



London, Tabernacle, Lancaster Gate, West, was crowded to hear Pastor Russell. He spoke of mistaken notions respecting the end of the world. He assured his audience that "the earth abideth forever" and claimed errors were built upon misinterpretations of the Scriptures. We report him on Rev. 10:6-7, as follows:

Our text, with other Scriptural statements respecting the end of the world (for instance, St. Peter's statement, "The heavens being on fire shall be dissolved.") have led Christians in general to accept the theory that God has decreed that shortly, or at some time, our earth is to be burned. The early church expected and prayed for the second coming of the Messiah, to establish the kingdom of righteousness, to overthrow sin and to release mankind from its bondage and weakness and from the power of death, and thus to bless the whole earth, restoring all things to the glorious condition represented in miniature in Eden: man in perfection, with a Paradise home.—Acts III, 19-21.

But as centuries passed without the manifestation of Messiah's kingdom, those expectations yielded to another suggestion, namely, that Jesus had not meant what had been understood, but meant that the church should convert the world, under His supervision, during a period of a thousand years, and that then He would come and give their work His stamp of approval and wind things up by taking all the saints to heaven, setting fire to the earth to entirely consume it.

Both Catholics and Protestants have been operating in harmony with this erroneous thought. Catholics claim that the kingdom of Messiah was set up long ago and that the popes and cardinals are representatives of Jesus and the church. They claim that it is, as he reigns instead of Christ, as His representatives. They claim that "the thousand years" is already in the past, since 1759, and that at the close of the "little season" mentioned in Revelation 10:3, in which Satan was to be bound, at the close of the thousand years.

Many of them understand that Protestantism in general, and particularly, socialism and free masonry, are organizations of Satan, which will soon be destroyed in the burning up of the world.

Protestants are also much confused on the subject. They claim that we are in the reign of Messiah, but they are not sure when it began or when it will end. Before Luther's day the Catholic view prevailed, but according to Luther's preaching the papal system was branded as anti-Christ. Since then Protestants are in confusion. Some recognize the church of England and its kingly head as God's kingdom in the earth, but they admit that it has not yet conquered the earth, nor is God's will done in heaven, even in the British Isles. The church of Russia makes a similar claim to being the kingdom of God, and honors the pope as the reigning representative of Messiah. Emperor William of Germany also has on his coins the legend that he is reigning "by the grace of God"—that his kingdom is a part of Messiah's kingdom.

But all these theories Catholics and Protestants are now ignoring. In the light of our day none dare preach such theories. With present-day enlightenment it seems foolish to declare that the various kingdoms of Europe are Messiah's kingdom, and that they are establishing a reign of righteousness. The costly preparations for war made by these very nations discredit entirely the claim that they are parts of Messiah's great kingdom of righteousness and peace.

All denominations engaged in missionary work are professing the thought that soon the world will be converted; that the second coming of Christ will then take place, and then will come the consummation, and the burning of the world. How strange, how illogical! The heathen, according to reliable government statistics, are twice as numerous today as they were a century ago. Six hundred millions they were then; there are twelve hundred millions now. How long would it require, at this rate, to convert the world? And if the heathen were converted to be same condition of civilization enjoyed in Europe and America, could we claim then that God's will was done on earth as it is done in heaven? Assuredly not.

Thank God, the second coming of Messiah will not delay until the world is converted and God's will fully done and the plan of salvation ended. Quite to the contrary. His coming is for the very purpose of bringing all things into subjection to the Father's will. He comes that He may reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, in association with His church. He will not reign through a representative or vice-regent, but personally, and "unto Him every knee shall bow and every tongue confess" to the glory of God. In His day the righteous shall flourish, and the evil-doers shall be cut off. The faithful church, sharing in her Lord's resurrection, the first resurrection, to glory, honor and immortality, will be His associate kings and priests, to reign for a thousand years. (Revelation, 19:6.)

Fire Symbolical of Destruction.
Let us examine some texts which seem to teach that our earth will be destroyed by fire, and note that they are symbolical. "Fire" is frequently used in the Scriptures as a symbol of destruction. Thus the church is exhorted to mortify or kill the fleshly nature, and is told that the fiery trials of life will assist them in this work. The opposition of enemies is to be destroyed by works of mercy and kindness which, figuratively, will be "coals of fire upon their heads." St. Peter mentions special trials and tribulations coming up the church, designed to purify her—purge out and destroy the dross. He says: "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."—1 Peter, 4:12.

trials upon the church in the end of the Gospel age, which will consume false doctrines, human traditions, etc., and all false faith, but which will leave unscathed the true faith and true characters. He says: "If any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire."—1 Corinthians, 3:12-15.

World Burning Unscriptural.

The supposition that the earth will be destroyed by fire, either soon or ever, would be contrary to the statement that "the earth abideth forever," and the declaration that God formed it not in vain, but formed it to be inhabited. (Isaiah 45:18.) One of the very strong passages which seems to teach that the earth will be devoured by fire is found in Zephaniah 3:8: "Wait ye upon Me, saith the Lord, until that day that I rise up to the prey. For My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them Mine indignation, even all My fierce anger; for the whole earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy"—anger.

That the fire of God's anger which will come upon the world will not destroy the physical earth, with all its inhabitants, but will destroy the evil of present institutions, is shown by the succeeding sentence, which declares: "Then will I turn to the people a pure message, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord to serve Him with one consent." If the fire of this text were literal, the earth and its people would be no more, but as symbolical fire it is perceived that it is a burning against unrighteousness, iniquity, sin, the overthrow of all institutions of evil, and the awakening of mankind and preparing them to hear the voice of God, the language of the truth, the divine message.

What we have seen prepares us for the somewhat more difficult statement of St. Peter: "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are therein, shall be burned up."—2 Peter, 3:10-12. To harmonize these words of St. Peter with other Bible statements, we must consider the "fire" here mentioned to be symbolical. Not only the earth is to be consumed, but the heavens also. The "heavens" will take fire first and be dissolved. What heavens shall we suppose are here referred to?—not the literal, starry heavens, nor even our atmospheric heavens, nor yet the heaven of Divine presence and glory. The church systems, the ecclesiastical powers, are symbolically referred to as the "heavens," at the present time, supervising and overruling the temporal and social arrangements which are then represented by the "earth." The "earth" represents organized society, as in contrast with the "sea," which symbolically represents disorganized society, the uncivilized and all who are rebellious against governments. When the "heavens" (ecclesiastical powers) of the present time shall be "dissolved," it will be with a great noise, with great confusion, commotion. Ecclesiastical institutions of the present time are in a very troubled condition, though they are in no danger of immediate collapse. The principal officer is that few attend church services, and that the collections are small.

St. Peter's words indicate a crisis in ecclesiastical affairs still future. The Scriptures show us that a great federation is seemingly bringing ecclesiastical into greater power than it has exercised in years. Other intimations of Scripture lead us to expect that that federative organization will attempt a rigid control of the world through affiliation with political and civil power, and that a considerable measure of success will lead to intoxication on the subject and an attempt to take away the liberties of the people entirely, the result of which will be a great explosion, or a great "earthquake," in the symbolical language of Scripture. It will be then that the heavens will take fire and be consumed with a great noise, commotion, disaster, etc. And the commotion will include the social order. The elements will melt with the intensity of the heat, the strife, which will then be engendered. The elements of society are those mutual advantages and assistances of good people, upon which the stability of government rests.

The Bible clearly intimates that the condition of affairs symbolized by the melting of society and the disintegration of its elements in the great heat of strife at that time will be the result of superstition and fear. The end will be anarchy, or as the Bible declares, "Every man's hand will be against his neighbor." Selfishness will be the preeminent, ruling principle.

The Symbolic Fire Useful.
The question arises: Why should God permit the fall of our Christian systems, which certainly have benefited the world, which is morally assistful to the world? And why should He permit the overthrow of the present order of

things, which certainly is much more advantageous than anarchy and disorder? The Bible answer is that God is not forcing this issue, but is merely allowing mankind to work out these results. The trouble and disaster will come as the natural result of ignoring the principles of Divine law. Ecclesiasticalism is unauthorized to claim that it is God's Kingdom, invested with Divine power and authority to rule the world. This fallacious claim and the attempt to enforce it will bring upon it the "fire" which will consume.

SOCIETY DIRECTORY.
THE PRATERNAL BROTHERHOOD, MISSOULA LODGE NO. 279—Meets the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month in Knights of Pythias Hall.
MRS. H. N. GREEN, President.
NYE H. BLACK, Secretary.
O. E. S. ELECTA CHAPTER NO. 7—Meets first and third Thursdays of each month in Masonic temple. Visitors especially welcome.
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W. F. SPOKESFIELD, Consul.
HENRY BLAKELEY, Clerk.
127 Higgins Ave.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE—Meets every second and fourth Thursday evening of each month at K. of P. hall.
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JOHN NICHOLS, President.
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Rooms 611-13 Montana Building.

Notice to Contractors.
Sealed bids or proposals will be received by the city clerk at the city hall, Missoula, Montana, till 10 o'clock a. m., Saturday, May 4, 1912, for the city sidewalk and curb contract for the year 1912, in accordance with the specifications on file in the city engineer's office, Missoula, Montana. A certified check on a Missoula bank or a New York draft for \$500 must accompany each bid, made payable to the city treasurer, to be forfeited to the city of Missoula in case the successful bidder fails to enter into contract at his bid price. The city council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
THOMAS A. MURPHY, City Clerk.

Notice for Publication.
Department of the Interior, United States land office at Missoula, Montana, April 15, 1912.
Notice is hereby given that John Pritchett of Arlee, Montana, who, on December 23, 1910, made homestead entry No. 93967, for the southwest quarter of section 34, township 17 north, range 20 west, Montana meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final commutation proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before register and receiver, at Missoula, Montana, on the 27th day of May, 1912.
Claimant names as witnesses: William Moss, Archie E. Grant, Christ C. Pritchett, Fred Dumontier, all of Arlee, Montana.
JOSHIAH SHULL, Register.
4-16 to 6-15 inc.

Professional Directory
L. C. BOLTON
Attorney-at-Law
B. & A. Building.
SOCIETY DIRECTORY.
WOODMEN OF THE WORLD, CAMP NO. 73—Meets the second and fourth Friday nights of each month, Odd Fellows' hall annex.
JOHN DOLL, C. C.
J. E. ABBEY, Clerk.
521 Harris street.
HELL GATE LODGE NO. 283, B. P. O. E.—Meets every Tuesday evening at 8 K. Temple and clubrooms open always. Visiting brothers cordially invited.
RONALD HIGGINS, E. R.
C. E. JOHNSON, Secretary.
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, MISSOULA COUNCIL NO. 1021—Meets in Odd Fellows' hall first and third Thursday evenings of each month.
A. P. QUINN, Grand Knight.
D. W. FITZPATRICK, Fin. Sec.
MISSOULA LODGE NO. 13, A. F. & A. M.—Regular meetings first and third Tuesdays in Masonic temple.
OSCAR BOOS, W. M.
H. L. SADDLER, Secretary.
WESTERN SUN CHAPTER, NO. 11, R. A. M.—Meets first and third Fridays of each month in Masonic temple.
J. W. LISTER, H. P.
S. H. MCALL, Secretary.
TYREAN COUNCIL NO. 3, R. AND S. M.—Meets at Masonic temple, second Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p. m. Visiting companions are cordially invited.
H. C. JOHNSON, T. I. M.
F. H. KNISLEY, Recorder.
HARMONY LODGE NO. 23, A. F. & A. M.—Meets in K. of P. Hall, E. Front street. Regular communications, 1st and 3d Mondays of each month. Members are especially invited.
F. H. KNISLEY, W. M.
C. R. AVERY, Secretary.
O. E. S. IMMANUEL CHAPTER, U. D.—Regular meetings second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 8:00 p. m. in Masonic temple. Visiting members cordially invited.
ALICE WHITCOMB, W. M.
MAY WARNER, Secretary.
MISSOULA AERIE NO. 32, P. O. E.—Meets first and third Tuesdays of each month at 8:00 p. m. at Eagles' hall, West Main.
W. A. LOGAN, President.
JAMES A. BAKER, Secretary.
SCHILLER LODGE NO. 4, SONS OF HERMANN—Meets in Eagles' hall first and third Sundays of each month at 8 o'clock p. m.
JNO. KLEBE, President.
F. W. KUPHAL, Secretary.
THE COURT OF HONOR—Meets first and third Fridays in I. O. O. F. annex. Pays death-benefits and accident benefits. You do not have to die to win. Phone Ind. 1337.
A. H. KENNEDY, Recorder.
D. W. PENNY, State Manager.

Notice for Publication.
Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Missoula, Montana, March 25, 1912.
Notice is hereby given that John Deo Firman, of Superior, Montana, who, on February 20, 1911, made homestead No. 63175, for the north half of the southwest quarter, southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 4, township 17 north, range 25 west, Montana meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final five-year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before register and receiver, at Missoula, Montana, on the 29th day of April, 1912.
Claimant names as witnesses: William Bryan, Henry Shaw, Otto Reiffin, Daniel L. Moore, all of Superior, Montana.
JOSHIAH SHULL, Register.
3-28 to 4-27 inc.
Mayor James C. Latham, Omaha, Neb., often called the "cowboy mayor," writes of the benefit he derived from Foley Kidney Pills and says, "I have taken Foley Kidney Pills and they have given me a great deal of relief, so I cheerfully recommend them." Smith's Drug store.

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