

PRESENT FOREGLEAMS OF COMING GLORY
The Kingdom of Messiah Is at the Threshold—Reign of Evil to End

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“Time of the End” Now Here—A Day of Wrath Precedes the Reign of Blessing—Man’s Selfishness the Cause—Human Plans and Theories to Prove Abortive—Time of Trouble Now Begun—New Order to be Set Up on Ruins of Old—Christ and His Church Glorified to Bring in “Desire of all Nations”

We are living today in a wonderful period of the world’s history. As I looked around throughout this great Exposition and beheld the astonishing exhibitions of skill on every side, as manifested in the exquisite architecture of these beautiful structures, in the beautiful courts, and in all the marvelous productions here assembled from all parts of the world, I said to myself, “How wonderful is the mind of man!” As I viewed the powerful machinery, intricate and complicated in design, and with such vast capabilities, I was forcefully reminded that only a little while ago we had none of these things. Our implements of agriculture were of the plainest and simplest kind, even within our own recollection. We had practically no farm machinery. In every sense of the word we had simplicity itself in all the ways of the home and the family.

Today we have palatial hotels and magnificent residences fitted up with every convenience and luxury, with devices for comfort of which our forefathers never dreamed. Our means of transportation are marvelous. Wondrous skill is manifested in the numberless contrivances which we see on every hand for the blessing and benefit of man. Evidently the time is near when all the world may enjoy such assuagement of hardship, such release from excess of toil, and such blessings and comforts as mankind has never before conceived.

I said to a gentleman, as I passed through some of these beautiful avenues, and reflected concerning King Solomon and his riches and his wonderful accomplishments, “I imagine that if Solomon, with all his wealth, his glory and honor could step into these grounds and into these great buildings, he would be astounded at what we see here—he would be amazed.” Yet these things have come upon us so gradually, so stealthily, as it were, that we scarcely realize what progress has been made.

“The Time of the End”

As the Bible foretold twenty-five hundred years ago, so it is true, that all these things have come in “The Time of the End.” (Dan. 12:4) As Bible Students we find that this term, “The Time of the End,” applies to a period that began with the year 1799; and so for

more than a century we have been living in “The Time of the End.” Within this time all these wonders have come to mankind. Marvelous, is it not?

But what about this “Time of the End?” What does it mean? The end of what? Is it the end of the world? We once thought so, and all the creeds so declare. But that is not the thought of the Bible when rightly understood. The Time of the End is the end of this present Age. It is the end of the long reign of Sin and Death. What a glorious prospect! We are now coming into a New Era in which all these evil conditions which have oppressed man for six thousand years are to terminate. Soon the great Sabbath of rest, the Golden Age of blessing long sung by prophet and bard, will be ushered in. Indeed, it has already been ushered in, in some respects.

These blessings, while they are designed to be for all mankind, have in a natural way, because of man’s ingrained selfishness, gravitated into the hands of a certain few. This has caused more or less of pride on the one hand, and of jealousy on the other. This is now about to precipitate a fearful conflict. We see already a great conflict of nations along commercial lines, each endeavoring to get the lion’s share of the blessings which the Lord has provided in these latter days. They have become jealous and envious of one another as they see the opportunities of wealth and power opening up before them. This awful war now raging across the sea has resulted, costing millions of money and of lives. How shortsighted!

How broad and noble in contrast is the view which the Bible holds out to us; namely, that God has made loving and bountiful provision for His blessings to reach all the families of the earth—yea, every individual! And the time is now about ripe. How glad this makes our hearts! We whose eyes have been anointed to see are greatly blessed in that we are privileged to be ministers of God, to tell of all His mercies and favors planned for mankind. God has permitted us, as members of the Body of Christ, to be co-workers with Him in the proclamation of His Truth; and when glorified with our Redeemer to share with Him in the great work of bringing blessing to the whole world. It is a blessed thought, an inspiring thought, a comforting thought, one that lifts us far above the present strife and ambitions of the world.

Present Blessings From God—“In Due Time”

While considering all these blessings which surround us in this, our day, and noting what imperfect man has been able to attain even under present conditions, by the blessing of God, let us not lose sight of the fact that these things did not come by man’s ingenuity. Let us take note that men just as brainy, and just as brilliant, have lived in the past. Where is there a man today who can pen such words of wisdom as the proverbs of Solomon. What poet of today can produce the equal of the Psalms of David, the sweet

singer of Israel? Let us remember, too, that though Shakespeare lived centuries ago, he remains unsurpassed in his line by any in our times.

Let us assure ourselves that we are not the brainiest people who have ever lived, that it is not because we are of superior brain capacity to those of the past that these things have come. It is because this is God's "*due time*." He is now letting in the light of the dawning New Dispensation. That God has done all this is the firm belief of careful Bible students. And I believe that you all agree with this sentiment.

Behind this thought is another. As I stood here and looked upon what mankind have done in their imperfect condition, I thought, "What will man do when he is made perfect, in the image of God, under Messiah's Kingdom?" My mind then turned to God Himself, and I said, "If feeble creatures which God has made can accomplish so much, can produce such wonderful things, and even in their fallen estate, who can measure the power of the Almighty God—of Him who is perfect in Wisdom, perfect in Power, perfect in Justice, and perfect in Love?" How thankful we are to get this broad, comprehensive view of our God, and to see that He is not only great and powerful, but wise and infinitely loving as well!

God's Marvelous Wisdom and Power

So as I pondered over what man has done, and what God has done and planned to do, the words of the Prophet David came to mind: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork." Then I thought "All that mankind have done or ever will do will be merely copying the infinitely greater skill manifested by our great Creator in His works." As we note the planets revolving in their orbits, we are amazed, not only at the mighty power that can swing these wonderful systems of worlds, but at the wisdom and ability displayed in preserving their perfect order.

But when we consider what God has wrought in connection with humanity we are still more astonished. There will be no piece of machinery in this Exposition, or in any Exposition that will be held throughout eternity, that will be so great a piece of machinery as is the human body. You have one of these machines at your command. I have one. This machine has power to oil itself, to feed itself, to manipulate itself, to will for itself, to think for itself, to direct its own course. If mankind could make such a machine it would be something to be proud of. The best we can do is to feebly copy the works of our Creator and to work in harmony with His laws. When we realize that all of the machinery, and inventions of our day are but imperfect copies of what God has done, that man is only using principles which God has employed in the past, to the extent that he is able to understand them, we see the more clearly that man was made an earthly image of the Heavenly Creator.

Justice and Love Most Essential Qualities

Some who are inventors, and others who have talents of one class or another, may be very deficient in such grand characteristics as justice. Some are very deficient in love. We are coming to look upon these qualities as the ones most desirable to cultivate, and we are seeking by God's grace to develop these qualities more and more. As the work of transformation progresses in our hearts and lives, we see more clearly what a great blessing will come to the world when these principles of Divine justice and love will operate everywhere. We look across the water to our neighbors in Europe, and we say to ourselves, "Alas, that they do not have sufficient appreciation of justice to be willing to observe the Golden Rule—to do unto others as they would have others do to them!" Selfishness is behind such a spirit. One declares, "We will have our share of trade!" Another replies, "You shall never get it if we can keep you from it, if we have enough battleships to take the trade from you!"

And so the cruel war goes on, to show which can the more successfully exercise their selfishness to the disadvantage of the other. Let us ask, "Is this copying God's ways?" Let us take the nobler, higher standard of Divine justice, and do to our neighbors as we would wish them to do to us. Let us promote this principle wherever we go. Let us make known the character of God wherever we have an opportunity, by showing forth His justice, His sympathy and His kindness. Let this character be manifested in our own lives. As children of God let us be burning and shining lights, to the glory of our Father in Heaven.

Light Now Breaking Through the Darkness

While realizing God's great Wisdom and Power as manifested in nature, we have been seriously handicapped by false doctrines which grossly misrepresented our Creator and showed Him as a God devoid of Justice and of Love. It seems a wonder that we were not all turned aside from Him. None of the human family are totally depraved, yet we have had pictured to us a totally depraved God. We got this misconception of the Heavenly Father from the Dark Ages. Thank God! the New Age now at the threshold is bringing blessings not merely of a temporal kind. It is scattering the ignorance and superstitions of the past, and is bringing in the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, which is ultimately to fill the whole earth. We are beginning to see the light. Why? Because we are getting awake.

But to see clearly we must look in the right direction. There are people today who are quite awake, but they are looking toward the West for the sunrise. How long do you suppose it would take to see the sun rise in the West? I mean that we see great college professors, learned men who have given their lives to study, and have knowledge on many subjects, making the mistake of thinking that Evolution is our God; that a microbe

started to squirm and has been evolving up gradually, until the race has reached the station which it occupies today. They do not see an intelligent God in this matter. Their misconception is that Evolution is man's only hope. They say that ultimately there will be "the survival of the fittest."

Think of the present conditions in Europe! The fittest are the ones who are falling in the trenches and on the fields of battle. The unfit—the old, the weak, the crippled and incompetent—are left at home to propagate and rear the families of the future! That is the science of Evolution! That is the beautiful (?) philosophy which hopes that in millions of years from now mankind may have learned how to cook and eat so that they need not die, and that thus they may have everlasting life! Evolutionists believe that this may be true of their posterity somewhere in the dim, distant future. They do not stop to think that at the present rate of increase in population the world would be vastly overcrowded before that time; that the coal and oil fields would be exhausted, and that a limit would be reached in other directions; that things cannot continue as at present for any great length of time.

But the Bible points out that man's extremity will be God's opportunity. After permitting man to have all these blessings of our day, He will allow them to dash themselves to pieces in a great cataclysm of trouble, and make shipwreck of all this boasted twentieth century civilization. But before the complete destruction of mankind, the Kingdom of Messiah, God's dear Son, will intervene, and will speak peace to the nations, and there will be a great calm after the terrible storm. Christ will take to Himself His great power and establish His glorious Reign.

God's Jewels Now Being Gathered

As I beheld the wonderful Tower of Jewels on these grounds, I remember that, according to Bible testimony, God has for nineteen hundred years been selecting from every nation, people, kindred and tongue the Church of Christ, a class of jewels that God is about to exalt in the eyes of the whole people. He will use these for the blessing of the world, for the enlightening and teaching of the world, and for their uplifting. Thank God for this truth! I trust that by the grace of God many to whom this discourse shall reach may be of these jewels, may be of those who will fully submit themselves to the hand of the great Creator. May He work in us and upon us and through us, to the great blessing of ourselves, as well as a little later to the blessing of all the families of the earth!

What is the work that God is accomplishing in these jewels? He is shaping them, polishing them, preparing them for their future great work. You ask, "How?" The Bible answers, "Through testings, through trials, through the opposition of the world, the flesh, and the Devil." All these things of the present time, that would naturally work to our disadvantage in many ways, the Lord will overrule to our spiritual development. He has

promised that all things shall work together for good to these, the called ones according to His purpose, who are making their calling and election sure. How we rejoice in the precious promise that all of life's experiences permitted by our Father will be caused to thus work to our blessings!

I remind you of the creation of God thus far. First was the Logos, our Lord Jesus in His prehuman condition. He, as the great Agent of Jehovah, created all things. As we read, "All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." It was the Power of God, exercised through the glorious Word, the Logos. God's final creation was man. Then sin blighted this fair creation. God for a time allowed it to remain as sin had marred it. But in due time, according to God's prearranged plan, Jesus came into the world to be the Savior of men. He took upon Himself human nature. As a man He gave Himself a Ransom for Adam, and thus for the race who fell in his loins. The price was laid down, even the precious blood of the Son of God.

But before the time for the blessing of the world the Father had a further feature of His great plan—the gathering out of these jewels, the making of a New Creation, different from angels, cherubim or seraphim, or any other creatures God had made. He invited these from the fallen, sinner race, redeemed them by the precious blood of Christ, to become members of this New Creation, and thus to be joint-heirs with Jesus their Lord. God is working in these. Who are they? You are one, if you are a member of the Body of Christ. If you have given yourself wholly to the Lord, under His terms, you are one of the jewels which God is preparing, developing, polishing, and perfecting for future glory.

Then what? When this New Creation is completed, they will be the Channel which God will use for the restoration of all mankind. Because of their own experiences with evil, and because they have learned how to overcome weaknesses and imperfections in themselves, they will be well fitted for encouraging, instructing and uplifting the human family to the perfection which God designs for them, and which Adam originally enjoyed. They will be able to deal sympathetically with the poor world. This blessing will go not only to the living, but to those also who have gone down into the tomb. All these will be awakened. God will not awaken them now, because it would be to their disadvantage. He will keep them in the sleep of death until the Kingdom of Righteousness is thoroughly established. Then they will come forth to learn of God's infinite goodness, and to receive His salvation, whosoever will, at the hands of the New Creation. (Hos. 13:14; Isa. 25:6-9; 26:19; Rev. 21:1-5.)

Eternal Ages of Glory and Blessing

Will God's Plan end there? No, dear friends, But God gives us no revelation further. We are merely informed that at the conclusion of Christ's Millennial Kingdom, when all the willing shall have been made perfect, and all the wilfully wicked shall have been

destroyed, Christ will turn over the Kingdom to the Father, “that God may be all in all.” (1 Cor. 15:28.) But God has given us through the Apostle Paul a glimpse of that infinite future, in the 2nd Chapter of Ephesians. He says, “In the ages to come [through all eternity, we understand] God will show [to angels, to men and to every creature] the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus.” *That* is the jewel class, dear friends. How we will rejoice then! And there are eternal riches of grace for all mankind who will accept them “in the Day of their visitation,” now near at hand.

Seeing then, as Bible students, all these manifestations of human power and wisdom and skill about us today, and recognizing our great Creator as the Source of all wisdom and power, these present blessings may become to us finger-posts, directing us to the great work of Jehovah God, to His wondrous grace, and to the glorious outcome just before us of His marvelous Plan of the Ages, as declared in His holy Word.