

REIGN OF THE MESSIAH.

PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Having written two articles bearing upon the kingdom of heaven, we judge it prudent to say something more in relation to this great theme. We find these words—"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Dan. 2:44. The prophet declares that—1. In the days of certain kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom. 2. It shall never be destroyed. 3. It shall not be left to other people. 4. It shall break in pieces and consume all the other kingdoms; and 5. It shall stand forever. Who were those kings? The rulers of the four great empires which the prophet announced would rise, one after the other, and subdue the whole earth. They were Persian powers, and held each in its turn, universal dominion, Assyria, Persia, the Grecian States and Rome ruled this planet, and slaughtered their millions to gratify a desire for wealth, honor, authority, and dominion. Whence the course of all this? Because the nations rejected Jehovah as their creator, protector, lawgiver, ruler or king; choosing methods of government in accordance with their own wisdom and counsel. Rejecting the wisdom of heaven, they followed their own ways, hence the blindness, ignorance, selfishness, injustice and cruelties of human governments, ending in foolishness, disasters, slaughter and misery. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." Rom. 1:28. "Heaven must nevermore interfere in the affairs of men, otherwise destruction will befall our world, and perhaps other portions of the boundless universe. In the light of Imperial Rome's strength and glory, an effort was therefore made to introduce a heavenly form of government, for the redemption and peace of the sons and daughters of men. It had been foretold in preceding ages, by prophets, kings and sages that a child would be born, a son given, having wonderful names; on whose shoulder the government would be placed; of the increase of which there would be no end; and ruling power to be established in judgment and justice; a work hitherto unknown among the nations in rebellion against God. Isa. 9:7.

This illustrious personage appeared in the fullness of time, and announced himself as the Messiah, foretold in the Jewish scriptures; whom all nations were in lively expectations of soon beholding. He came to favor the Jews, and through them all nations; but the former, seeing no beauty in him, despised and rejected him. "But as many as received him, gave him power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12. Said he, I am the Messiah, the son of God, sent to save the world; and if you will, I can make you happy; but if you will not, I can do nothing for you; to perdition you must go. "O, Jerusalem! Jerusalem! how often would I have gathered you together, but you would not." Not coming in sufficient splendor and pomp to please the Jews, he was therefore scornfully rejected by them. But the evidence of his being the Redeemer of man, the Messiah of the ancients, was convincing, unassailable, irrefragable. His very power made his enemies wicked, blasphemous, ferocious; because the evidence could not be shaken

—therefore all hearing it, must receive or oppose. No middle ground is here. The reader may think that every man and woman not insane, would readily receive a beam of light with eyes that are not stubbornness and prejudice in the way. As then, so now, they reject his words and instructions because we, in our wisdom, are displeased with them. The Messiah being scorned and persecuted, a change must be made over his kingdom can find "a local habitation and a name." While permitted to live, he must prepare a select number, called apostles, in order that the work commenced by himself, may be established and finished in the earth. This having been done, he is seized, mocked, crowned in scorn, whipped, crucified, and in this manner driven from the goal, the pleasant land." The 11th day, however, after this shameful usage, he returned to the joy of friends, and contumacious of foes; telling the former, that being taken up into heaven, he would send his Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who would instruct them in all things pertaining to his kingdom or coming reign, and the redemption of man. Reader, think of the absurdity of Mahomet, or any other mere man making claims so lofty and supernatural; you then will behold the folly, in all its nakedness, of Hume, Paine, Ingersoll, with thousands of less fame, in their mad opposition to the "Prince of Peace." This Advocate came on the great day of Pentecost, when Peter by his aid told myriads, how they might enjoy pardon and peace by entering into the new kingdom or reign of the risen Messiah, God's glorified Son. "What shall we do?" asked they. Said he, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." You say Peter gave the wrong answer. Inevitably who told you so? Our gods divines of every name. Very well, the Holy Spirit said to the apostles to give the multitude this answer, and he that contradicts him is both a deceiver and a liar. Ponder well Rom. 21:8. On that very day this kingdom came into being; the mild reign of the Messiah began, to the joy and peace of thousands. Reader, do you wish to be saved as they were? "Go thou and do likewise." See Acts 2nd chapter.

Having already devoted an article in the WORKER, on the setting up of this Kingdom, we consider the above, on the first point or division, sufficient. 2. It shall never be destroyed. Here is difficulty. To human eyes, it has been destroyed. The 35 verse declares, that "all these kingdoms became as the chaff of the summer threshing floor, which the wind carries away, that no place was found for them; and the stones became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." Have these kingdoms become as chaff? Have they been blown away or destroyed? Are not modern kingdoms more warlike, more destructive than the ancient? Who will say no? Is this stone a great mountain now, filling the whole earth? All admit that the pure followers of the Christ are comparatively few; very few indeed. How true the saying, "Many are called, but few are chosen." Instead of there being no place for these kingdoms, they have in change the entire earth to-day. These kingdoms combined against the Messiah's kingdom, and to all human appearance, destroyed it. Daniel says, "I beheld, and the same horn (the papal power) made war with the saints, and prevailed against them." Chap. 7: 21. John, speaking of the same power says, "And it was given to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds and tongues, and nations." Rev. 13: 7. In historic fact, the Kingdom of heaven ceased in the fairest portions of this planet. See Asia and Africa swarming with Mohammedans and pagans; while Europe and America abound in papism and sectarianism. God's word cannot be translated into dead English! Paganism (dead of water) prevails to an extent so alarming, that all are afraid to translate *hypsistos* into English, it would prove "so mighty an earth, shake and so great," that all the party establishments would tumble down, and be scattered to the

four winds! They are there, to let it stand, and each party fight for its own way. The destruction seems complete, Satan is triumphant. The Romans in ancient times, established a kingdom or republic in Italy, with the city of Rome as the centre. The great Hannibal of Carthage waged war on this young aspiring power, and almost annihilated it. Soubatany, the conflicts, and fierce the hostilities. After a prolonged contest, the suffering kingdom, having gradually gained strength, carried the war into Africa, and, led by Scipio Africanus, suddenly charged upon the camp of the enemy, destroying the city and scattering its power. Another illustration. In the days of Matthias, B. C. 170, "a wicked rook Antiochus Epiphanes," king of Syria, made war against the Jews in Palestine. "He went up against Jerusalem, and proudly entered into the sanctuary," and did most wickedly. "Therefore there was great mourning in Israel. Her sanctuary was laid waste like a wilderness, her fountains were turned into mourning, her sabbaths into contempt." Moreover king Antiochus writing to the Jews, commanded them all to become heathens etc. The poor Jews were everywhere cast down, the saints slaughtered; while the heathen nations savagely triumphed in all quarters. But stealthily, and suddenly a most valiant man showed himself, Judas Maccabeus by name. "In his acts he was like a lion, for he pursued the wicked, sought them out, and burnt up those that vexed his people. Wherefore the wicked shrunk for fear of him, and all the workers of iniquity were troubled, because salvation prospered in his hands." "He made Jacob glad with his acts, and his memorial is blessed for ever." 1 Mac. 3 chap. Things turned out entirely different, from what the proud king of Syria intended; and perhaps, the Messiah's malignant adversary the Devil, may be equally disappointed. 3. It shall not be left to other people, as the kingdoms of this world were and are. The splendid empire of Cyrus went over to Alexander; his to the Romans, and so on. Not so with the new heavenly kingdom; the saints shall possess and control this kingdom. The "man of sin" seized it, but he was and is a usurper, and must therefore, go to destruction. Dan. 7 chap. amply proves this. Its control was given to the "little flock" the twelve apostles, Luke 12: 32. They are the dictators, therefore let no others build a church, or make her laws! 4. It shall break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms. Surely this has never yet been done. How will this be accomplished, and when, evidently this is still in the future. When Satan destroyed the Head of the Church, he supposed his triumph complete, but behold the Victim came to life again, infinitely more powerful than ever; and when he had through various agencies destroyed his saints, he was sure of victory. Alas, for those who fight against God! We know that the kingdom of heaven has not yet triumphed, that it is still in ruins; to contemplate, seeing nations engage in war more than ever. But a change must come, and it is near at hand. As the great Head of the church lives, so also do his martyred children live, and like their Master, more powerful than before. Just here the Adversary most egregiously deceived himself and all in alliance with him. The Master has said that he would in due time return to reckon with those having used and abused his word and rich favors. In Mark 11:25 are the words, "Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Again Matt. 26:29, Jesus says, "But I say to you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Once more in Luke 22:18, "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God shall come." The Messiah declares that he will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God shall come. This he has never yet done. Therefore this promise, act is yet in the future; for he has not come to heaven before this kingdom began. The Lord again says, "So likewise, when you see these things come to

pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 21:31. He further says, that he will come in power and great glory, which means the new Jerusalem, together with all the saints and heaven's hosts, in order to "avenge his elect," to destroy Satan with all his allies in stern rebellion against "the high and lofty One," and fill the earth with his kingdom and superlative glory. So then, the kingdom, instead of being destroyed, as Satan and his co-workers earnestly supposed, was preserved in safe retreat in Paradise; to appear again at the close of "the times of the Gentiles," in power and glory infinitely sublime and truly astonishing. This is the kingdom spoken of by the Messiah in Luke 13:28, 29; but the glory of his throne and kingdom may be shown at some future time. Amos. FULFILLED PROMISE. The promise to give to Abraham and to his seed after him, the land of Canaan for an everlasting inheritance, has been fulfilled. I write down passages that prove this, and they are only a few out of a multitude of the same import. First Abraham, Isaac and Jacob received it. "The land which I gave to Abraham and to Isaac, to thee (Jacob) will I give it." Gen. 35:12. And after the death of Isaac "Esau took his wives and his sons, and his daughters, and all the persons of his house, and his cattle, and all his beasts, and all his substance, which he had in the land of Canaan, and went into the country from the face of his brother Jacob. Thus Esau dwelt in mount Seir." Gen. 36:8. So God gave it to Jacob also. Secondly, "Their seed after them received it. Long after the death of the patriarchs, the seed of multitudes which, alone of all the seed of Abraham, had the promise of Canaan for an everlasting inheritance received it. God said to them when yet in Egypt, "I will bring you into the land concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, and I will give it you for an heritage, I am the Lord." Ex. 6:8. Every Israelite at the least of first fruits had to profess unto the Lord God that he was come unto the country which the Lord swore unto their fathers to give it to them. Read eleven verses from the beginning of Deut. 26th chap. Joshua writes "and the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers, and they possessed it and dwelt therein, and the Lord gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers, and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them. The Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel. All came to pass." Joshua 21:43, 44, 45. These scriptures are conclusive; that Christ preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God, saying, the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent ye and believe the gospel. It is certain that John the Baptist the 70 and the 12 also under their first commission to Israel only before the death and resurrection of Christ preached the same truth is also certain. That any of them under the commission to Israel and to all the world after Christ's resurrection, ever preached the Millennial reign of Christ on the throne of his father David in Jerusalem in Judea, is without the slightest foundation in the Bible, and is contrary to Apostolic teaching. It cannot be learned from the testimony of the evangelists or apostles, they never

mention or allude to it. Those who prefer to learn from other sources what Christ and the apostles taught can, without any difficulty learn from Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar's dream—the image—four beasts, to horns, etc., with allusions from other prophets, that Christ will set up his millennial or everlasting kingdom and set on the throne of his own father David in Jerusalem in Judea in the days of no kings. All of which it according to the young prophets—the modern Daniels. Sir,—I got a reading of your CHRISTIAN WORKER regularly. I read much of it with pleasure, especially the notices of christian efforts to build up the cause of primitive christianity at home and abroad. I never admitted little

side issues upon some of the questions submitted in the WORKER and the notice taken of them by yourself and others. I fear that some smart men want to distinguish themselves as great believers. If John Trotter, of Winton, read 1 Chron. 28th chap. 6th verse, 29th chap. 28v, 2 Chron. 9th 8v, in their connections he will find that David and Solomon were sealed on the throne of Jehovah over Israel. Let not any scribbler of the "Kingdom come school" deny any more. "Sini" has closed the question, unless an infidel wants to try his hand. His scriptures must be denied before his argument is refuted, and that is highly debility, which we will not allow in our columns.—Ed WORKER.

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