

EARTHQUAKES IN BIBLE SYMBOLOLOGY Symbolic Earthquakes-- Revolutions.

CLOSING OF THE GOSPEL AGE

Significance of Earthquakes--The Part They Played in Nature--In Grace--Their Association With the Reign of Sin and Death--Grand Results to Be Expected--Stability of the New Order of Things in the Messianic Kingdom--Dark Hour Preceding the Millennial Morning of Blessing.

October 18. -- Pastor Russell's text to-day was, "There shall be great earthquakes in divers places, and famines and pestilences; and a fearful sight and great signs shall there be from Heaven." (Luke 21:11.) He said:

It is far from our thought that in itself an earthquake is a sign of the end of the Age; but the prevalence of earthquakes since the beginning of the twentieth century properly enough attracts our attention to "What say the Scriptures?" upon this subject.

The Master was answering a question asked by His disciples respecting the End of the Age and the signs which would mark its close. In the context our Lord had told them that they might expect to hear of wars and tumults, but not to be terrified; for although such things would occur, they would not be indications that the end of the Age was near. Then, coming to the events to be expected at the close of the Age, He used the words of our text. He also declared that before these terrible indications of the End of the Age, His disciples would suffer persecutions in the synagogues, churches, etc., for His sake, and for the Truth's sake.

Our Adventist friends have also been calling attention to Scriptures predicting great tribulation upon the world in the very near future; but our message is a very different one from theirs and is used for a very different purpose. Their message is that the convulsions of nature now due will result in "a wreck of matter and a crush of worlds"; but the sister message is that the destruction of this earth to a mass of cinder; and they use this message as a club to drive the wicked to seek protection of the Lord.

Be it noticed how different is our reference to these calamities. We hold with the Scriptures that "the earth abideth forever"; that cold and heat, summer and winter, will continue as long as the earth remains; and that God made not the earth in vain, but formed it to be inhabited. --Ecclesiastes 1:4; Genesis 8:22; Isaiah 45:18.

We have already pointed out that the fire of this Day of the Lord will be a symbolic one, just as the "fiery trials" of the Church throughout this Age have not generally consisted even in part of literal fire; and that the fiery troubles coming upon the world will overthrow present institutions, political, social, financial, and religious--and will engulf the whole world in anarchy. In the Scriptures this is symbolically called in some places a flood and in others a consuming fire.

We have also pointed out that the passing away of present institutions, symbolically called "the heavens and the earth that are now," will be followed by the establishment of "a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"; the reorganization of society along lines of Divine approval, intimated by the words of our Lord's prayer, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in Heaven."

We will not attempt to prognosticate the character of the frightful signs which belong to the closing of this Age; but they are very particularly mentioned by our Lord and were also foretold by the Prophet Joel, saying, "I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath, blood and fire and pillars of smoke."--Joel 2:30; Acts 2:19.

The Apostle Paul refers to the same thing in Hebrews 12:26-28. He alludes to the establishment of the Law Covenant at Mount Sinai and the wonderful manifestations which at that time caused Moses and all Israel to fear and quake. Then he tells us that those events were typical, or figurative, of the still more wonderful shakings, signs, etc., to be expected at the closing of this Gospel Age, when the Kingdom of God is about to be established and the New Covenant about to go into effect between God and mankind at the hands of the great Mediator, Jesus Christ and the Church.

St. Paul declares that the Word of the Lord upon this subject implies the removing of all things that can be shaken, so that only the unshakable things will remain, and that these unshakable things be associates with God's Kingdom of righteousness. When with the eyes of our understanding open we look about us, we

see very many things that evidently are not permanent, not right, not satisfactory to God and to all who love righteousness and hate iniquity; and when we reflect that the shaking will be such as to loosen and destroy all these imperfect things of the present time, we can imagine better than we can describe the severity of that shaking.

In the Revelation this same thought is expressed under the figure of a mighty earthquake, the like of which there had not been before and will never be thereafter. (Revelation 16:18.) Throughout the Apocalypse the term earthquake is used to symbolically represent revolution. What we are to expect then will be a great revolution, a great earthquake, the great shaking of the present institutions which will overthrow everything that is not of the Lord's establishment and approval.

In the Divine order there seems to be a harmony between the literal and the figurative; therefore the literal earthquakes have their part to play in the great Program. Not only are they to serve the Church as signs corroborating the prophecies respecting the approach of the great Time of Trouble which closes this Gospel Age, but they are to serve also another purpose--a particular purpose.

The Scriptures clearly intimate that our physical earth has not yet attained the grand perfection which the Lord designs that it should have, and be fit for the blessed ones whose home, as the Paradise of God, it shall be throughout all eternity. Be it noticed that the Scriptures clearly point out that the Little Flock, called of God during this Gospel Age to be the Bride of Christ, are to experience a change of nature from human to spirit, which will prepare them for Heavenly conditions, spiritual conditions. But for the remainder of mankind God's provision, according to His Word, is not the change of nature, but a restoration to the perfection of human nature and the development of the earth to that perfect condition which will make it as a whole the antitype of the Garden of Eden--the Paradise restored.

We have already called attention to the fact that the flood of waters in Noah's time was called by the breaking of the last of a series of rings that once surrounded the earth, after the manner of the rings of the planet Saturn. Foreknowing the wickedness that would develop amongst mankind and the power that would be exercised amongst men by the giants of that day (Genesis 6:4) God has so timed the breaking of this last ring that the flood of waters would serve the purpose of overthrowing that order of things and making ready for the next feature of the Divine Program, the present order, which began after the Deluge, upon the coming of Noah and his family out of the Ark.

Similarly, the Scriptures teach, God has reserved for the appropriate time in the end of this Age certain great physical disturbances necessary to the development of the earth and its preparation for the Reign of Righteousness and blessing of mankind, so that the troubles incidental to the change of nature upon the world as disastrous floods, etc., and will co-operate in the bringing of mankind into sore straits and trials of faith and patience, which will result in anarchy and the complete overthrow of the present order of things upon the earth, but also of the social earth and the ecclesiastical, or "heavenly," institutions, in order that all unstable things may pass away and that the new order of things may be ushered in on a permanent basis, having the Divine approval, and meaning ultimately, the grandest blessing for our race.

From this standpoint a certain class can read the signs of the times intelligently and "with confidence"; and this class the Scriptures call the Lord's Little Flock (Luke 12:32); counted foolish by the world, but counted of the Lord as "the wise" who are to "understand." (Daniel 12:10.) Of these the Master Himself addressed these words, "There shall be signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." And again, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your deliverance draweth nigh."--Luke 21:25, 26, 28.

The Lord's consecrated people, possessed of His Spirit, cannot in any sense of the word rejoice at the tribulation coming upon others. Their rejoicing can be only in respect to the glorious things which they hope to experience, and which they know to be near by these outward signs. Their rejoicing is not merely on their own behalf, but also on behalf of the whole world; for they have the assurance of the Scriptures that beyond this Time of Trouble, which looms up as a dark cloud to cover the whole social world, there is a silver lining; and that shortly the glorious Sun of Righteousness will blaze forth, dispel every cloud and all the shadows of ignorance and superstition, and bring to the world of mankind the rich blessings of Divine favor, secured through the precious blood of Christ.

From this standpoint the news of destructive earthquakes here and there appeals to us as incidental corroboration of the prophecies of Scripture which show us that we are very near the long-threatened Time of Trouble. True, there may be a lull for a brief period; but we have confidence that our Lord's prophecy as recorded in our text has a meaning, and that the time for its fulfillment must be very near at hand. We are well aware that the natural man and his scientific leaders will consider the association of the facts of our day with the words uttered more than eighteen centuries ago as very foolish. We are aware that they will say, as the Apostle Peter declared they would, that "all things continue as they have been from the foundation of the world," and that such changes have been going on,

and will continue to do so, without any relationship to our Lord's Second Presence and the Time of Trouble which this Age will close. (1 Peter 3:3, 4.) This is their view--the reverse is ours.

The Word of God teaches us that at this time of transition from the Gospel Age to the Messianic Age we are to expect wonderful contentions of nature and some radical changes in the earth's condition, in order that it may be the better adapted to the wants of man throughout eternity. It is God's own declaration that He will make the place of His feet glorious--the earth, His "footstool."--Isaiah 60:13; 66:1.

Evidently great and wonderful changes will be effected, some of which will be brought about gradually. For instance, we all know of the gradual change of the temperate zone--its extension further and further toward the poles. We notice also the increasing moderation nearer to the equator. Those who recognize the power of God can have confidence in His ability to perform all the glorious promises of His Word respecting the paradisaical conditions of this earth for the use of mankind during the Millennial Age and the ages to follow.

As already intimated, social upheavals are pictured in the Word of God under the symbolism of earthquakes, "mountains carried into the sea," etc. Similarly, uprisings of the social elements in anarchy are depicted as "mountains" governments. This is one of the most forceful pictures used, not only in the Psalms, but also in the Revelation and in our Lord's apocalyptic references to the great Time of Trouble which is near at hand. Of this time the Prophet Daniel has declared that it will be "a Time of Trouble such as was not since there was a nation"; and our Lord, when quoting this speaking, adds, "No, nor ever shall be."--Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21.

Let us not be misunderstood to be advocating anarchy or revolution of any kind. On the contrary, we are giving heed to the Master's instruction that all who are His true followers seek peace and pursue it, and so far as possible live peaceably with all men; that like Himself they should not resist evil with evil, force with force, but should, in seeking, walk in His paths, and rely upon Him for the results that will be to their profit and His glory.

So far from counselling anarchy, we hold and teach that even the meanest and poorest form of government is superior to anarchy; and in all sympathy and kindness we counsel those who are tending toward Socialism that they are unwise in "hatching cockatrice eggs." Under present conditions Socialism is absolutely impossible. The rich will not give up their advantages without a struggle to the death; and this, as soon as Socialism shall have gained the political ascendency, will spell anarchy for the world. For now starting in with Socialistic hopes, will find those hopes vain, and will become so angered, so disappointed, that they will resort to bitter and to the deceptions of their theories and the impossibility of carrying them out, as they intended, along the lines of benevolence.

As a result they will be drawn to the desperate methods of the anarchists, that all could see with us what the Scriptures so clearly indicate, namely, the Divine foreknowledge of past, present and future conditions, and the Divine arrangement of these for the greatest safety of all. We hearken to the voice of Him that speaketh from Heaven! Such the Lord urges to take His yoke upon them and learn of Him; that they accept of His will, and His yoke, and His loyalty to Him, and thus be counted worthy of a share in the highest and best of all God's gifts--to be sharers with our Lord Jesus in His Throne, in His nature and in the power which shortly He will confer upon all who are His true followers. We urge all who are the Lord's to seek more and more to understand His wonderful Plan of Salvation, to glorify Him in His wisdom and in His spirit, which are His, and to wait for His time and His manner of bringing in the blessings which all see are so much needed by the poor "groaning creation." Meantime, all such should cultivate the grace of the Holy Spirit, or, as the Apostle puts it, "put on Christ." His character, His meekness, patience, long suffering, brotherly kindness, love, against which things there is no law. Respecting these graces St. Peter declares, "If ye do these things ye shall never fall; for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."--2 Peter 1:10, 11.

These cannot be shaken out of the Lord's hand by any tumult. Indeed, if they be in the disasters of literal earthquakes they will be able to rejoice even in tribulation, knowing that all things work together for good to those who love God.

Salvation Song Popular. The story of a Salvation Army song carolled on the fighting line by members of the honor guard, who such a familiar scene in every big city. These are the words:

"I'm a child of a King, I'm a child of a King, With Jesus my saviour, I'm a child of the King."

They were sung by a wounded soldier going to the front in an ambulance, taken up by few of his comrades, and gradually the chorus swelled until a whole army joined in.

"After the chorus had been sung twice over I heard it taken up by other soldiers, and presently from many parts of the camp came the old salvation song."

An Amateur. Briefly defined, an amateur is one who is less skilled than a professional.

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We have just placed in stock a complete range of Pen-Angle Ladies' Cashmere Stockings, the only Stocking that is Knit to Fit Without a Seam and made with Shaped Foot and Narrowed Ankle, the Best Cashmere Stocking made, and sold in Canada at 35c, 45c, 50c, 65c and 75c a pair.

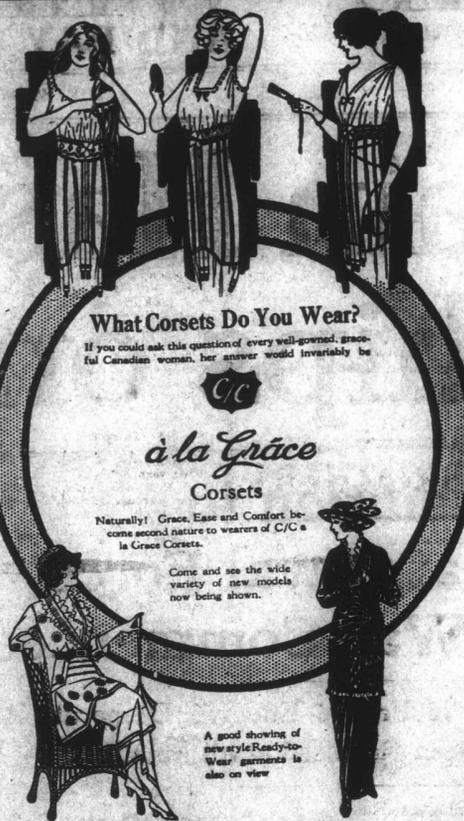
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We think it is the Best Value to be had in a Good Black Dress Silk, but we want your opinion of it--39 inches wide and only \$1.15 yd

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New Wash Silk Waists at \$4.00

Here is a Ladies' Tailored Silk Waist that will interest you. These Waists are made of a heavy Jap Wash Silk, in Black and Ivory, in very smart Tailored Style and are certainly the best value we have ever shown, in all sizes 32 to 42 bust measure. Price \$4.00

Extra Large Coats

In our Coat Department we show several styles specially designed for Large Figures in Ladies' Black Curl, Zebeline Cloths, Serges and Kersey Cloths. These Coats are sized up to 48 bust measure, and sell from \$12.50 to \$22.50 each.

CANADA WILL HAVE A GOOD CROP THIS YEAR

OTTAWA, October 20. A bulletin issued to-day by the Census and Statistics Office gives provisional estimates of the yield and quality of the principal Canadian grain crops, and also the condition of root and fodder crops, as compiled from reports of correspondents made on September 30.

In general the reports confirm the statement issued last month, the average yields per acre being about the same as that estimated for wheat, but being somewhat less for oats, barley and flax.

The total yields for Canada of the principal grain crops in bushels are as follows: Wheat, 28,223,000, oats 311,423,000, barley 24,491,000, rye 2,258,000, 3,587,100, beans 824,400, buckwheat 9,169,000, flaxseed 7,583,000, mixed grains 10,458,000 and corn for husking 14,792,000.

The average quality of the grain crops at harvest time, measured upon percentage basis, 100 representing grain well headed, well filled, well saved and unaffected by any appreciable extent by frost, rust, smut, etc., is for the whole of Canada as follows: wheat 78, oats, 79, barley 76, rye 82, peas 80, beans 82, buckwheat 81, mixed grains 80, flax 94 and corn for husking 80. For wheat barley and oats the figures are considerably below the excellent record of last year, the averages this year being reduced by the prolonged drought in the Northwest provinces the points for the quality of wheat, oats and barley range from 48 for barley in Saskatchewan to 78 for spring wheat in Alberta.

In the Maritime provinces both the yield and quality of the grain crops are excellent. The condition of root crops at September 30 is for all Canada about equal with last year, being 75 p. c. of a standard or full crop for potatoes, 78 p. c. for turnips, 80 p. c. for mangolds, carrots, etc., 89 p. c. for sugar beets, 90 p. c. for fodder corn and 76 p. c. for alfalfa. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan the condition of the root crops is low owing to the drought. In Northern Alberta, where the season was of more normal character, these crops make a fair showing.

During September conditions have been generally favourable for harvesting and threshing, and in the Northwest provinces a great deal of threat of frost was completed by October 1. There are indications that the amount of fall ploughing this year will be greater than usual.

49TH BEGINS RECRUITING

The 49th will begin recruiting at once. Such is the result of an order received today by Lt-Col. W. G. Ketchum, of the 49th at Wallburg. The 49th is to be furnished by this regiment is 75 men. The men will be enlisted and examined before going to Kingston, the divisional headquarters. The recruits may gather at Wallburg. None of them are to go to Kingston before Oct. 28th.

BOILERS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Thirty-one ocean liners, a fleet many times greater in tonnage than any army of medieval Spain, are being sent to the Canadian army to England. Eleven war vessels were strung by the lines-of-communication system across the Atlantic, one every couple of hundred miles as a convoy. It was the greatest army that ever crossed the Atlantic, and the most impressive convoy ever seen in our times. The value of that 31,000 soldiers, 8,000 horses and 70 field guns was absolutely guaranteed to the British War Office by the greatest insurance system ever seen afloat. But the Canadian army is no safer on the Atlantic than the Canadian mercantile marine carrying Canadian wheat, bacon, flour and cheese to the ports of Britain. Day in and day out, night after night by all bells the guns of British battleships keep open the trade routes between the fields and the mills and keep the factories of Canada and the markets of England. Thanks to those nimble cruisers, this country becomes a creditor of England who thanks to the navy is financially able to pay her bills in a time of war on the principle "Business As Usual."

This navy-guaranteed trade puts England in our debt hundreds of millions in a year. It enables a large percentage of our population to go on raising wheat, operating mills and factories under absolute safety of transportation. The British navy is the greatest guarantee of our system of transportation, not only of ships but of railways that feed them and are fed by them. With such magnificent insurance every wheel in Canada, every smoke-stack, every power-house, every travelling crane, every spindle and loom, lathe and drill and roller, should go on working as though war had never happened in the world.

With such an impressive spectacle of efficiency on the high seas, it is the imperial business of every man and woman in Canada to spend every dollar possible to keep the factories of Canada operating as diligently as the farms and the fisheries and the mines. The money spent in buying Canadian goods is money spent to justify the protection we enjoy from the British navy. If in a time of dislocation caused by war we cease to put up every dollar we can buy from our own people we are no longer worth that navy's protection.

It's the busy army at home that makes the majesty of the watchdog fleet abroad. Every warship boiler burning on the seas should be backed up by ten Canadian factory boilers burning at home.

Osteopathy. Dr. J. P. Kimmel and his wife at 28 Victoria Avenue are now prepared to treat all kinds of chronic and acute diseases. These diseases yield quickly to osteopathic treatment, but still more quickly to osteopathy and its side-cold and hot baths, massage, therapeutic exercises, and proper diet. Baths and massage will be given when needed; also instruction in the exercises and diet. Mrs. Kimmel will treat those patients who prefer a lady operator.

Anybody wanting help of any kind or persons looking for employment can secure information by applying to D J Fairfield, 223 Coleman St. Phone 460 M-5, Itdwe

FOR SALE OR RENT. GOOD money making general store saw and grist mill also good farms. Terms to suit purchaser or city property taken in exchange. Season for selling owner wants to retire. Possession given at once. Apply to E. F. Clarke, 210 St. Catharines St. Ont.

LATTA. A severe thunder storm passed over here on Saturday night but fortunately no damage was done. Several of the young people from here attended the Thanksgiving Tea given by the Young People's Society of Gilead at Mr. Everett York's. All port a fine time. Mr. and Mrs. Langsaber and Master Harold spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Cannifton. A number from here attended the W.M.S. convention at Bethel on Wednesday. We are sorry to report that Mrs. Catherine Hall, who has been ill, so long, shows no signs of improvement. The stone machine which has been busy here for the past week has been taken away at the request of the rain. The farmers were all pleased to see the rain. It was almost impossible for them to plow.

AUCTIONEERS.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE ONTARIO D. J. FAIRFIELD, Licensed Auctioneer, for the Counties of Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox and Addington and Durham and Northumberland and also for the city of Belleville, Terms Liberal, satisfaction guaranteed. Phone 460 at my expense. J. Fairfield, 223 Coleman St. Belleville.

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HENRY WALLACE, Licensed Auctioneer for the county of Hastings, special attention given to sales of Farm Stock. Phone or write Stirling P.O. R.M.D. Phone No. 8521. D. J. Fairfield, Licensed Auctioneer and Canadian Employment Agent for this District.

I wish to thank the farmers for the very liberal patronage in the past year and am still taking orders for the present year and will be at Standard Bank, every Saturday from 10 o'clock a.m. to 12 and from 1.30 p.m. till 3.30 p.m. and would advise farmers to apply early in order to secure help, as last year I was not able to apply the demand owing to orders given late. My address is 223 Coleman Street. Any orders left with John Elliott, manager of the Standard Bank will be promptly filled. D. J. FAIRFIELD, Canadian Government Employment Agent.

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FOR SALE

GOOD money making general store saw and grist mill also good farms. Terms to suit purchaser or city property taken in exchange. Season for selling owner wants to retire. Possession given at once. Apply to E. F. Clarke, 210 St. Catharines St. Ont.

FOR SALE

THREE pure bred Ayrshire bull calves, prize winners. W. C. Kercheval & Son, Orono, Ontario. 2-3 w & d w t

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