

THE WORLD IN TURMOIL — WHAT IS THE WAY OUT?

(Discourse below given by Edward Lorenz at 1979 Denver convention by Lakewood Class. Original typing contributed by Marguerite Rosswick.)

My dear friends, as our Chairman just stated, we do not parley whether or not the world is in turmoil. In my early days we lived in Loveland, Colorado, and I was born in Denver. I remember the time when the 9:00 o'clock curfew rang in Loveland, we went home because that was the time to retire at night. Mother and Dad never locked their home, no police force, no problems. You remember that—some of you oldsters. What's wrong with the world? Why has all at once corruption set in the entire universe, not just America. Why are we plagued with problems of every nature—political, financial, religious and social? What is the cure?

Well, we have had many able statesmen, each one succeeding the office of our own Presidency, and each one says he has the answer. Four years later we get another President and he says he has a better answer, and this goes on and on. I'm not condemning them because they are facing a situation that the Lord in heaven has permitted to accumulate and the same Lord in heaven has the answer for it.

We would like to have you note the words of the Prophet Isaiah, 13th chapter verses 4 to 8, and I'm using the Revised Standard Translation. Think of the language of a prophet God caused to write of our day when Isaiah lived at the time of the early existence of Israel, which would be well over 2500 years ago. "Hark a tumult on the mountains [or kingdoms] as of a great multitude. Hark, an uproar of kingdoms of nations gathering together. The Lord of Hosts is mustering a host for battle. They come from distant lands from the ends of the heavens the Lord and the weapons of his indignation to destroy the whole earth. Wail for the day of the Almighty, it will come, therefore all hands will be feeble, every man's heart will melt, they will be dismayed, pangs and agony will seize them; they will be anguished like a woman in travail; they will look aghast at one another, their faces will be aflame." Could you find a more descriptive language of our day, our present news media is suggestive of this and was it not just two days ago in your local paper here—wars and rumors of war amid peace. Our Lord knew this, our day, and he gave us some time signals which we are going to use in connection with our prophecy.

Some of you here are Bible Students, therefore you can reason with this and others can share the grand concept that nothing is happening amiss. Our God has a Divine Plan as suggested on the program. I am turning to Luke 21:24. Our Lord looked at the particular prophecy in connection with a request by the Apostles when they came to him saying, "Master, what will be the sign of thy presence in the end of the age?" Then our Lord began to pinpoint events that would mark, not the end of the world, not the end of this old planet—remember, "The earth abideth forever." We are speaking of a society,

institutional arrangement that will come to an end. “Master, what will be a sign of thy presence in the end of the age?” Then our Lord gave them a sign when he states “Jerusalem will be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled.”

Now you and I, in studying our history books, well enough know that the Nation of Israel at the time of King Zedekiah, in 606 B.C., went under the heel of the Gentile Babylonia nation never to be released until a period of 2520 years later. That is borne out by separate Bible chronology which we will not take the time to read, but I want you to note something. Jerusalem, Israel, will be trodden down under the foot of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. So our Lord showed a prophetic period in which the Gentile powers would have supremacy over Israel. You and I, within a few days, last week, have had the most visible sign that the little nation of Israel defies the world, the United States included, to do an act which she thought was necessary for her protection. Israel is not under the heel of any Gentile nation today. What does it mean? It means we have come to a chaos period. What did the Lord say which followed this? Reading on, the 25th verse, Luke 21: “There shall be signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars.” Meaning prophetic pictures in the Old Testament—the moon; prophetic pictures in the New Testament—the sun; and pictures from the words of the Apostles—“the stars; upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring.”

We would like to have you note the word “perplexity.” It comes from a Greek word meaning “no way out.” That is perplexity, no way out, and doesn’t it very properly describe the present situation?

What events happened at the end of the 2520 years when Gentile supremacy over the Jews would cease? You may remember 1914 came as a sudden shock to the entire world. A single shot was fired in August of 1914 and set the world on fire with World War I. Where was Israel then? Slowly she has been reestablished in the land then called Palestine but it wasn’t until 1917 under the Balfour Treaty at the hands of Chaim Weizmann and other Jewish leaders caused the nation of England to enact a 30 year mandate to permit the return of the Jews to the promised land of Palestine. However, you remember your history—World War I was the “war to end all wars.” This was going to solve all problems. When this came to a final end there was going to be a world peace to follow.

I would like to have you see something. Here is a newspaper dated November 11, 1918. Peace, marvelous, wonderful peace, no more wars. The nations have had enough. But what did they print underneath—“World War ends as Germany signs armistice.” What does the word “armistice” mean? It means an abatement between problems, a bridge. Not an end, but a bridge. Right here is shown that was not the end of the problems. Oh, no, we had to have another one, didn’t we, so the world prepares for another. Peace:

President Truman announced that Japan has accepted terms of surrender. What happened to WW1?

Now we have a new situation—the world is aflame. No wonder our Lord said, “Upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity.” When? Following 1914 when earth’s problems would begin and rumors of wars begin, increase and continue so. Then again peace came along fine, didn’t it? Then we have this wonderful peace. France battling anarchy. This was written May 16, 1968. We are getting better every day, aren’t we? Settling all our problems—now we have another one. This shows how lovely the world has become since then—dated April 26, 1967: United States Vs. Russia. Russia Vs. China. China Vs. USA. USA Vs. Viet Nam. Viet Cong Vs. Viet Nam, etc. Finally Jordan Vs. Israel.

No wonder, then, you and I as students of the Scriptures can take great confidence that the Lord himself projected this program. How about the rest? Is the rest going to be failure? Of course not! We see this successively follow so it leads us to the normal conclusion that the God of Heaven that has designed the program of the dissolving of an old order also designed the program for the beginning of a new Kingdom. No wonder our Lord then said in this further account, after he says, “Men’s hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things that are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. Then shall they see the sign of the Son of man in his glory.” And then he says, “So likewise when ye see these things know ye that the Kingdom of Heaven is nigh at hand.”

But our Lord gave an interesting interlude here, by stating, “And when these things begin to come to pass look up [notice he is speaking to his disciples] and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh.” Then he spake to them a parable, “Behold the fig tree and all the trees. When they shoot forth ye see and know of your own selves that summer is nigh at hand.” Meaning an end of earth’s problems. What did our Lord mean. He says now I speak to you in symbolic language. When ye see the fig tree begin to show evidences of life and you see all the other little trees of the forest shoot up what is this going to mean to us in the picture of the end of these problems? Well, you and I need not question who the fig tree represents. Our Lord himself identified during his ministries when he likened the nation of Israel to a fig tree, because in one instance he went out and cursed the fig tree and it lost all its leaves in one day and the disciples were amazed—they said, in one day this tree dies. The Lord pictured in like manner that Israel would be cut off from favor, which it was at the time of our Lord’s first advent; but it was going to be returned to favor. So he says in this prophecy that when ye see this fig tree which has had a long period of 1845 years of being cursed or punished, all at once show signs of vigor and life; and with it, other trees begin to shoot up, then you know the kingdom is near.

That this whole scene takes place, not one of us have to question whether or not Menachem Begin is right in his position in fighting for the territory in the land of Israel. Not one of us have to question whether God in heaven has been the captain who has led the Israeli army against the Arabs in five major wars. You and I can see God's tremendous arrangements.

I remember the time I was in California. I had previously spoken to a group of Jews at their Friday night services and this was the time when the Egyptian army had crossed the canal; was in the Sinai and was headed right toward Jerusalem. Remember they caught them napping because the event was on their holy day; so the Israelites were not in any way prepared to fight a major war. So the Egyptians took advantage of this and they were on their way to Jerusalem. In fact the newspapers on that week stated the Egyptian army was right on the outskirts of the city of Jerusalem.

The program chairman for the night services of the Jewish gathering called me. He said, "Ed, would you speak to our group Friday night?" I said, "What's the matter, Sam, does it look like Israel is going to lose?" I said, "Remember I told you before there is not a power on earth that will ever move Israel out of the Promised Land. Yes, I will take the Friday night service." You and I have evidence of the fact that when our Lord said, "Behold the fig tree" amid all these clouds of trouble he has given us a banner to wave, because we see the evidence of an incoming kingdom, because God has promised through Abraham when he said, "Through thee and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." And I repeat, when he gave to Abraham that promise which came down through Jacob and all of them he gave to us an assurance that there will be a process by which the blessings will take place. But the prophecy also speaks about the other trees. What are the other trees? If you have had the occasion to read the book by Barbara Tuchman—"The Guns of August"—you may remember that in it she makes a marvelous statement as she drew the picture of the funeral procession at the time of the King of England, King Edward, in 1910. He was a very well loved king and so the world came out and sent representatives to witness his funeral procession. She draws the picture that following the coffin of King Edward, to be laid at rest in Westminster Abbey, where the kings are buried—there were nine kings in their plumes of glory following the coffin of the dead king, and behind it, representatives of other nations. And Barbara Tuchman says such a grand display of pomp and ceremony the world has never seen and will never see again. No wonder the Lord said "until the times of the Gentiles" meaning that now has become the time when the Gentile powers with their full period of time have brought no peace to the earth—they brought no righteousness to the earth; they brought problems.

Last year, 1980, 500 billion dollars were spent for armaments, told in your local newspapers—500 billion to kill one another. Wonderful Gentile nations aren't they? Here we see no wonder the Lord is moving our old order and bringing in a new.

But what are these shoots when he spake unto them a parable “Behold the fig tree and all the trees.” There were represented ten Gentile powers in 1914 because they had all the colonies, and all the arrangements in the whole world were under control of these church-state governments in Europe; but they are all gone. There is not a church-state government left because they were all removed during the period 1914 to 1918; and in their place over 150 little trees have grown in the United Nations—here are the shoots of the trees, all these little new nations came up. They get cut off now and then. A leader removed and another one comes along. You see all these shoots that the Lord has given us a program of what is taking place in this day when we are sharing these marvelous blessings.

Fulton Sheen, known by many of you, had this lovely statement to make during his period of activity when he said, “Never before in the history of the world was there so much wealth, never before so much poverty, never before so much power and never before so little peace, never before so much education and never before so little coming to a knowledge of the Truth.” This latter discrepancy is a Scripture sign of perilous times. A remarkable statement of world events.

May we turn to Ezekiel 21 and note what the Prophet had to say concerning this, our day. Ezekiel 21 refers to the period of Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar took prisoners and captives from the nation of Israel; destroyed the temple; destroyed the city and took Israel into 70 years of captivity and this was the Lord’s judgment concerning Zedekiah; but with this judgment he made a prophetic statement that fits into our lesson now. We are looking at verse 25: “Then thou wicked, profane Prince of Israel, whose day is come when iniquity shall have an end. Thus saith the Lord God, remove the diadem, take off the crown, this shall not be the same. Exalt him that is low, abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn it and it shall be no more until he come whose right it is, and I will give it to him.” Now what is the picture? It shows the prophetic picture of how God describes through the prophet exactly what you and I learned in our history books. Babylon the great, the great image that was represented in the vision that Daniel received, as well as Nebuchadnezzar. You remember Babylon fell to Media and Persia; the Medes and Persians fell to the Grecians; the Grecians fell to the Romans. I will overturn from Babylon to Medo-Persia; I will overturn from Media-Persia to Greece; I will overturn Greece to Rome—three overturnings, overturn, overturn, overturn; but at the end of this I will give it to him whose right it is. Whose right? Wasn’t our Lord declared to be a king? Didn’t he say to Pilate, “Thou sayest that I am a king, to this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world.” Yes, our Lord, at the time of his crucifixion with right and title when he was raised from the dead, declared to his Apostles before his final ascension that all power in heaven and earth was given to him, but he couldn’t execute that power until a particular time.

Turn with me to Psalms, 2nd chapter. Yes, our Lord had to wait until his Father's time limit which was the Times of the Gentiles. So in this Psalm again we read a marvelous picture of our day—"Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing. The kings of the earth assemble themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against their cords, saying, Let us break their bands asunder and let us cast their cords away from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh, the Lord shall have them in derision; he shall speak to them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure." In other words, suggesting the nations will agree together, have all kinds of leagues and unions and organizations for the purpose of getting peace, but they find no peace.

You well know in your story of history, that the League of Nations was formed with very good cause. They thought certainly that honest, noble statesmen could come together and iron out all earth's problems and there wouldn't be anything that would be disruptive, and you may remember that Andrew Carnegie gave to the world a ten million dollar Christmas gift to establish the peace societies of the world. Henry Ford I inaugurated the peace ship. The noble thought of this peace ship which was going to touch all the ports of the world as an ambassador of peace and unity between the countries. You may also remember that the peace ship returned from England to the United States under the protection of the U.S. submarines lest it be shot in the middle of the Atlantic by German submarines—war started that fast. No wonder the Lord said you take all this counsel. I have a remedy—it has to be the Lord's remedy and not man's remedy; neither will it be Russia's remedy.

So we read on in Psalm 2, verse 6: "Yet have I set my king on my holy hill Zion." Now this is the right our Lord said in Ezekiel—"I will overturn, overturn, overturn and give it to him whose right it is." Now our Lord has that right as earth's rightful king—"to this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world." Jehovah God said, "I have set my King upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare a decree; the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee; ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now ye kings, judges, instructors of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with him in trembling." There we see the prophetic picture. There is an end to this and you and I, dear friends, are watching the death of an old order, and we are glad to be watching the funeral procession. We are glad to see that when this series of troubles in a handful of years before us comes to an end. It will never, never, never be repeated again.

Turn with me to Matt. 24. We have no clearer picture of this than when our Lord referred to the very events that would take place upon the earth. In the 24th chapter of Matthew, which is another of the signs of the age we read in verse 21, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time; no nor shall ever be again." An absolute promise that you and I are witnessing the end of an old

order. Our Lord indicated in this same parabolic language and pictorial language of Matt. 24, verse 37, “That as in the days of Noah so shall also be the presence of the Son of Man, for as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark and knew not until the flood came and took them all away. So also shall the presence of the Son of Man be.” Indicating that to the world in general who are not informed nor do they care about this particular information, are going along their busy, merry way, and paying 20% interest, etc.; and all these problems, not knowing this order God has designed to bring an end to this old arrangement.

In Jeremiah, first chapter, we read a picture of a prophetic scene helpful to us in our day. Jeremiah was asked what he saw. Reading Jer. 1:11: “Moreover the word of the Lord came to me saying, Jeremiah what seest thou? And I said I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the Lord unto me, Thou hast well seen for I will hasten my word to perform it.” The almond tree here, as Bible students know, is pictorial language or symbolic language that describes both the nation of Israel as a rod of an almond tree that blossoms early before it bears its fruit; and is also a picture of the disciples of the Master, the Church class, the saintly class.

And now we come to our purpose of this prophecy: “And the word of the Lord came to me the second time saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north. Then the Lord said unto me: Out of the north evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the Land.” Where has there come any evil from the north? You and I well know that our present President and the one before him, Carter, and others all were very cautious to have a very strong military build-up. For what cause? To protect against Russia; and the world itself to protect itself against the north country, the seething pot out from the north. And the prophet says that evil shall come upon all the inhabitants of the world and you can’t reach or think of any areas on the entire planet that has not been affected by the ideology of Russia, as pagan as it might be, etc. It still is used by our great God as a battering ram to bring down this old order. In prophecy it is pictured as “The Lord’s Great Army”—meaning using this force to cause an end to it; and you and I are seeing a small encroachment of this power, and it looks like France is going to be the next country in Europe to tumble under the suppression of the Russian Bear and its power.

Turn with me to Joel’s prophecy. It is marvelous when we realize that we can turn to pictures in the Scriptures and find such comfort from them as we get a key to unlock some of the mysteries concerning them. We are looking at Joel, 2nd chapter, which is a message of comfort and a message of declaration of troubles: “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion.” Zion in Bible language refers to the Nation of Israel or to spiritual Zion, the close disciples of the Master, present and during the dark ages. In this case here we come to the time in which it speaks of a trumpet blowing in Zion. “Sound an alarm in my holy

mountain [or my holy kingdom]" suggesting that our returned Lord, who is the captain of these affairs, is beginning to establish his kingdom and power over the nations; or bringing them into subjection, or removing them. "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in my holy kingdom. Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble for the day of the Lord cometh, it is nigh at hand. A day of darkness, a day of gloominess, a day of clouds, of thick darkness." Isn't this descriptive?!

You here in Colorado have seen some dark clouds lately and they mean troubles, don't they? particularly if they have a little funnel attached to them. In this pictorial language you can see the world's problems dramatized in this pictorial, illustrated way. "A day of darkness, a day of gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness." We might ask, where is the hope at all? But there is, as we see what follows: "As the morning spread upon the mountains." Not too bad after all—you have the morning—if you have a morning, you have the sun shining. The Lord has been pictured as the new son, s o n or s u n—the sun of righteousness which arises. So we see by our telescope prophetic eyes, through the gloom of this, and we see what is causing all this gloom—it's the incoming kingdom—"The morning spread upon the mountain, a great people and a strong; there has not been ever the like, neither shall there be any after it to the years of all generations." Meaning, now we see the the Soviet power, this great power, and other anarchistic powers, not just Russia alone, but all the anarchistic forces that arise on the earth. Now notice how it goes on, verse 3: "A fire devours before them [this great army of the Lord]; behind them a flame burneth; the land is as the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them is a desolate wilderness in which nothing shall escape." Let me repeat that—it is beautiful when you get the understanding of it. Here we see in pictorial language, God accumulating all these forces to bring down the old order; because you remember the human society has been entrenched for 6000 years, and when you have roots that deep, it takes quite awhile to remove all the structure above it. So you see, the old order dies slowly and therefore it requires time and arrangement for an old order to die. "A fire devours before it"; meaning destruction and judgment. It doesn't mean burning up people; it means judgment on institutions and others.

I need not say to any of you that you are witnessing a new philosophy in economy, our financial arrangements. Any of you in business are sure to have your private talks about how are we going to live with the present escalating costs; how are we going to live with a militant working force today. Imagine now, you and I, some of us who are older—you worked for \$15 or \$25 a week. I remember well I had to work 80 hours a week for \$22.50. Did I go and burn down the building because I didn't like my boss? No, I didn't. I was glad I had a job and I worked hard for it. That was the old idea—never today. If you don't like it, just quit, do destruction, strike, or whatever there is. This is a new philosophy. We are not used to it; but this is a part of this fire that is being developed—this anarchistic hate, selfishness. All of this cannot go on forever. The Lord doesn't want this so he pictures as we see this force—behind is desolate.

But what is mankind being forced into? “And before them is the Garden of Eden,” a picture of the kingdom. Why did the prophet Joel say this? He went back to the time of Adam and Eve, in the Garden, when this first act of disobedience began as we well know. Adam was given the opportunity to eat of all the trees of the Garden, save the tree God designated he should not eat of. How long would Adam have lived if he had not been disobedient? He would have lived forever, right on this earth. Man has been designed to live upon this earth forever.

We sometimes have lost the grasp that we live 20, 40, 80, 100 years and then it is all over with. No! God designed the earth’s arrangements that there shall be a kingdom restoring to mankind that which was lost. So we see Adam and Eve in the Garden and if they had been obedient, God would have extended its borders until the whole earth would be a paradise, and the children of Adam and Eve would rejoice in everlasting perfect human life. Can you picture a world without hospitals, without funeral parlors, without doctors? Adam and Eve wouldn’t have needed them or their children. But something took place in the Garden of Eden. Adam became disobedient and the Lord God said unto him, “In the day thou eatest thereof, Adam, thou shalt surely die [dying thou shalt die—margin].” So Adam and Eve were forced by the angels to leave the Garden, and it says God planted two cherubs at the east gate with flaming swords (judgments) to guard the way lest they would come back. So they were forced out of the Garden of Eden by fiery judgments and here Joel’s prophecy says mankind is being forced back into the Garden of Eden by flaming judgments, flaming swords, just the reverse of the picture. Now we see there is an end to this, and mankind will be brought back into protection of human blessings and the glory that shall follow.

Turn with me to Haggai’s prophecy. We are right close there now in the Old Testament, Hag. 2:6, “Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, Yet once again, first a little while, I will shake the earth and heavens, the sea and the dry land.” Now we are watching literally earthquakes in divers places. A little about earthquakes—some years back and considering the prophecy of our Lord there would be earthquakes, and he also said whirlwinds, we endeavored to explore to decide whether or not there is any evidence that literal earthquakes in the earth are any sign of the nearness of the kingdom; because you remember that in Matt, 24th chapter, our Lord said that one of the evidences would be earthquakes in divers places. So, to satisfy this curiosity and Scriptural judgment, we called Dr. Richter of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California and asked him if there was any evidence in earth’s arrangements that earthquakes have increased. He said “indeed so” and told me what books to go to and research and then he said, “By the way, about the year 1950-52 the lid blew off.” So I went to the Public Library and spent several weeks every Saturday afternoon getting materials together and drawing a graph of the acknowledged earthquakes of 6.0 magnitude or more because they are the destructive earthquakes; besides the little tremors of which there are hundreds

every day; but these that would be destructive and tear down buildings, governments and kill. Well, there were about 8 or 9 earthquakes a year about 1910, maybe got up to 12 earthquakes a year. Then when it got up to 1950, 300 earthquakes, with it anarchy and revolution in the earth, symbolical of the time when the Lord said I am going to physically prepare the earth for her society. And I suggest that when God fully establishes earth for his kingdom, earthquakes will cease because they are an evidence of an unsettled earth.

Think of the power God will manifest in the earth to still the winds, no more tornados, because they are destructive. The Scriptures clearly say “nothing shall hurt or harm in all my holy kingdom.” It says concerning life—“a man shall return to the days of his youth and his flesh shall be fair as a child’s; no more will they say in that day ‘I am sick.’” No wonder we read this marvelous prophecy of Haggai where he says in the 2nd chapter, “For thus saith the Lord, Yet once it is a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land,”—meaning all aspects of society—the heavens, the ecclesiastical or church heavens. Imagine you and I ever realizing that God would be pleased that people would contribute to an 18 million dollar glass house to worship him in, when we realize our Lord talked under the trees, by the sea, etc.; and his disciples did the same. God is not represented in these big buildings where we have these million dollar edifices. No indeed. These are all part of things of the past. “And I will shake all nations and the desire of all nations shall come.” “And I will fill this house [or kingdom] with glory” saith the Lord. The desire of all nations will come. What do people really want? Peace, Peace!

Turn with me to the 46th Psalm. Again we have the marvelous prophecy and the quietness of peace. This is not something hundreds of years away. You and I know that with earth’s problems they are fast going to come to an end because the world cannot stand the stress placed upon them with the financial, political and economic problems. Had you ever realized, before our President described what a trillion dollars looked like. Remember in his inaugural acceptance speech he said 4 inches of \$1,000 bills would be a million dollars in your hand—just 4 inches; and he described the innumerable miles, some 70 miles of \$1,000 bills to reach our present debt; and we are not the only country in debt. You can see the whole world is bankrupt, held together by Elmer’s glue and that’s weakening under water.

Here we see the fabric of our society that is really in a great turmoil. No wonder the 46th Psalm says to us—“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, therefore we will not fear though earth’s society be removed and the mountains [kingdoms] be carried into the midst of the sea. Though the waters thereof shall roar, [meaning the troubled masses of mankind] though the mountains [kingdoms] shall shake with the swelling thereof.” V.6: “The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved, he uttered his voice and the earth melted.” Suggesting the social order has finally liquidated.

“The Lord of Hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge. Come behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease to the ends of the earth. He breaketh the bow and cutteth the spear asunder; he burneth the chariot in fire. Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the heathen; I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.”

Will you turn to Ezek, 36th chapter, vs. 24. This is a prophecy to the nation of Israel, but it is also a prophecy to you and me and the world of mankind. “For I will take you [that is Israel, scattered as they were for 1800 years after the Romans came at the time of Titus in 70 A.D., to the time of Harran, 135 A.D. At that time no Jews were left in the land of Palestine; they were in all the north countries—Poland, Russia, Germany, Lithuania, and the north countries of that time] from among the heathen. I will gather you out of all countries. I will bring you into your own land [what for, we ask]. Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you.” Notice the Lord does not paint the picture of Israel as a great model for all to follow. He says there has been much fault with her. But one thing is certain, God’s hand has been over Israel for the very purpose of establishing His kingdom, because he made a covenant with them through Moses and through the Prophets; and therefore our Lord reiterated it and we say so today. “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, a new spirit will I put within you. I will take the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and to keep my judgments and do them.”

Now this is God’s divine prophecy concerning Israel, but that’s not all. The heathen (Gentiles) were going to be represented also in this. “And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your Fathers. Ye shall be my people and I will be your God.” That is why we said earlier—there is not a power on earth, including all the might of Russia and all the might of the Arab countries, that could dissolve, liquidate or destroy Israel. No, the God of Heaven says, “I am still the captain. Though they may molest or disturb you, they are not going to destroy you.” And that’s the distinction. “Ye shall dwell in the land I gave your Fathers, ye shall be my people, I will be your God.”

Vs. 33: “Thus saith the Lord God, In that day I will cleanse you from all your iniquities. I will also cause you to dwell in the cities and the wastes shall be builded, and the desolate land shall be tilled whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.” You realize, and I do, that Israel today is a model for the countries to learn how they can carry on their agricultural work with so little rain, so little water; the technology they have implemented there, has been used by other countries.

“The desolate land shall be tilled as it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land was desolate and it has become like the Garden of Eden. The wastes and the desolate and the ruined cities have become fenced.” Now note—“Then the Heathen [Gentiles] that are left round about you shall know that I am the Lord that built the ruined places and plant that which was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken this, I will do it. Thus saith the Lord God, I will yet for this be inquired by the House of Israel to do it for them. I will increase them with men like a flock, as a holy flock, as a flock at Jerusalem at their solemn feasts. So shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of them that they shall know that I am the Lord.”

Now you and I have a tangible evidence of the approach of the prophetic fulfillment of the natural land of Palestine and things thereof. It's going to be extremely interesting to see how the problem there is going to be settled with Syria and the Arab countries, because we know that all things are moving to a designed end.

Turn to Isaiah's prophecy, as we direct our thoughts toward a conclusion—Isaiah 25th chapter, vs. 6. You well know in your Bible reading that when it comes to any prophetic picture, the word mountain always pictures a stable kingdom or government; and when it speaks of the Lord's kingdom or government, it speaks of our Lord himself raised to the right hand of his Father and with him those that have been faithful followers of his who have been promised “if you suffer with me, you will also reign with me.” “Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life”—picturing that his faithful disciples, including those of the present time, closely following in the footsteps of the Master, have this marvelous prophecy set before them: “And in this [kingdom] shall the Lord of Hosts make unto all people...” [Isa. 25:6] By the way, at Christmas time you hear the song, and you hear the words to the shepherds as given them on the hills of Bethlehem: “Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be unto [10% of the people? or was it 20%? oh no! “Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to”] all people.” More than half of all the people who have ever lived on the earth have never heard the glad tidings of the Scriptures. Does this mean they will never hear them? Glad tidings of joy which shall be unto all people—born in the City of Bethlehem—which is Christ, the Lord. So we see that this is the glad tidings. And in this kingdom the Lord proposes to give to all people. a feast of fat things; suggesting a scrumptious feast that the world of mankind is invited to. And in this kingdom he will destroy the covering over the faces of all people, the veil that is spread over all nations.

Have you ever stood on a busy street corner in Denver, or whatever city you may be in, and watched the faces of the people? They have taxes, labor, etc. worry, trouble. He says “I'm going to remove that.” He was destroying the covering cast over the face of all people; the veil spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory and God will wipe off tears from all faces. The rebuke of his people shall be taken away from off all

the earth for the Lord hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, “Lo, this is our God, we have waited for him and he will save us. This is the Lord, we have waited for him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”

My, what a loving God of all people. Where are the Jebusites, where are the Ammonites, where are the Philistines? They are all found on the pages of the Bible. Are they a part of the “all people?” Yes, they are a part of the all people. Did not Paul say aright? There shall be a resurrection both of the just and the unjust. There shall be a resurrection of all that sleep in their tombs. “Marvel not at this,” saith the Lord, “the hour cometh in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice and shall come forth.” It would be a selfish kingdom if you and I would live through the next handful of years and be merged into this beautiful kingdom picture, and leave out this other 6 or 8 billion who sleep in the tombs of the earth. No that would be a selfish kingdom. God’s heart and mind are so great that, as Paul said, “As in Adam all die, even so shall all in Christ be made alive.” Just as many have died through Adam’s transgression, which includes all of us because of sin and death passed to us, just as many will have the fruitage of the kingdom blessings. What they do with that, is as the prophecy said, “this is our God, we have waited for him, we will rejoice in His salvation.”

Now, my dear friends, do you not find it a joy in your heart to realize you are on the curb watching the parade go by. You are seeing an old order die—do not become a part of it, just watch it. Don’t worry over its arrangements, but realize the God of Heaven has promised an end of these things and soon the nations of the earth will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. May God’s peace and blessing be with each of us.