

BRITAIN, RUSSIA AND THE NEW ORDER

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BRITAIN, RUSSIA AND THE NEW ORDER.

That some change in our present system is needed, few if any, will deny. As to the extent of the change, a good deal of difference of opinion exists: a difference that is so widely separated and violent, that there seems little hope of reconciliation.

We hear a great deal to-day about a new order, politicians, religious leaders and industrial magnates talk with great swelling words about the new world that they will create when this present fearful conflict is over. Yet there seems to be few people if any, who actually know what the new order really is.

WHAT IS IT THEY PROPOSE TO CHANGE?

Are they going to give us a new political system?

"Why, no," says the politician in power.

"What is wrong with our politics? We are sincere and capable men."

There is definitely no need to change us. In fact any politician or political party in power believes that its political platform is the best and has not the slightest intention of altering it.

Will the new order give us a new religion freed from the traditions that denominationalism have accumulated through the centuries?

"Why of course not," is the declaration of the Theologian.

It is not a new religion, but more and more of the old religion that is required. The verdict of religious leaders is: "give orthodox religion a chance and we shall have a new world."

Shall we change the banking and monetary system then?

Most certainly not, affirms the Banker, we must fight to preserve the present monetary system; in fact, if you interfere with it we shall suffer a financial disaster and probably have another depression.

It has been suggested that many of our present dwellings should be pulled down and we could build better houses with refrigeration, electric labour-saving devices, beautiful appointments and modern furniture, such as is pictured in the dreams of post war conditions.

Certainly all this sounds very nice, but hard facts warn us. We could have lived in a nice modern home before the war, if we had the money to pay for it. Yes, we certainly can have a nice modern home after the war, but remember it will cost a £1,000 or more. Most workers desire a nice dwelling, but the majority cannot afford it.

WHAT SHALL WE CHANGE THEN?

Will the capitalists suddenly change and become communists? Demand that the workers be provided with a £1,000 home regardless of whether they have the money?

We know very well they have no intention of changing. It is doubtful whether very many want such a change judging by the election results from time to time. The Communists or any other organisation who propose a drastic change generally run a dead last and lose their deposit money.

It is evident to the most casual observer, there is no intention of changing,

The political system.

The Ecclesiastical system.

The Economic system.

Friends what do you think we are fighting this war for?

To change or destroy our present system?

The politicians have entered this fearful struggle, not with the purpose of destroying the old order for which they stand and on which they live, but of preserving it.

The various Government Leaders of the Allied nations have openly told us that after the present conflict they intend to build bigger and better Navies and maintain a gigantic Air Force. Military training is to be compulsory. What is the purpose of all this? To preserve the old system whatever that system may be in the various countries concerned.

It is because those who are friends today may be enemies tomorrow. It is because, while politicians talk about peace they fear sudden destruction may come upon them. They know that the diametrically opposed political systems that exist in the world must lead inevitably to war. It is because, while they promise New Systems, New Worlds, New Orders, everyone of them in power today believes its own political system is the best and intends to fight any proposed change. Moreover, they realise that the problems facing the world are greater now than ever before. Brian Penton, editor of the Sydney Daily Telegraph, said in a recent editorial, "The world was certainly in a mess before the war, the mess will be much greater when it is over." Every sane person believes that statement to be correct.

PROBLEMS AWAITING SOLUTION.

Problems, difficulties and trouble have been the constant companion of mankind since the world began. The Patriarch spoke the truth when he declared, Job 5. 7 "Man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward." Wherever we find men dwelling together we find trouble. Unfortunately with the progress of knowledge, power and civilisation the difficulties of the nations have increased to an alarming extent.

The problems of each succeeding generation seem to be more numerous and difficult of solution than those of the past. Today we have before us the spectacle of the world with its mighty civilisations, its gigantic industries, its wealth of knowledge, learning and culture, at war on a vaster and grander scale than anything recorded in the pages of history, something Napoleon never dreamed was possible, the nations like great beasts seeking to devour and destroy each other.

This fearful war, like a terrible juggernaut is destroying all before it, like a mad beast tearing through the world, costing thousands of millions of pounds. Great cities that have taken centuries to build are being destroyed in a few days.

Millions of men, women and children have been maimed and slain by the bombing of both sides. Fleets of ships, worth the fortune of an empire lie at the bottom of the sea. It has been estimated that the Allied nations alone are spending somewhere in the vicinity of £100,000,000 per day on sheer destruction, a staggering figure.

The nations have borrowed so much money that it could not be repaid in a generation. Undoubtedly huge taxes will have to be levied to pay the interest alone to the bond holders. Then there is the repatriation of wounded men, the support of widows and families of the soldiers, sailors and airmen fallen in battle, in every country in the world, the building of devastated areas, the homeless populations to be cared for. Great nations and empires will be bankrupt by the time the war is over. Yet despite all this we have been promised a new order. No doubt with every sincerity and good intention the statesmen of the world are planning for the post war world a new era, which is to include freedom and security for all people. However most of us when thinking of a new order think mainly in terms of Australia and Australians.

WHAT OF OTHER LANDS,

the teeming millions of Asia, Africa, and India? China with its 430,000,000 of population. One in every five of the world's population is a Chinese. China with its plagues, its yellow fevers, its famines. A million people die of starvation in that land every year. It has been exploited by the great powers for centuries. Millions who live on a bowl of rice a day and dwell in a mud hut. Hundreds of millions to whom life is but a fight for existence from early childhood.

Then we remember the masses of India 380,000,000. One in every six is a citizen of India. Vast multitudes of them know no home but the streets and gutters of Calcutta, Bombay, and Bengal. India with its great army of lepers, a people who have never known the good things of life. They live and die in despair rotting away

by inches. India with its frightful diseases, its famines. Its terrible caste system with millions of untouchables. Outcasts forced to live like dogs scavenging the streets. Millions whose standard of living is not much better than an animal's. For generations a heritage of poverty and degradation has been their lot. For centuries she has suffered from pestilence, war, politics and religious systems.

Then we think of Africa with its 200,000,000 of population.. The "dark continent", with its frightful slave traffic, its dreadful religions, its human sacrifices, and the appalling conditions under which the people live, the degrading indignities and misery that the black has suffered and endured from the white races.

So we could go on if time permitted to survey the various lands: Burma, Malaya, Java, Japan and the Middle East, a vast multitude of people, suffering under a load of ignorance, superstition, disease, exploitation and economic distress.

Do you not think that these people need a new order? Why half the population of the globe have never known a standard of living comparable to ours. Multitudes do not know what a nice home, good food and security are like. Surely these people have just as much claim to live in decency and security as we have, but we know only too well that politicians and statesmen cannot institute a new order that will free these people from their superstitions, and degrading practices, heal their fearful diseases and give them health, modern homes, food in abundance and happiness and security. As to freedom, we are all well aware that the great powers will not relinquish their hold over these unfortunate people. Rather do they seek to extend their dominions. The right of these people to be free and independent is rarely if ever considered.

As we analyse what a new order means, embracing all peoples of the earth, we are staggered at the magnitude of the task, amazed at the colossal difficulties that confront us, and the gigantic changes that will have to occur. But to take this present order and paint it a new colour or give it a new name is just like giving a wolf a lamb's clothing. Patch it up as much as you like and it still remains the same old wolf. A little politician's paint will not make very much difference. However, we are confident that notwithstanding the magnitude of the task, there will be a New Order.

THE NEW ORDER!

This will not be accomplished by patching up our present system. It will embrace an entirely new world, wherein peace, righteousness and happiness will be experienced by all nations of the earth. This will not be a new order where one man lives in a palace while another lives in the gutter. Then we will not have

the spectacle of some women able to spend £1,000 per year on dress, jewellery and cocktails, while others cannot find a few pence to buy food for their children. Neither shall we see the fortunate and wealthy able to command the best physician to lance a boil or treat a rash, while multitudes of unfortunates die of disease and malnutrition unattended. This is a new world that the Almighty has sworn will eventuate. A Kingdom described in the Scriptures as the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom will eventually embrace all the Kingdoms of men until there will be but one Kingdom on the face of the globe. God himself has promised that this new order will provide food, shelter, healing and security for all people no matter what their race or colour. In the BIBLE He has given a detailed description of its nature, its politics, the extent of its duration and dominions and the splendour of its way of life. Before God establishes this new world there is a part to be played by—

BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

In the final drama that heralds the new world order, these two great powers take the stage and play the leading role as the kingdoms of men totter to their final destiny. Meanwhile, however, both Britain and Russia have promised the world a New Order, based upon the systems they represent. Both claim to have the solution of the world's difficulties. The British people have built an empire and colonial system of which we may be justly proud. In less than 300 years British subjects have grown from 30,000,000 to over 500,000,000. Its territory has expanded from 121,000 square miles to 13,355,000 square miles embracing one fourth of the earth's surface. We enjoy a comparative freedom that few people of the earth can boast. Our heritage has given us such strength and determination that the Nazi beast of Germany, having under-estimated the character and endurance of the British race, is today in consequence receiving such mortal wounds that he will never rise again. If the British people have accomplishments of which we may be proud, none the less have the Russians, reason, and very good reason, for pride. They have a vast empire covering one sixth of the land area of the world. A population of over 160,000,000. The Russians in the October Revolution, 1917 instituted a new system known as Communism. The wise men of the world laughed at it, they scoffed at the idea, predicted its early collapse, but not withstanding the ridicule and opposition of most other nations, they have made progress that has confounded and astonished the world. While Hitler knew that Russia was strong, he had no idea how strong she really was. In fact few countries, if any realised the strength of Russia. It has now been revealed that Russia had built such a gigantic war machine that even mighty Germany, who

had the power and strength to drive Britain from the continent, overcome France in a few weeks fighting, and subjugate Europe to its iron rule, could not cope with it. Today she is reeling back in the east before the terrific blows of the triumphant Red Army. Already most of Germany's satellites, seeing the writing on the wall, have gone over to the Russians. Crafty Japan, now realising that soon she will feel the whole weight of Allied arms, is seeking a formula for victory, but it is clear that both Japan and Germany face utter destruction, and already world leaders are speaking of, and planning for, the peace that is to follow. Most people are thinking of the post war world and wondering what kind of a world it will be.

WHAT WILL PEACE BRING?

Some are quite confident that it will bring everything that has been hoped and planned, others are in doubt. Big business already has its plans for expansion and larger profits, with hope for an era of industrial prosperity. Union leaders have plans calculated to upset the plans of big business and are hoping that they will become the big "bosses" of industry. Whatever the plans of the politicians, of one thing we may be sure, the major section of this plan includes the safety of their own seat in parliament. Ecclesiastical leaders have their plans also, but people generally think little of them. However, whatever leaders and people may plan and hope for, one thing is quite clear. After the destruction of the Axis Powers, the world will be divided into two great political camps. This is quite evident to the most casual observer. Communism on one side, which will probably spread throughout most of Europe and the Balkans and may be Scandinavia, championed by Russia. Capitalism on the other represented by America and Britain. These two political groups, so violently opposed to each other on economic principles, have promised the world a new order. While we do not doubt the sincerity of either side neither Britain nor Russia will accomplish that which they propose. God has clearly indicated in the Bible that they will fail miserably. This will not be for the want of trying. They will no doubt make great efforts to bring peace and security to a troubled world, but as the prophet Jeremiah has declared,

"It is not in man that walketh, to direct his steps."

Jer. 10: 23.

God has clearly indicated that instead of the world becoming peaceful, safe and happy, it will be quite the reverse; the position is to deteriorate and become worse. Wars strife and trouble are to be the experience of the nations, particularly at that time which the Bible describes as the "End of the age." Of course we realise that what we have to say in this regard, has no

charm for the average person. Quite a number would be ready scornfully to dismiss it. Still whatever your opinion may be, we beg of you to listen carefully to what the word of God has to say on the subject. The testimony of scripture is very clear on this point. Shall we glance at one or two passages which have reference to the time of the end?

Daniel declares,

"And at that time shall Michael stand up . . . and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation."

Dan. 12:1.

The testimony of Jeremiah,

"Thus saith the Lord of Hosts. Behold evil shall go forth from nation . . ." Jer. 25:32.

Jesus speaking of the end said,

"Upon the earth, distress of nations with perplexity . . . Men's hearts failing for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth." Luke 21: 25-26.

Paul speaking prophetically affirms,

"For when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." I. Thess. 5:3.

These are but few of the many passages that clearly indicate that war, tumult and distress of nations will be the outstanding feature at the end of the present age and just prior to the return of the Messiah to establish His glorious Kingdom. Added to this iniquity will wax worse, scoffers will increase, traitors and truce breakers will be also outstanding features of the latter days.

Let us read what Paul has to say to Timothy,

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady highminded lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." 2. Tim. 3: 1 to 4.

The signs of what Paul describes as the last days are very evident today.

We could not find a better description than the above list to describe the state of this present generation of mankind. It is not necessary to spend time trying to prove that these factors are the outstanding characteristics of the world today. This unfortunately is all too obvious. Neither is it needful for us elaborately to discuss the state of the nations. Unfortunately it is very apparent that violence, terror and distress of nations are the order of the day, as God has foretold through His servants, the prophets.

THREE OUTSTANDING EVENTS.

In addition to this general state of affairs there are three outstanding events that herald the end of this present troubled world, they are:—

1. The return of the Jews to Palestine, after a forced absence of nearly 1900 years. The return of Israel to the land of their forefathers has been the subject of their longing and desire for centuries. The Scriptures have foretold the re-gathering of Israel in language that cannot be misunderstood. This is the declaration of Ezek 36. 22-24,

"Thus saith the Lord. I do not this for your sake O House of Israel, but for my Holy Name's sake . . . For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all countries and will bring you into your own land."

To those that are interested read also,

Mic. 4:7 Ezek 37: 20-22 Isa. 11:12, Jer. 31:10, Isa. 66:20.

2. The occupation and protection of the land of Palestine by a King of the South. That is a power based on Egypt south of Palestine described in Ezek 38 under the symbol of a lion power.

3. A King or power in the North that is to rise to military greatness in the latter day. That is a power North of Palestine, Turkey and beyond. Described by the scriptures as a King of the North or Chief Prince of Rosh. This King of the North is to gather a great company of nations and descend on Palestine and attack the Lion Power. Just prior to the manifestation of the long awaited Messiah.

Let us read Dan. 11 chapt. from verse 40-41

"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 overflow and pass over.

He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown . . ."

The Prophet Ezekeial Chap. 38. also describes in detail this event foretold by Daniel. He speaks of a Land of Magog, Meshech and Tubal. Any ancient map will show these names within the territory of modern Russia. Magog answering to the Caucasus Meshech to Moscow and Tubal to Tobolski. The prophet then goes on to describe the land of Palestine reclaimed and her people dwelling within its borders. In the latter days the chief prince of Meshech or Moscow descends on the land like a storm. The Lion power in occupation of the land challenges the Northern antagonist.

Friends, this picture placed before us by the prophets is so clear it cannot be misunderstood. That which they saw as a vision of the distant future, we behold unfolding as a reality.

The Jews since the Balfour Declaration of 1917, have returned in thousands to the land which God has promised them. They have built cities and reclaimed the waste places. The Lion power, which is undoubtedly Britain, is the latter day Tarshish who defends the land. The King of the North evidently is Russia who will emerge from this war as the greatest power in Europe. The clear and undeniable teaching of the Bible is that these two great powers will fight in the Middle East. We have no hesitation in declaring that Britain and Russia will fight for the territory that lies between the Euphrates and the Nile. Unpalatable and unpleasant as this may be, God has definitely forecast this event which will precede **THE COLLAPSE OF WORLD GOVERNMENT.**

Daniel has revealed to us by means of a symbolic metallic Image, representing the warring Gentile Powers and symbolic of human government what will happen to Gentile dominion at this particular time. Daniel 2nd. Chapter records the fact that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who reigned approx. B.C. 600 had a divinely sent dream, which was a prophetic forecast of things to come, having particular reference to the latter days. Dan. 2:28. The feature of the dream was an image whose form was terrible, composed of several metals, gold, silver, brass, iron and finally the feet and toes a mixture of iron and clay. The metals represented the various Kingdoms that should arise in turn to rule over the earth. The feet and ten toes had particular reference to the last days. Daniel goes on to say of Gentile dominion,

V. 34. "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet, that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

V. 35. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

Note there are three great factors here,

1. The image.
2. The stone.
3. The mountain.

This image representing the Kingdoms of men is to be entirely destroyed. The stone represents the Messiah. This is the stone rejected of the Jewish builders, which Christ declared is to become the head of the corner and on whomsoever it will fall it will grind him to powder. Luke 20:17-18. Jesus Christ is the stone or active agent that grinds to powder the government of men represented by the image. The great mountain is the Kingdom of God which will supersede the kingdoms of men and grow in magnitude until it fills the whole earth. This is clearly shown in Dan. 2:44 "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 for ever."

We have not time to speak at length about the great image or the stone, however much we should like to. Time and subject must confine us to the mountain that fills the whole earth described by Daniel as the kingdom of God. This Kingdom is the new order or new heavens and earth that He has promised will be established after this present evil world, with its wars, exploitation and political and religious hatreds, has passed away like an evil dream. Our subject would not be complete without spending some time in consideration of the **THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM.**

We wish to emphasise that it is something that God has promised in relation to the earth. The Kingdom of God is not some church as some would have us believe. It is not something beyond the realms of time and space. Neither is it the British Empire, great though it may be. In fact, strange as it may seem, the Kingdom of God is not even in existence. It concerns a promise that He has made, a pledge He has given. An Oath He has sworn to Abraham nearly four thousand years ago. This kingdom is the Alpha and Omega of the Bible. It is the key that unlocks the understanding of the Scriptures. It is the major subject matter of the word of God, the hope of Israel and the inheritance of the saints. This subject is so vast that we could not cover all its aspects in one address. Nevertheless there are three great facts concerning it to which we would draw your attention. They are:—

1. Its Territory.
2. Its Splendour and scope.
3. Its King and Emperor.

1. THE TERRITORY OF THE KINGDOM.

There is an idea prevalent in religious circles and taught by some religious bodies, that God one day intends to destroy this earth which He created, and turn it into a great lake of fire,

which will ultimately become the great hell of the universe filled with the supposed immortal souls of the wicked. Such a notion as this, is purely pagan in origin and has definitely no foundation in the scriptures of truth. On the contrary God has promised to bless and fill the earth with His glory. Here are but a few testimonies from the many that could be quoted showing God's declared intention in reference to the earth.

Numb. 14:21—"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord."

Psa. 72:17-19—His name shall endure for ever; His name shall be continued as long as the sun; and men shall be blessed in him; all nations shall call him blessed. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And Blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with His glory."

Isa. 11:9—"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Hab. 2:14—"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Now the Deity is not like man, who plans one thing now and later changes his mind and has an entirely different plan. God knows the end from the beginning, He does not create things in vain. You will readily perceive from these passages of Scripture that if the sworn declaration of God is to be fulfilled, one day this earth on which we live, must be filled with the knowledge and glory of the Lord. Today it is filled with violence terror and destruction, ignorance of the Lord rather than knowledge has the pre-eminence, but those who believe the word of God are confident that He is faithful that promised.

This awful reign of terror, which we are now experiencing is shortly to be superseded by a glorious reign of peace and righteousness. This new order will not be instituted by Russia or by England or America. They no doubt have their plans; plans that will never be realised. They will fail as human government has failed in the past. God is to show them a more excellent way, something that is vaster, greater, grander in its scope, so far reaching in its ambition, that it is beyond anything they could possibly hope to accomplish, and the territory that will be affected will not be merely Russian, British or American. It will embrace every nation, every land, even the forgotten and forsaken places of the earth. The jungles, the deserts and the forsaken barren wastes shall blossom like the rose.

It is recorded Isa. 35:1—"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

Verse 7—"And the parched land shall become a pool and the thirsty land springs of water."

Thus the Kingdom of God, which Daniel describes as a great mountain filling the whole earth, Dan. 2:35, will fulfil God's declared intention in relation to the territory known as the earth.

2. THE GLORY AND SPLENDOUR OF THE KINGDOM

Having shown from the Bible that God has a definite purpose with the earth, and that purpose is not to destroy or fill it with fire, but to fill it with glory, we hope also to show you from the same infallible source the glory and magnificence, the splendour and beauty of the new order.

From time to time we have heard quite a number of sermons by clergymen, who believe that the Kingdom of God is beyond the starry regions. Their imagination really does them credit for they have pictured remarkable scenes of that happy land, which is supposed to be "far far away." (However, with all their imagination they have never pictured anything so beautiful, glorious and wonderful as that which has been pictured by the prophets. That which the prophets have spoken by far transcends anything the imagination of men could devise. It is said "Truth is stranger than fiction." We declare fiction cannot compare with truth. The tradition of men is like a tawdry paste trinket while the truth concerning the excellency of the Kingdom is like a pearl of great price by comparison.

Friends, language fails us. We have not the power of description adequate to picture the splendour of the coming age, when the tabernacle of God shall be with men and the Lord's prayer will be fulfilled,

"Thy Kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

We but repeat to you the language of the Deity.

Isa. 2:4 "And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Isa. 11:9-10. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious."

Isa. 55:12.13—"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace, the mountains and the hills shall break before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the briar shall come up a myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Psa. 72:11—"Yea, all kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him.

V. 12. For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

V. 13. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.

V. 14. He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

V. 19. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen."

Read also Isa. Chaps. 2.11.66 Mic. 4 Psa. 72.

You will observe from these passages some of the splendid and delightful conditions that will apply in the coming new order, the golden age which God has promised. You may understand now why we previously declared that statesmen and politicians have never dreamed of, nor planned nor devised a glorious new order such as this. That is something beyond their capabilities. They may fight evil—God alone shall abolish it. They may plan peace, God only can make it a reality. They may alleviate sorrow and sighing, God shall cause it to flee away. This can only be accomplished when . . .

3. THE DIVINE KING.

Shall reign in righteousness and truth. A monarch who shall take the universal reins of government. That king is none other than Jesus Christ. The angels in announcing his nativity said,

Luke 1:32-33 "The Lord God shall give unto Jesus 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."

Israel not knowing the day of their visitation rejected him,

"We shall not have this Man to reign over us" was their verdict. As a result the Jews became a people without a land, wanderers on the face of the earth. Their rightful King has ascended on high to await the day appointed by the Father

"When He shall judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained." Act 17:31.

That man is the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Of Him the prophet Isaiah has declared, chapter 9,

V. 6. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

V. 7. "Of the increase of his government and peace, there shall be no end upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it and establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Daniel adds this testimony, chapter 7.

V. 13. "I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of man came with clouds of heaven . . .

V. 14. And there was given him dominion, and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

Finally John looking forward to the consummation of all things uses these majestic words,

Rev. 11:15 "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

That Christ is to be the future king of the world is one of the delightful and happy truths of the Bible. What other hope is there for a sin-afflicted world? It has groaned under ages of misrule. It has suffered from centuries of war and bloodshed. It has deteriorated from millenniums of superstition and false religion, but its day of liberation is not far distant, when Jesus the rightful king shall return to set up His kingdom. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, His beneficent reign shall bless all nations, peoples and lands.

In conclusion we wish to emphasise, that which we have preached to you today is . . .

A GOSPEL SERMON.

To some it may sound political and savour of material things but the gospel of Jesus Christ is political and has to do with material things. It has to do with Kings, Governors and rulers whom God shall select to be the future rulers of His kingdom. It has

to do with the earth as the territory, with food, shelter and medicine. The gospel, when we know it, is real and tangible, not a phantom in the sky.

To set at rest all doubt as to what a gospel sermon really is, let us read a brief one preached by the Almighty nearly 4000 years ago. Paul informs us, that the gospel was preached to Abraham, Gal. 3:8., that which was preached to him we read in Gen. 13:14 to 16.

"And the Lord said unto Abraham, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. V. 17. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee."

See also Gen. 12:1-3, 15: 8-18.

Paul says "Abraham was heir to the world." Rom. 4:13.

Here is part of another gospel sermon preached by Stephen, "And he (God) gave him (Abraham) none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on, yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession. (Acts. 7:5).

These promises have not yet been fulfilled. Abraham and all the Patriarchs to whom the promises were made died in faith, knowing that God would raise them from the dead to keep His word. Jesus made this declaration concerning them,

"Many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 8:11.

Finally this kingdom, which includes the covenant with Abraham, has been promised as an inheritance to those who believe this gospel, and are baptised into Christ. We are assured of this by Paul in Galatians 3: 27-29

V. 27. "For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ.

V. 29. And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Jesus in the final analysis describes the inheritance of the faithful.

Matt. 25:34 "Come ye blessed of my Father inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Our hope and prayer is, that you will be amongst that number.