Kings of the sunrising

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The Kings of the Sunrizing

By

Louis I. Talbot
The Kings of the Sunrising

by

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The Message of God's Word

"COMING EVENTS cast their shadows before." You will find in the world today the gradual beginnings of the very movements described in the twelfth chapter of Daniel's Vision of the End of the Times of the Gentiles, has direct reference to the period of time just between the translation of the church and the return of the Lord in glory. Please bear this fact in mind as we consider our subject this afternoon: "The Kings of the Sunrising," or "The Army of the 200,000,000 and the Lord's Return." I shall endeavor to put before you what God's Word tells us in regard to the Battle of the Nations that will take place some time in the future—we believe in the near future—and will culminate in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory.

There are hundreds of texts which I could read; but time is limited, and I shall read only those portions which speak very plainly about that coming conflict and the description of that man who is going to arise in the end time and set himself up in the place of power and authority. I want to call your attention, first of all, to Daniel 11:36:

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."

This verse of Scripture presents a life-sized picture of a man who has not yet appeared, but who will appear, a man greater than Napoleon, greater than Mussolini, greater than the ruler of the Turkish people. Invested with the power which the devil will give him, he will be raised up. "And the king shall do according to his will..." We find here the definite article "the". He will be not just a king, but the king, such as the world has never seen or known before. He "shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that
that is determined shall be done". I like that thought... "that that is determined shall be done". The devil shall exercise power only so long as God permits him to do so. One day the Lord Jesus Himself will rob Satan and his followers of all power, including the Antichrist, as well as all other evil-doers in the world. But just prior to that day the Antichrist will set himself up to be worshipped, even as Daniel prophesied:

"Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain" (Dan. 11:37-39).

... and shall divide the land (Palestine) for gain." This man will exercise authority over the land of Palestine and over the part of Europe that was in the old Roman Empire.

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (Dan. 11:44, 45).

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people (Daniel's people): and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time" (Dan. 12:1).

Before I pass on to the second portion of Scripture, I want you to note that there are five directions which are to have a part in the closing events of the dominion of the Gentiles, four of which we have just mentioned. First of all, there is the west; that is, those nations now occupying the territory once occupied by the old Roman Empire. Of that group, the mysterious man the Bible refers to as the Antichrist will be the head. Then there is the north. "The king of the north" has reference to the last ruler of Russia. We read also of "tidings out of the east," and the east includes the Japanese, Chinese and all the Asiatic nations. "The king of the south" refers to the king of Egypt. And before the struggle is over another direction will have a share in that gigantic struggle, and that direction is heaven; for God's Word tells us that "at that time" (just when it would seem that His people are to be crushed) "Michael shall stand up."

Now let us turn to the second portion of Scripture. In the fourteenth chapter of Zechariah we read:
"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle" (Zech. 14:1-3).

Here we see that Zechariah is telling us the very things of which Daniel writes—that an army shall be gathered around Jerusalem, and heaven shall take part in the conflict which will be in progress.

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south... And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one" (Zech. 14:4, 9).

Now let us turn to the book of Revelation, chapter 9, verse 16:

"And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them."

Get your pencil and a piece of paper if you are not expert in mental arithmetic, and you will find that this army numbers two hundred million. And in Rev. 16:16 we read:

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared" (Rev. 16:12).

Now the River Euphrates is symbolic of the Ottoman Empire, just as the River Nile is of Egypt. Therefore, this verse is a prophecy which speaks of the man who will have his power broken, that the way may be opened for the kings of the east with their armies.

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (Rev. 16:13-15).

Three Significant Signs of the Times

You know, my friends, as we look about us today, we can see signs of an approaching crisis in world affairs. I question whether the world ever saw a period of general turmoil like that we are passing through today. There are certain evil principles in the world which are growing and developing; for they are rapidly gaining adherents. Whether in England, Russia, Australia, Canada or America, you will find the principle we call Bolshevism or Communism gaining ground, a principle which is not for the building up, but for the pulling down of nations, of law and order, and of the things which God has established in this world.

I realize, of course, that in the world today, as in the past, much trouble and much grief are caused by the oppression of the poor on the part of those in authority. I realize that the present condition in the world rouses the laboring man to a state of frenzied despair, and that the advance of Bolshevism is largely contributed to by certain employers who have put employees on starvation wages. I realize, too, that the work-
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ing man would get very little if it were not for the fact that the working class is banding itself together in unions and organizations. But I want to say to every working man that there is a terrible day of judgment coming, in the last great crisis, upon all rich men who have piled up wealth and who are hoarding money. When we read what God has to say through His servant James, in the fifth chapter of that book, well may we thank God that even though we may be poor, yet we do not have to face the judgment of the man who has become fabulously rich through grinding down his employees.

However, those who are raising their voices against capitalists today are doing so in an attempt to overthrow the present system, not because they have something better to offer than the present existing conditions, but because they want authority in order that they themselves might rule. Their desire is not the advancement of their fellowmen, but the accomplishing of their own selfish purposes.

Some years ago I was in New York. I had gone there to give an address. Arriving about an hour before the scheduled time, I walked around, taking a look at the section of the city where I was, just to see what was going on. As I turned a corner, I saw before me a great crowd of people, listening intently to a soap-box orator. I pushed my way through the crowd right up to the front. To my amazement, that man was condemning everything and everybody from the President down. Of course, he was an emissary of Trotsky or Lenin, or one of their followers. He likened the United States' government to a ship, and said that this ship ought to be towed out fifteen miles into the Atlantic Ocean, and sunk five miles below the surface of the water, boat by boat, plank by plank. And that crowd applauded! As I stood there listening to his tirade, I wondered why the United States' government did not send such men back to Russia where they belong. I am an alien; that is, I was born in Australia; but I have lived here about eighteen years. And I say to every alien, if you come to this land, for decency's sake leave all your ideas of government in the land where you lived. Abide by the laws of this land, as long as you live under the protection of its flag. Respect its government. Be law-abiding. If you do not like the laws here, there is always a boat leaving which will take you back to your native land.

However, it is no business of the church to deport Bolsheviks. It is the church's mission to preach the Gospel and get it into the hearts and lives of such people, which is after all the most effective way of making good citizens of them. But Bolshevism is something you and I cannot stop. It is something which, as God has declared, will characterize the closing hours of "the times of the Gentiles." In every country in the world this system is growing and developing. That is the very condition that exists in Russia. And whatever we may think, that principle, which we might term Bolshevism, is going to grow and develop. It is a system that is going to prepare the world and put it in a condition for the Antichrist to show his power. You probably remember that before Napoleon Bonaparte came into power, chaos reigned over France. The people of France had revolted; and murder, bloodshed and riot, resulted in a rapidly disappearing government. A condition similar to that produced by Bolshevism existed. It was not known by that name, but that is what it really was. Then Napoleon appeared on the scene. The condition of chaos and uncertainty gave him opportunity to show his genius. He welded the country together, and set up his rule. As a result there arose one of the greatest empires the world has ever known. The devil today is sowing the seed of Bolshevism and Communism and Nihilism, and he is using these things to bring about a condition that will be just the atmosphere in which the Antichrist can display his power.

Side by side with the evil principle represented by Bolshevism is another known as Rationalism. Rationalism is the system whereby men are eliminating God. Things are ac-
counted for in a rationalistic way. Opinions are based upon reason alone, independent of authority or of revelation. Rationalism is opposed to supernaturalism. The Word of God and His Son are left out of the reckoning. It is sheer infidelity. The tragedy of this is that the Christian profession is permeated with rationalism. Think of the adherents to the theory of evolution, which is taught in almost every school today, not as a theory, but as a fact to be believed! Think of the cordial support that is given the doctrine of "higher criticism" so-called, which is but a form of infidelity. Yet many of those men who teach it hide behind pulpits and make a Christian profession, betraying their calling and giving forth poisonous ideas that blight and damn all those who become inculcated with them.

Once, when taking a railway trip, I entered into conversation with a young man sitting beside me. He was a theological student, the graduate of an up-to-date theological seminary. After listening to my views regarding these matters, he said to me:

"You would never take a position like that if you had gone through a seminary and studied modern exegesis. Of course I cannot argue with you. I have both sides. You have only the one."

As I listened to him a determination took hold of me; I resigned my pastorate and went, for two and one-half years, to a seminary. But every time I came out of a classroom, I felt heart-sick. Everything in the way of miracles was explained on a natural basis. Demons, my instructors said, were just evil thoughts. Jesus, they said, did not walk on the water at all; His disciples were laboring under an optical illusion. They were nearer shore than they thought, and saw Him walking on the shore; but because of the dimness, it appeared to them as though He were walking on the water! As I looked over that body of men, my fellow-students, who were to be leaders of the church of God in the future, I said to myself:

"Lord deliver the church from such wolves in sheep's clothing!"

But we cannot stop this rationalistic teaching. It is something that will go on and on. However, while you cannot stop it, and I cannot stop it, we can at least raise our voices against it; for God calls men to raise the standard and to uphold the right, giving no uncertain note in their message! We must warn the unsuspecting against this system of teaching that is preparing the minds of the people of the world for the reception of the claims of the Antichrist. Rationalism rules out God. Rationalism rules out Christ. The only God the rationalist recognizes is "the god of forces," an impersonal force instead of a living Deity. Likewise, the Antichrist will recognize no god save "the god of forces," believing he is the fullest expression of force—force as it were personified, a superman—he will demand and expect to receive the worship and adoration that only God should receive. Rationalism prepares the soil, as it were, in which the claims of the Antichrist will take root.

Again, side by side with Bolshevism and Rationalism, is a third evil, growing and developing apace, finding fertile soil in the minds and hearts of men and women today. It is the thing we call Spiritism or Demonism. We call it Demonism because that is its right name. Spiritism is Demonism, and those dealing with mediums, trying to get in touch with the unseen world, are in touch with the devil himself; for his demons impersonate their loved ones. This system links the devil with the unseen world. In other words, when one is given over to Spiritism, he has contact with the devil and the evil forces of darkness. In England, France, Germany, America, everywhere, that system is growing, spreading like an African fungus. There are fully 5,000 journals devoted to this accursed doctrine.
I read in your hearing a short while ago Rev. 16:13, in which John wrote that he saw "three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet." I do not know just what those "three unclean spirits like frogs" represent. Of course, as the next verse explains, they represent demons; but I should not be surprised if they were intended to represent the three evil systems or principles about which I've been talking to you: Bolshevism, Rationalism, and Spiritism, which are growing and gaining adherents all over the earth, and which will permeate the earth in that period between the rise of the Antichrist and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Restraining Influence of the Church in the World

We live today in the church age. I believe we are passing through the last period of that age, the period of Laodicea. On the Isle of Patmos, John was given a marvelous vision of the glorious "Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth," a vision of "him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5). In the nineteenth verse of this first chapter, we find the commandment of the Lord Jesus to John: "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." John faithfully carried out this commandment; therefore we have the book of Revelation.

That book is divided into three great divisions. The first is that to which we have just referred, the vision of the Son of Man in glory. In chapters two and three we have the messages addressed to the seven churches. In those seven messages we have set forth seven distinct situations, representing seven periods in the history of the church. In the
that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”

My friends, that withholding power that is keeping in check the forces of the devil is the church of Jesus Christ, but one day that power is going to be taken away. The church shall be translated; and when the church goes, the light of the world, the salt of the earth, shall be gone. The “withholding power” will be taken away, “and then shall that Wicked be revealed.” In other words, the devil’s superman, the Antichrist, will appear.

Once, when I was making some addresses in the state of Iowa, a friend said to me:

“We are about half a mile from one of the largest dams in the world. If you would like to see it, I’ll get passes and take you over it.”

He got the passes and we visited the dam. It spans the Mississippi River, and is one mile long. He told me of the tons and tons of cement that were used in building that vast concrete wall. As we came to where the waters were damned back, I asked:

“How deep is it here?”

“Forty-nine feet,” he replied.

“How far back do the waters extend?”

“Fifty-four miles,” was his answer.

Millions of gallons of water were pushing against that dam, trying to get through. On the other side was the bare river bed. As I stood there, taking in the scene, my imagination began to work. I thought: “Suppose some gigantic hand reached down and lifted that dam bodily from its foundations. What a catastrophe the result would be. Fifty-four miles of water, rushing and leaping, carrying death and destruction in its wake, nothing able to withstand it, nothing able to deter its course!” And then the thought came to me:

“One of these days something like that is going to occur when the Lord Jesus Christ takes out of the world the only thing that is hindering and restraining all the powers of sin. When every man and woman who knows the Lord Jesus is instantly taken, ‘then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.’

Some Marks of the Antichrist

As soon as the church is taken, there will arise in Europe that strange man about whom we have been talking. The world has seen some strange men rise in Europe; but this man, who will appear after the church is gone, has his portrait in the Book of God. We catch glimpses of him all through the Bible. Every rebel against God, from Cain on down through the ages, foreshadows the coming of the Antichrist, who, upon the translation of the church, will take his place as ruler. He will put before the nations of Europe the solution for all their troubles. He will be able to solve for them the problem of “wars and rumors of wars.” He will have plans that no other European statesman ever conceived. The people will think that what he presents as the solution of their troubles is the way out of chaos, and he will be made the head of European affairs.

One thing he will do is this: The Word of God says that he will have associated with him ten kings, who will be ruling over that part of Europe that came into existence through the breaking up of the Roman Empire—England, Spain, Italy, the Balkan States, and other kingdoms. This man shall be elected and will force himself into place where he will be the last Caesar, the last Kaiser. He will have associated with him these ten kings—kings not like King George, but more
like Lenin, Mussolini and Trotsky, men who have been tossed up on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea by the stormy waves of Bolshevism, men who have usurped authority and have taken their places by force. And the Antichrist will be the head of them all. Thus when the Antichrist appears on the scene and sets up his cabinet, there will come into existence what Napoleon tried in vain to bring to pass; what the Kaiser attempted to do, but failed; what President Wilson had in mind, but failed to accomplish—a real league of nations. There will be a revival of the Roman Empire, foreshadowed by the ten toes of the image which Daniel saw—a league of ten kingdoms.

In the eleventh chapter of Daniel we have a vivid description of the Antichrist. We are told that “he shall exalt himself” and shall “honour the god of forces.” He will demand worship and adoration of himself. In that day, conditions will be somewhat as they are in Italy today. In business transactions there will be neither buying nor selling unless there is the wearing of some outward sign called “the mark of the beast,” the sign which signifies that the would-be purchaser or seller has given absolute allegiance of soul, body and affections, to the Antichrist. During the World War we had a little suggestion of that state of affairs. I remember having gone into a shop during the war to get some sugar, but the man behind the counter said, as I put some money down:

“You’ll have to have something else besides money. Where’s your card?”

I did not have a card; and though I had the money, I went out without the sugar.

So in the day of the Antichrist, when a man goes to buy or sell, the one with whom he wishes to deal will say, “Show your right hand,” or “Show your forehead;” and those who do not wear “the mark of the beast” will go out empty-handed, without the necessities of life.
to note that in your day and mine Egypt has ceased to be a
British Protectorate, and is again a Kingdom, with a king on
the throne. The King of the South will be the first in that
day to offer resistance to the Antichrist. The Antichrist will
turn on him with his army to stamp out that rebellion; but
no sooner will he subdue the uprising in the South, than he
will find the King of the North coming against him. And as
he goes forth to meet the King of the North, "tidings out of
the east" will trouble him.

Now, here is the heart of my message: In that day, there
shall be a coalition, not only of the nations which comprised
the old Roman Empire; not only of the other nations of
Europe with Russia; but there will also be a combination of
all the dark-skinned peoples—the nations of India, of China,
of Japan, of the Mongolian hordes—all of whom will line up
under one leadership.

My friends, before I make the next statement, I want to
say that in the church of Jesus Christ there is neither Jew
nor Gentile; there is neither bond nor free. In the church of
Jesus Christ there is no color line. All are equally a part of
the body of Christ. What I am going to say has nothing to
do with Japanese or Chinese or Russian Christians. Any
man who loves the Lord Jesus Christ is my brother in Christ
and part of the same body to which I belong. Therefore, I
am not talking about Christians in Japan, or China, or any
part of the earth, but I am dealing with nations as nations.
This explanation is simply to prepare the way for what I
now have to say about conditions in the East.

The world is populated by approximately two billion
people, and two-thirds of that number belong to the colored
races. Every day, every week, every year, the Asiatic races,
the races of the Eastern part of the world, are growing and
out-numbering those of the West. There is a reason for this.
In times of famine in the East, the West has always sprung
to the rescue of the East, and rightly so. If it had not been
for the aid the United States extended to China, it is esti-
mated that twenty-five million people would have died. So
the yellow races, the brown races, are increasing in numbers
because of the shelter and aid the West is giving them.

There is also another reason for the increase, a delicate
subject, I know; but we will have it anyway. While the
East knows nothing about birth-control, the West is prac-
ticing what is known as race-suicide. Go through China or
Japan or any of those eastern nations; and you find there fam-
ilies of seven or eight children. Whether the father has a job
or not, he has a family, a big family. If the West is going
to compete with the East, as far as population is concerned,
there will have to be born in every home in the Western
nations five or six children in order to keep pace with the
East. To show you how the East has grown in comparison
with the West, let me use my own homeland, Australia, as
an illustration. Australia has an area of three million square
miles. It is about the size of the United States. We have a
little island in the world called Java, which is only one-for-
tieth the size of Australia. While Australia has a popula-
tion of six million, Java's population has increased to over
forty million people.

If you journey through the East today, you will find
 pervading the air a sort of expectancy, a sense of waiting.
The East is biding her time, awaiting the hour when she shall
be able to assert her rights, bring honor to her peoples and
regain the lands of which she thinks she has been defrauded
by the western peoples of the earth.

A few years ago I was travelling to Australia. On board
ship I met a Japanese. Now, almost every Japanese one
meets is a friendly sort of person, affable, bland, smiling; but
this man was not. He was taciturn, unfriendly. We got into
conversation one day. When he asked me where I was going,
I told him I was on my way to Australia. He asked if I
were an Australian, to which I replied that I was.
“Australia used to belong to the colored people, did it not?” he asked next.

“Yes,” I answered.

“Will you kindly tell me how your people got possession of it?”

“Why,” he said, “you got it through murder, bloodshed and graft. Early settlers went over and murdered and plundered and stole, acquiring for themselves vast areas of land.”

“And what,” he inquired, “are your immigration laws now?”

There was justice in that question. I could not help but admit it. We have a slogan in Australia. It is this: “Australia for the white man.” No dark-skinned race is allowed to go into that land and settled down to live unless high standards have been reached. There is tragedy in that situation. Down through the middle of Australia runs a strip of land that will produce anything and everything that China and parts of India produce. The colored man cannot go in there to work it, because the immigration laws bar him from entering. The white man cannot work it, because no white man could stand the climate which prevails in that section. Therefore, the land lies there, going to waste, instead of being utilized.

“The East,” the Japanese went on, “can afford to wait. The day will come when we can consolidate the East, and we will challenge any nation to shut us out from lands that were stolen from the people of my color and from the people of the East.”

Coming events cast their shadows!

On my return trip, I met certain engineers who had been in Japan for some time. I told them what the Japanese had said, that this country was going to consolidate the East, and win the confidence of the Mongolian race and of India and of other eastern countries.

“Is there anything to it?” I asked them.

“We have been in Japan for seven years,” they replied, “and that plan is in the minds of the people of Japan today. The seeds of discontent and resentment that have been sown in their midst are taking root and beginning to sprout.”

My friends, do you think those countries have forgotten about the California laws? They have not! They want to know what right you have to exclude the dark-skinned people from California, when you came here and took the land from people whose faces were like theirs. They are biding their time! That Japanese who was talking to me on board ship had never read Daniel, or Ezekiel, or the book of Revelation; and yet he was telling of the very things that God Almighty has outlined as sure to come to pass in the end time.

Now, let us return to the picture of what will take place when the nations of the earth come together in the end time. We have seen how the Antichrist will rule over the West; how the King of the South will “push at him;” how the “king of the north will come against him like a whirlwind;” and how the uprising of the nations in the East “shall trouble him.” Thus the last great conflict that is often spoken about will be between the North, South, East and West. Then heaven will take part in the struggle. We have seen how the eleventh chapter of Daniel tells us that the Antichrist “shall divide the land for gain;” and then “the king of the South shall push at him.” When he moves out to meet the King of the South, the King of the North will sweep down upon him; and as he is preparing to strike at him, “tidings out of the east . . . trouble him.” The army of the Two Hundred Million will be on the march!

Someone might ask skeptically, “Do you think the East could get together an army of 200,000,000?” In China, there
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are 450 million people; in the Mongolian countries, no one knows how many. And if those peoples ever get under the domination of the Japanese things can be done, and done quickly. Fifty years ago Peary went into Japan to bring about trade relations with America; and when he went into Japan, the Japanese did not have a railroad, knew nothing of telegraph, nothing of machinery of any kind. Fifty years ago! During the period since that time, Japan has taken on Western civilization, has built up an army, and years ago met the Russian hordes and conquered them, sending their vessels to the bottom of the sea.

In the last days, when these four great confederations begin to move, around what point will their armies gather? They will gather around the land of Palestine. And why will they want to centre their activities at that particular point? If there is any one thing that the whole world wants, it is money, capital, wealth. To any place where they think they can secure greater wealth, more gold, there is where people go. And the nations of the earth areawaking to the fact that the little land of Palestine, nestling in the very centre of the earth, is the wealthiest spot in the whole world! At the bottom of the Dead Sea lie minerals that exceed in value all the gold in the vaults of America today. That is the reason why every nation has an eye on the land of Palestine. And in that last great day there will be a scramble for the land of Palestine. The East will arise in her might; and with her millions of men she will move to possess the land which she thinks is rightfully hers. Her slogan will be, “The East for the East.” Palestine is in the East; and when those armies come together, round about Palestine, the nation of Israel will be like a nut in a nut-crusher. God has said that in that day all the armies of the earth will be brought round about Jerusalem. Listen:

“Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and

the city shall be taken, and the house rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (Zech. 14:1, 2).

Heaven will then take part in the struggle.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up . . . and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was . . .” (Dan. 12:1).

And hearken to this:

“Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south” (Zech. 14:3, 4).

And the Son of God shall bring to an end “The times of the Gentiles.” He shall sweep aside evil devices. Jehovah shall be King of the whole earth! Israel shall look upon Him whom they have pierced and—

“The Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one” (Zech. 14:9).

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The struggles, the privations, the hardships, the bank failures—all these things weigh upon our hearts. We are sorrowful and bowed down with cares; and yet, these things do not disturb our faith. Rather, they should confirm it. Those of us who know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, our Redeemer, can lift up our heads today, because we know that our redemption draweth nigh!