

beat of three hundred millions of people, comprising the Roman Empire. But the Babe, whose infant cry blended with the bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the kine, is to displace Rome. Juno, Venus, Bacchus and Diana have fled as fabled spectres vanish before the dawn. The colossal character has appeared and is announced by John as the one that shall hereafter baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. God has baptized His people in the surging sea and in the cloud. John has baptized the repenting throng in the historic Jordan. But Jesus comes to baptize His people into the personal Spirit and yoke absolute impotence to absolute omnipotence.

(B) The Baptized.

According to the record, John was careful not to baptize all who came to him, irrespective of their Spiritual condition. He drove the Pharisees and Sadducees away with the stinging lash. "O generation of vipers, who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" His baptism was given to repentant souls and was a public testimony that a gracious work had been done. In the ordinance of baptism, all we have to do is to provide the candidate, and so in the Lord's baptism, He is the baptizer. He provides the oceanic font. He provides the robes, by the washing of regeneration, woven in the looms of atoning love and grace, and fitted in the new birth by the Holy Ghost.

This wonderful, wonder working baptism is no where promised to, nor enjoined upon impenitent souls; neither is it bestowed upon the people of God who are living in Sodom; nor is it possible to the Christians who are living in Zoar. But it is for those who are born of the Spirit and walking in the light. It is not an uncommon thing in Spirit anointed teaching, to find unconverted church members, born of God in their search for the baptism of fire and not a few Christians restored from an inward, if not an outward life, of backsliding and carnal insecurity.

We are almost persuaded that the baptism Jesus came to administer, is a very rarely possessed gift. When we put the straight edge of full orb'd Bible regeneration on the