anything different from what they have always been used to, you are teaching dangerous heresy, and they think if you get persecuted and put in prison you are only getting what you deserve for being such a bad person. They think the mere fact of a man's being in prison is absolute proof of his guilt.

Now I don't deny that perhaps a majority of men who go to jail for various crimes deserve to go there. But I do contend that liberty of conscience ought not to be a crime in this boasted land of the free.

But it is.

I could name you dozens of good men and women—perfectly peaceable and law-abiding citizens and devoted Christians—who are this very minute lying in jail in this free land for no other crime than holding religious views that didn't suit the bosses.

Now if persecution of that sort is such a clear proof of guilt, I want to ask—when did it become so? What about John the Baptist, and Paul, and Peter, and Stephen, and Christ Himself? What about Luther and Bunyan? What about Ridley and Lattimer? And what about thousands of other saints and martyrs who have suffered everything from death at the

stake on down for the faith that was in them? Was THEIR persecution a proof of their guilt?

No, we are willing to concede now that those old-timers were good men and that they didn't deserve such treatment. But we are too cross-eyed to see that the very same class of sufferers in our own day are also good men and not deserving of such abuse.

Our text is the language of Jesus himself, and he is talking to his true followers and telling them how they must expect to be treated if they try to remain true to him. He tells them to regard such persecution as a sure sign that they are right, and he tells them to rejoice in it, for great will be their reward. He points out that the good old prophets were persecuted in the same way, and shows that such persecution is an honor rather than a dishonor in the sight of God.

Now tell me this: How many prominent orthodox preachers can you find who are in jail for their faith today? How many Baptists? How many Methodists? How many Presbyterians? And so on. Count 'em up. How many of such people are having all manner of evil spoken against them falsely on account of their faith? How many? You may find one, but I doubt it.

Well, then, let's sorter keep the evidence in view as we go along and see what it proves. If these big orthodox people of the leading denominations are not being persecuted any—if they are having a good easy time and no trouble at all—then it looks to me like they are MISSING some mighty good evidence that they are the true followers of Christ. Looks like they would try to do something to get a little persecution anyhow, just for the looks of it if nothing else.

I am not taking sides with anybody nor against anybody, but I tell you, according to the testimony of Jesus Christ himself, these poor old "heretics" who are having such a hard time of it—being put in jail, lied about, slandered and abused—I say they are getting the very STRONGEST evidence that they ARE the true followers of Christ and on the right track.

And now the United States proposes to have a navy second to none in the world. Even going to undertake to out-do England in sea power. And so that's the sort of "universal peace" they are going to give us! Oh, the folly of it! It does seem sometimes like our wise men are bigger fools than the rest of us little fools.