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SECTIONS IX

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION

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Before we begin the study of our new lesson for today, with its message of light and hope and victory, let us read again the first four verses of chapter nineteen. We considered them last time in concluding our study of the coming fall of apostate Christendom. But these verses also present a connecting link between "the judgment of the great whore" (chapter seventeen and eighteen) and the triumph of the bride of Christ (chapter nineteen). They announce the rejoicing in heaven over the utter defeat of this Satan-inspired system: "Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: for true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore . . . Alleluia . . . And the four and twenty elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia."

God is still on His throne. He reigns in power on high and one of these days He will step forth and wipe the earth free of its sin and shame. His kingdom will spread from sea to sea.

"THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB"

Rev. 19:7-9

"And after these things," the marriage supper of the Lamb will take place in heaven. After the false bride has been judged and cast out, and just as the seventieth week of Daniel is about to come to a close, before the time when the
Son of God, as the Sun of Righteousness, bursts forth in all His glory as King of kings and Lord of lords, the true church, the body of Christ, the bride of the Lamb, will be presented to Him, spotless, without blemish. All heaven will rejoice, and many “hallelujahs!” will arise. People today are afraid of that word “hallelujah!” Even the good old shouting Methodists have ceased using it, but they will say it in heaven! Again and again the glad shouts will ring out, even as John tells us in verses 5-7:

“And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready” (19:5-7).

THE BRIDE

There are different interpretations as to the identity of the bride of Christ. We shall not argue the point, but let us see what the Scriptures say concerning it. Some Christians believe that the remnant of Israel will be the bride. But let us not forget that the scene which is depicted in this connection is a heavenly scene. The faithful remnant is still upon the earth, looking up and awaiting the return of the Lord. It is true that in the Old Testament Israel is referred to as the ‘divorced wife’ of Jehovah, divorced because of her wickedness; and it is true that she will be taken back in the day when as a nation, she repents and turns to God. But she will not be a bride again.

As I understand the Scriptures, they teach that the church, which Christ loved, and for which He gave Himself, will be the bride in that day when He shall sit down at the marriage supper of the Lamb. What a day that will be! Wonder of wonders that you and I, with these very eyes, shall behold the face of the One who nineteen hundred years ago walked this earth, and on Calvary’s cross poured out every drop of His blood, in order that we might reign with Him in glory! What a prospect! What a hope! What a Saviour! How that “blessed hope” drives away the clouds of depression which settle around us! Let us look up, children of God, and rejoice, and give honor to Him, and make ourselves ready for that glorious occasion!

“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of saints” (verse 8).

You will note that here we translate the word “righteousnesses” according to the Revised Version, instead of using the singular “righteousness” of the King James Version. The plural word is the more accurate translation, and the “fine linen” symbolizes the righteous acts of those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Every believer has a righteousness which is imputed to him through faith: but the expression, “righteousnesses of saints,” refers, not to the imputed righteousness, but rather to the deeds of righteousness for which the believer will receive his reward at the judgment seat of Christ. “The righteousness of God,” which is ours by faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, is a gracious gift. No sinner can work for it; he can only receive it by faith in the finished work of Calvary. But in Rev. 19:8 the Holy Spirit refers to the righteous acts which the Christian does because he is a child of God.

Dr. H. A. Ironside has given us an apt illustration of this blessed truth, comparing “the righteousnesses of saints,” with which the bride of Christ will be clothed at the marriage supper of the Lamb with the “hope chest” of the prospective bride. Have you ever gone into a home, and found a girl there who was not out with the other members of the family having a good time, but was sitting quietly, in an armchair, working away on pieces of linen, and sewing for dear life? It was not hard to guess that a wedding was near at hand, and that the girl was preparing her trousseau. Well, my friends, the bride of Christ has her “hope chest,” too, and of what is it filled? It is filled with the fine linen, which typifies the “righteousnesses of saints.” It is your part and mine, dear friends, to add our bit to the contents of that “hope chest.” Have you stored up any “fine linen” to wear in that
great day? Have you realized that you are to be a part of the glorious company which is to be His bride, and that you must prepare for "the marriage supper of the Lamb?"

At a wedding on earth, the day is set; the wedding guests arrive; and someone begins to play the wedding march. What an embarrassment for the bride if she should fail to be ready! And what an embarrassment for the bride of Christ if, in that coming day, she should lack the "fine linen" which the believers who make up that heavenly bride must furnish!

THE WEDDING GUESTS

"Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb" (verse 9). Who are those "blessed" guests? They will not be the church, for the church is the bride. Whoever heard of a bride's receiving an invitation to her own wedding? The wedding could not take place without her. But there are always guests. And so it will be when that heavenly marriage supper is set; guests will be invited. And who will they be? The Old Testament saints, the martyred Jewish tribulation saints, and that great multitude of martyred Gentiles, which will come out of the tribulation period.

John the Baptist will be there. You will remember that John called himself "the friend of the bridegroom" (John 3:29). The friend of the bridegroom rejoices when he hears the bridegroom's voice. And so, in that great day, there will be a multitude of "blessed" guests.

"And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus; worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (verse 10).

John was so overcome at the glorious vision which had been given him, that he fell at the feet of the messenger to worship him. But the angel told him not to do it, for he was his fellow-servant. That is what the angels are, ministering servants, ministering to the "heirs of salvation" (Heb. 1:14).

THE COMING OF CHRIST IN GLORY

Rev. 19:11-16

While the marriage supper of the Lamb is taking place in heaven, the last days of the seventieth week of Daniel will be transpiring upon earth. The Antichrist will be doing his worst. He will be trying to wipe from the face of the earth that nation through which the Son of God came into this world.

You will recall how, when the children of Israel were cringing under the lash of the taskmaster in Egypt, they cried out to God. God heard that cry, and appeared to Moses in the burning bush, telling him that He had heard the cry of His people, and had "come down to deliver them."

Again a cry will arise from the heart of the people of Israel; and in that day, when they are being crushed and persecuted by the Antichrist and his cohorts, they will, as a nation, remember again the God of their fathers. They will remember what God said, that when Israel travailed, she brought forth a Son; and in the midst of their agony and woe, they will cry aloud to God. That cry will pierce the air, and will rise to the ears of the Son of God. He will hear their cry for the Messiah, the Deliverer. And then will take place that glorious manifestation of the Son of God, when He will be revealed to a wondering universe.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse: and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns: and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself" (verses 11, 12).

You will recall that, when the first seal was opened, there came forth a white horse, and the rider went out, "conquering and to conquer." That rider was the Antichrist, the arch deceiver and counterfeit. But the rider referred to in the verses just quoted is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is "The Prince of Peace," but in that day He will go forth to judge and make war. He will not appear the second time as a suffer-
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ing Saviour, but as a conquering King. His eyes will flame with indignation. Upon His head, which was thorn-crowned nineteen hundred years ago, will be many crowns. He will come as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, and in His presence every evil-doer will tremble and quake.

"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God" (verse 13).

Nineteen hundred years ago, He had a vesture dipped in the precious blood, which flowed from His own body; but in the day when He shall come to cleanse the earth, His garment will be stained with the blood of His enemies.

"And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (verse 14).

Who compose the armies of heaven? First of all, the angels. The coming of the Son of God as a Saviour was associated with angels. Angels watched over His empty tomb, and told His disciples of His resurrection from the dead; His ascension was associated with angels. And when He comes for the church, He will come in clouds, calling the believers with the voice of the archangel. Likewise, when He returns to cleanse the earth, the armies of angels in heaven will follow Him. And then, the saints of the Old Testament days will be there; the tribulation saints will be in that company; and the church of Jesus Christ will be there, a vast army, "clothed in fine linen, white and clean," and riding upon white horses.

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (verses 15, 16).

What a terrible picture the Holy Spirit has portrayed for us here! How can you, my friend, abide that day unless you have a shelter, the only shelter there is to save and to cover a man from those eyes that are like flames of fire? When I read about the marriage supper of the Lamb, and about the awe-inspiring return of Christ to the earth; when I read of His eyes like flames of fire, and of that name which no man knows, only He Himself; when I read of the crowns that rest upon His brow, of His vesture, of the name written thereon, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS," and of His garments, dipped in crimson, it makes my soul tremble. It causes me to cling closer than ever to the cross of the Son of God—to hide myself in the cleft which was opened for me; for I realize that only by hiding in Him can I escape that great and dreadful day, when the wrath of the Lamb of God shall descend upon this sin-cursed earth!

"The Great Supper of God"

Rev. 19:17, 18

And now we come to the awful description of that gruesome feast which the Holy Spirit calls "the great supper of God" (R. V.).

There are four suppers mentioned in the Bible. God invites you to the first three, but not to the fourth. If you accept His invitation to the first, you may go to the second, and you will be at the third, but not at the fourth. But if you refuse the invitation to the first, even though you dare present yourself at the second, you will have no place at the table when the third supper is set; but you will be at the fourth.

Do you know what the first supper is? A certain man made a great supper; but only "the maimed, and the halt, and the blind" were persuaded to attend (Luke 14:16-24). That supper was used to typify the supper of salvation. It comes in this age. And why is it called "supper" instead of "dinner," or "breakfast," or "lunch"? Because supper is the last meal of the day, even as "the great supper of God" will be the last meal of that coming day. We eat our supper; the sun goes down; night falls; the shadows lengthen. So also, when this age of grace, this supper of salvation, is over, the night will descend upon the world.

The second supper is the Lord's Supper, where the believer partakes of the emblems which represent the broken body and the shed blood of the Son of God. If you have ac-
cepted the invitation to the first supper, you have a right to sit at the table when the second supper is served. And if you are a Christian, you will surely be at the third, which we have already described, “the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

And what is the fourth? Ah, it is that dreadful feast, to which the angel “standing in the sun” invited the “fowls that fly in the midst of heaven.”

“Come and gather yourselves together unto the great supper of God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great” (verses 17, 18).

My friend, you do not want to be at that dreadful supper. But you will, unless you “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.” God Almighty says that every unregenerated man who eats of the sacred emblems at the Lord’s Table, and drinks the wine, drinks and eats condemnation to himself. If you reject the invitation to the first, the supper of salvation, going to the second will avail you nothing; you will not be present at the third, the marriage supper of the Lamb; but you will surely be at the fourth, that last and dreadful “supper of God.”

THE DOOM OF THE BEAST, THE FALSE PROPHET, AND THEIR FOLLOWERS

Rev. 19:19-21

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh” (verses 20, 21).

The Bible tells us that during the seventieth week of Daniel, which is the tribulation period, there will be four great confederacies on this earth. We have already referred to these in this series of studies: The Roman confederacy under the Antichrist; the northern confederacy under the last ruler of the Russians; the eastern confederacy under “the sunrise kingdoms”; i.e., the eastern confederacy; and the southern confederacy under Egypt. These rival powers will fight in that great struggle called “the battle of Armageddon,” which will be staged in the land of Palestine, centering around Jerusalem.

We took up the study of that great conflict in detail in the booklet, “The Army of the Two Hundred Million and the Lord’s Return.” In that exposition we saw how the Antichrist will attempt to strike the king of the north; but from the east will come an army of two hundred million men, while in the south the armies are pushing up against him. Then there will be another great world war. But suddenly something will take place, which will cause all these rival powers to band together. That something will be the opening of the heavens and the descent of the armies of the Lord! Those demon-possessed armies of the earth will stand shoulder to shoulder, regiment to regiment, against the One who sits upon the white horse; while that One will tread “the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God!”

And then shall come that blessed interval of peace, when the Son of God shall sit upon the throne of His father David, and reign over the house of Jacob. The earth will blossom like a rose, and will be filled with “the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isa. 11:9).

These conditions, my friends, will never be realized until the personal, visible, bodily return of our Lord. How do you stand tonight? We are coming to the end of the day of grace. All signs seem to point to His soon coming. How will it be with you then? Will you be one of those left, when He comes for His own? If our Lord should come today, would you be left behind to face the terrors of the tribulation period? When the bride of Christ sits down to “the marriage supper of the Lamb,” will you be there? The answer to all these questions depends upon your relationship to Jesus Christ as the Saviour, who shed every drop of His blood, that you might be with Him in glory at that day. Will you heed His pleading, “Come unto me”? Or will you hear Him say, “Depart from me, ye
wicked'? The answer rests with you. God has done His part. Get beneath the cleansing, sheltering blood; and in that day, which is rapidly drawing nigh, you will be among the redeemed that shall rise to meet the Son of God in the air.

Chapter XVI

THE REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH
THE ETERNAL DOOM OF SATAN
THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Rev. 20:1-15

Our last lesson brought us to the close of that period known as the seventieth week of Daniel, even unto the return of Christ in glory to establish His millennial kingdom on earth. We have tried to make very clear, throughout our study of chapters four to nineteen, inclusive, that 'the things which shall be hereafter'—that is, "after these things' of the present church age—will begin to come to pass the moment the church is translated. We have followed the God-given prophecy of the rule of the Antichrist, the brief triumph and certain doom of apostate Christendom, and the last world war, which will culminate in the visible, bodily return of Christ to the earth to reign. Let us repeat it for emphasis: These chapters, four to nineteen, cover the full scope of the seventieth week of Daniel, which will witness the last vain efforts and utter defeat of Gentile world dominion.

When the Lord Jesus returns to put an end to this satanic power, He will come as the smiting Stone of the second chapter of Daniel. This we have already considered in this series of studies. In other words, the vision of Dan. 2:44, 45 is identical with that of Rev. 19:11-21.

And now we come to the twentieth chapter of Revelation, with its message of a purified earth, the glorious reign of the Lord from heaven for a thousand years, and the eternal doom of Satan and of the wicked dead of all ages.

Before our Lord can reign in righteousness and peace, the present godless civilization must be wiped out; and this will be accomplished when "the stone cut out of the mountain...
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without hands" falls upon Gentile world power (Dan. 2:44, 45).

But some will ask: How can all the existing institutions that the last century has built up be wiped out overnight? One illustration will give a faint idea of how such a thing is possible. Only a few years ago, the banking institutions of this nation were closed almost overnight. We little knew, the day before the banks were closed, how serious the financial situation in the United States had become. The thoughtful person who witnessed that event can easily see how plans and institutions which nations have taken centuries to build can be wiped out suddenly, with little or no warning. This twentieth century civilization, with all its boasted inventions, is doomed to disappointment and destruction. How Almighty God can strike when He wants to! A California earthquake, a few years ago, which lasted only about twenty seconds, did more than $30,000,000 worth of damage to property. God sometimes speaks to men in a voice of thunder, and this He will surely do when "the stone that smote the image" will become a "great mountain" and fill the whole earth.

FROM THE RAPTURE TO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

And now, before we consider the reign of "The Prince of Peace," let us once more summarize the five chief events which must take place, in rapid succession, before our Lord's kingdom will be established on earth:

1. The church must be completed. When the last member has been added to "the body of Christ," which is His church, then this age of grace will come to a close. God alone knows the number of believers necessary to complete His bride. It is a wonderful thought to me that He may use the sermon of some preacher, or the bit of personal work of some other Christian, to add the last member to that mystical body, of which He is the Head. And when that body is complete, this church age will come to an end.

2. The Lord must descend, and catch away the waiting church, in fulfillment of I Thess. 4:16-18.

3. The Antichrist must arise and rule.

4. The nation of Israel must be regathered in the land of Palestine.

5. Satan must be bound and cast into the bottomless pit. This event is recorded in the opening verses of chapter twenty, which is our lesson for today:

   "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" (20:1-3).

Later in this lesson we shall see why Satan "must be loosed a little season" after the thousand years’ reign of Christ on earth. Just now we are occupied chiefly with the fact that, before the Lord Jesus reigns, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit. This is not the lake of fire, or hell, into which the beast and the false prophet will be cast before the millennium, and into which Satan will be cast after the thousand years of peace and righteous rule are ended. (Compare 19:20 with 20:1-3, 10.)

THE REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH

With the earth rid of the Antichrist and all his followers, and with Satan bound, our Lord Jesus will rule "from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." When He takes the reins of government in His own hands, He will sweep away every form of earthly dominion. He will come as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Yes, we shall have an absolute Monarch then—One in whom all power is vested—and an absolute Monarch will be the Son of God. Six times this chapter tells us that our Lord will reign a "thousand years." We call that period the "millennium," from two Latin words, "mille," meaning "thousand," and "annum," meaning "year." Therefore, "millennium" means simply "a thousand years."

To learn the characteristics of His kingdom, it is necessary to turn to other passages of Scripture that describe the blessed conditions which shall prevail. Certainly we know that it will be an age of glory.
1. It Will Be Glorious for the Lord Jesus Christ, for He shall reign as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Christ will be King in as definite and as positive a sense as the world has ever known a king to be, only His kingdom will have a wider sphere than that of any earthly monarch. His rule will be more autocratic; His sway will be limitless. And He will have a throne.

Turn to Luke 1:32, 33, which records a prophecy uttered by the Angel Gabriel, after he had told Mary that she was to be the channel through whom the Messiah was to come: “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

Have you ever realized that this portion of Gabriel’s prophecy has never yet been fulfilled up to this time? The Son of God has never sat upon the throne of His father David. He has never ruled over the house of Jacob. But when He returns to the earth, He shall sit upon that throne. In that way and in that relationship, He will be the King of the nation of Israel. Not only will He be King of Israel: He will rule over all the world. In Psalm 72:8, we read: “He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.”

We are even told what is to be the capital city of the millennial kingdom. It will not be London, Berlin, or New York.

“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 all 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 of 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” (Isa. 2:2, 3).

The Lord Jesus Christ will be back again upon this earth, but not as He was nineteen hundred years ago, a “man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” He will not have to come in all His glory, and that glory will outshine the splendor of all the kings that the world has ever known. He will govern the earth with His Word. Do you know what the Word is? It is the Word that men today are trying to destroy with the artillery of doubt—the Word of the living God. But the Book which men now try to trample upon will be lifted up, and will be used by the Son of God to govern the earth.

In that day all men will honor the Son of God. It will be a time of glory for our Redeemer-King! Before Him “every knee” shall bow, and “every tongue . . . confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:10, 11).

2. It will Be a Time of Glory for the Church. The Church shall reign with Him. Paul says we are kings. If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him: for we shall see him as he is” (I John 3:2).

The Bible tells us that when the Son of God is ruling upon this earth, the twelve apostles will have a unique place, while the rest of the church will govern the Gentile nations. The twelve tribes of Israel, back in Palestine, will be governed by the twelve apostles. (See Matt. 19:28.) You will remember that in Isaiah 1:26 there is a prophecy which foretells the millennial reign of Christ: “I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, the city of righteousness, the faithful city.” Now a judgeship in Israel was not a judicial office; it was an administrative office. Link that fact with what Jesus said concerning this city—that when the Son of God returns to the earth, the disciples will sit upon twelve thrones, judging; that is, administering government, over the twelve tribes of Israel.

To understand what the government of the Gentiles will include, read the nineteenth chapter of Luke. You will remember the story, how Jesus said that a certain nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom; and when he returned, he called his servants unto him, that he might find how much every man had gained by trade. When he rewarded the faithful ones, he gave them rulership over a certain number of cities, according to their faithfulness in each case. When do you suppose the authority to which He re-
ferred is to be exercised? In heaven? Heaven is only one city! That authority is to be exercised upon the earth when the Son of God is here as Sovereign. He Himself will rule Israel through the twelve disciples; He will rule the Gentile nations through the church; and you and I shall have authority in that glorious kingdom, according to how faithful we have been while our Lord was away.

Our bodies will be resurrection bodies; real, but without the limitations of the flesh, not subject to the law of gravitation. You will recall how, when the Lord Jesus Christ appeared in the upper room where His disciples were gathered after His resurrection, He appeared in their midst, "the doors being shut." Walls of wood and stone could not keep Him out. He told His disciples to handle Him, to feel His hands, His feet, and His pierced side. They saw Him; they recognized Him; and then He vanished out of their sight. Would you like to have a body like that?

In Philippians 3:21, we read that He will "change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." That is the sort of body we shall have when we are back upon this earth, ruling and reigning in the kingdom of the Son of God.

And we shall be able to travel. The speed that is made now will be as nothing compared with what shall be in that day.

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us a kingdom, priests (R. V.) unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Rev. 1:5, 6).

3. It Will Be a Time of Glory for Israel. God's chosen people will be back in their own land. They will be a converted nation, and will bear the name of the Lord in that day. We could read for hours those passages that speak of the glory which is coming to the nation of Israel.

For instance, Zechariah 8:13, 23: "And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel: so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong ... Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you." In that day the Jewish nation will be the most honored in all the earth. She will no longer be the "tail" of the nations, but the "head." The Jew shall go back to Jerusalem, rebuild his temple, and the nation of Israel shall never, never again be plucked out of the land of Palestine. They shall never again go into backsliding; they shall always know Jehovah.

Poor Israel! The people of the bleeding feet, going back now to Palestine thinking it will be home; dreaming that, when they get there, they will be safe from the outrages that have been perpetrated upon them during the last two thousand years! They are going back, although they do not know it, to the greatest trouble they have ever seen. But, thank God, when His Son returns, and they look upon Him whom they have pierced, in that day a nation shall be born; and Israel's glories will begin when they know David's greater Son as their King.

5. It Will Be Glory for the Physical Creation. In that
day the Son of God will be "the last Adam." He will restore the physical creation. When God gave the first Adam dominion over the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, and the fish of the sea, Adam sinned; and because of his sin, everything was cursed, physical creation included. But when Christ, the second Adam, returns to earth, "the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock" (Isa. 65:25). "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" (Isa. 11:6). The children shall play in the streets, and nothing shall hurt them. "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree" (Isa. 55:13). And "the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" (Isa. 35:1).

Coming through the Suez Canal a number of years ago, we looked out over a great wilderness. Not one sign of vegetation did we see for miles and miles. Someone said that one could journey for 2,000 miles in one direction and not see a blade of grass. My own homeland, Australia, has an area of three million square miles; and in about two million of them, one cannot see a blade of grass from one year's end to another. But one day, when the Son of God returns to reign, the desert shall burst into bloom. The thorn will disappear, and the myrtle tree will take the place of the briar.

In Zechariah 8:5 we read that "the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof." In the day when the Lord Jesus Christ shall be exalted as Ruler of all the earth, they will play—with the very things from which they are protected now. Eden will be restored, and the whole earth will break into song.

In the day when the Son of God returns to the earth, it will be glory for Him; glory for the church, glory for the nations, glory for Israel, and glory for the physical creation, because the KING shall reign in righteousness. He is the only safe Foundation.

AFTER THE MILLENNIUM—WHAT?

At the close of the thousand years, Christ will surrender the kingdom back to the Father in accordance with I Cor. 15:24, 28:

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power... And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

But before the Son delivers the kingdom to His Father, it will be necessary for Him to purify the earth once again. During the millennial reign of Christ children will be born into the world, and it will be just as necessary for these to be born again as it is for children in this age to receive a new birth. That children will be born into the world during the reign of Christ, is made clear from Isa. 11:8, "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." Many children of godly parents during this age are Gospel hardened, and many children in that day will take a similar attitude toward the things of God. They will render, however, feigned obedience to the King, and will submit to His rule simply because they must. Then when the reign of peace is over, and Satan is loosed from his prison, the King will veil His glory, in order that these may openly declare themselves. That rebellion is described in verses 7-9:

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are the four quarters of the earth, God and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."

The reference to "Gog and Magog," when read in connection with Ezek. 38:1-39:24, seems to indicate clearly that Russia will play a prominent part in that final rebellion against the God of heaven. (We went into this subject fully in the radio message, in booklet form, on "Russia, Her Invasion of Palestine in the Last Days and Her Final Destruction at the Return of Christ.")
The Revelation of Jesus Christ

"The beloved city," Jerusalem, will again be encompassed by the enemy; but God will once for all seal the doom of Satan and his followers.

The Eternal Doom of Satan

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (verse 10).

This lake of fire is hell, the place which our Lord described in no uncertain terms. Satan will find there "the beast and the false prophet," who by this time will have been there for a thousand years. And these three, together with all the fallen angels and all the ungodly men of every age, "shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (verse 10).

The Judgment of the Great White Throne

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (Hades, R. V.) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell (Hades, R. V.) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (verses 11-15).

This will be the final assize. The Son of God takes His place as the Supreme Judge of human kind. The Christless dead of all the ages are raised, even those whose bodies have just been slain by fire. They will be judged according to the light of the dispensation in which they lived. None will be found to have his name in the book of life. The sentence of death will be reaffirmed, and these human derelicts will go out into eternity lost—forever banished from the presence of God, into "the lake of fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (21:8).

Twice in the verses quoted above you will note that the word "hell" is correctly translated "Hades" in the Revised Version. Hades is "the place of the dead." In our study of "God's Plan of the Ages" we went into this subject fully. Here, however, we shall only summarize the scriptural teaching briefly on this point:

Before Christ died and rose and ascended into heaven, Sheol (Hebrew word) or Hades (Greek word) was divided into two compartments, Paradise and the place of torment. Between these two, there was "a great gulf fixed." Into one of these two places the spirits of all the dead went: the saved, into Paradise; the lost, into the awful prison—both to await the resurrection. Their bodies went into the grave, and returned to dust.

When Christ died, He went to Paradise, though His body did not "see corruption." He rose again, and ascended into heaven. And when He ascended up on high, He "led a multitude of captives captive." In other words, He took Paradise, with all the spirits of the Old Testament saints, into heaven itself. And since that day, Hades has been occupied only with the spirits of the wicked dead.

At the judgment of the great white throne death (the grave) and Hades (that awful prison of wicked souls) will deliver up their dead. This will be the second resurrection.

We have already seen that the first resurrection will take place before the millennium, when soul and body of the redeemed will be forever "with the Lord." Likewise, before the great white throne, soul and body of the wicked will forever be reunited. The righteous Judge of all the earth will pronounce the terrible indictment against them, which we read in Rev. 20:11-15. And throughout the endless ages they shall be tormented, because they rejected the only "Way" to God—the Lord Jesus Christ.

Of this awful sentence, the late Dr. I. M. Haldeman once wrote: "They will die the second time. From the second death there is no resurrection. They will be sent out into the wide universe into the 'outer darkness.' They will be 'wandering stars to whom the blackness of darkness is reserved forever.' They will wander through this unlit darkness of eter-
nity as derelicts of humanity, tossed upon an endless and shoreless sea; souls that have missed the purpose for which they were created—union and fellowship with God."

Oh, my brother, I urge you once again to receive the Christ into your life who died for your sins and rose again for your justification, that you may, even this moment, have your name inscribed in the Lamb's book of life. Then the judgment of the great white throne will have no terrors for you.