

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by
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The Vengeance of Eternal Fire

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them... are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 7).

Lynn, Mass., August 14.—Pastor Russell of Brooklyn Tabernacle spoke here twice today to large and attentive audiences. We report one of his discourses from the above. He said in part:—

My text is one of the strongest of those which once we erroneously misunderstood to teach the eternal torment of the non-elect. Coming to the text with our minds filled with the wrong impressions respecting the character of the Almighty Creator and respecting his purposes toward humanity it is easy for us to misunderstand the words of St. Jude. So deeply were the erroneous thoughts impressed upon our minds from childhood that, irrational though they were, we considered them fundamental theology. In like manner we wrested to our own confusion and injury many Scriptures, reading into them what they do not say and ignoring what they do say. As, for instance, the messages of Holy Writ to the effect that "all the wicked will God destroy"; that "the wages of sin is death"; that "the soul that sinneth, it shall die"; that there is no eternal life out of Christ. All these and others we warped and twisted away from their beautiful and simple teaching, and made out of them "doctrines of devils" with which we alarmed ourselves and those committed to our instruction.

We thank God that gradually, the eyes of our understanding are opening to discern the great Truth that the testing of the Church in the present Age and the testing of the world at large in the coming Age will be as to worthless for eternal life or worthiness of eternal death—everlasting destruction—the Second Death from which there will be no redemption, no resurrection, no recovery. As St. Peter declares, those who enter into it will be, like brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed—annihilated.

Sodom's Guilt and Punishment.

Sodom and surrounding cities were profligate and licentious to the extreme and Divine Justice decreed that their course must not continue, but that they should be made an example of a lesson to others of the Divine displeasure against all such licentiousness. Accordingly we read that fire and brimstone were rained from heaven to the utter destruction of those cities, the place of which is now marked by the Dead Sea. The Sodomites were obliterated and only their name and history have come down to us. Their utter destruction by eternal fire or heavenly fire rained upon them was a complete destruction. Their experience pictures forth the utter destruction of all whom God will finally reject as unworthy of eternal life. Not that fire and brimstone would be rained upon all, but that utter destruction will come upon all disapproved by the Almighty. Who thinks that St. Jude meant that the fire that destroyed the Sodomites was an eternal one? Who ever thinks that it is still burning as a literal blaze should take a look at the picture of the Dead Sea and note that there are no fires there. The thought is that the fire, which is a symbol of destruction, did its work thoroughly, completely, leaving not a vestige of those condemned to destruction.

The Sodomites all went to hell—to the Bible hell—to the state of death. But they did not go to the hell which was manufactured by our forefathers during the dark ages—a hell of eternal torture. We have Bible testimony on the subject, which we will produce. They are unconscious now like the remainder of the dead, waiting for the resurrection. And the resurrection opportunity will come to them, as well as to all the remainder of Adam's race; because they, as well as all others, are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ—by the sacrifice which he finished at Calvary. This is not speculative. We have the words of the Master himself on the subject. Let us take our information, our wisdom from the proper quarter. Then our doubts and fears will speedily flee away.

Not a Second Chance.

We will produce the Bible testimony showing that the Sodomites will be released and come forth during the mediatorial reign of Messiah to enjoy a share of the blessings then to be poured upon Israel and the world; and to have an opportunity of coming into harmony with God and gaining eternal life. But we know that straightway somebody will say, No, Pastor Russell, that would be a second chance, and God has nowhere promised a second chance to any. Furthermore it would be belittling to the Divine Government to suppose that God, after giving one fair trial to a man and reaching a decision would conclude to give him another trial, as though Divine Justice were unable to determine the worthiness or unworthiness of the individual for eternal life in one trial or testing.

We fully agree with this sentiment but call attention to the fact that the Sodomites did not enjoy one trial for life. They and all mankind were "born in sin, shapen in iniquity; in sin did their mothers conceive them."

They were born under the sentence "Dying thou shalt die." Neither they nor anyone else, therefore, could be placed upon trial for a future life—everlasting or death everlasting, until released from the original sentence of death under which all were born. And no release from that death sentence was granted to anybody until the Redeemer came and died. "The Just for the unjust," that "as by a man came death, by a man also might come the resurrection of the dead."

Only those, therefore, who have been born since Jesus' day could be released from the original penalty, or could be placed on trial for life or death eternal. Only the Church, therefore, accepts this proposition. To this agrees the words of the Apostle, "If we sin willfully after that we have come to a knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin (such as having enjoyed and misused their share of the original sacrifice)—nothing but a fearful looking forward to judgment (sentence) and fiery indignation, which will devour the adversaries of God—in the Second Death (Hebrews x, 26). The Sodomites, therefore, did not enjoy any chance of eternal life. They knew not "the only name given under heaven or amongst men whereby we must be saved." Not only so, but the majority of mankind since Jesus' day have never heard the Gospel in the true sense of the word hearing. They have never understood, never appreciated, it fully, rightly.

More Tolerable For Sodomites.

It may astonish some to know that Jesus, speaking of the judgment or trial of the world during the coming age, during his mediatorial Kingdom, declared that that trial would be less severe upon the Sodomites than upon some of those people to whom he preached, who would also have a share in the opportunities of that great epoch—an opportunity, with the Sodomites, of reconciliation to God and the attainment of eternal life. His words were, Woe unto you Chorazin and Bethsaida, for if the mighty works which have been done in you had been done in Sodom and Gomorrah, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Therefore I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment [the world's trial time, the Millennium] than for you (Matthew 11, 22, 23). What more could we ask upon this subject? What higher authority could be invoked than the Great Judge himself?

It will not do to say that Jesus did not refer to the same licentious Sodomites mentioned by St. Jude in our text. It will not do to say that Jesus meant some Sodomites living in his day, because there were none. The Master distinctly tells us that "the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained down fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all" (Luke xvii, 29). When our Lord declares that "it shall be more tolerable for Sodom in the day of judgment than for Capernaum" and the other cities in which he preached, he implies that it will still be tolerable for those people who heard him and who rejected his message.

Thus It Is Written.

This Gospel Age which began with our Lord's sufferings and trying experiences, and which has continued these experiences with his followers, has for its object the preparation, the qualification, of those who will be the Judges of the world in the coming Age. They must all be developed in the fruits and graces of the Holy Spirit—"meekness, patience, brotherly kindness, love," else that will not be fit to be the Judges of mankind by and by. It is required that all become copies of the Redeemer, God's dear Son. St. Paul tells us this, saying, "Know ye not that the saints shall judge the world?" and that God has foreordained that all of these judges must be copies of his Son? (Romans viii, 29; I Corinthians vi, 2).

Come back with me to the Old Testament Scriptures and note how the Divine Spirit delineated this matter of the future trial of the Sodomites to one of the prophets and caused it to be written for our instruction. Alas! as Jesus said, we have been "slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken" (Luke xxiv, 25). Through Ezekiel the Prophet, the Lord explains that when the restitution time shall come at the Second Advent of our Lord in the glory of his Kingdom, then the Divine blessing will come upon Israel nor cast off. Nor will the blessing of Messiah's Kingdom come upon Israel only! It will extend to all the families of the earth. Through the Prophet the Lord specially emphasized to Israel her two sister nations, Sodom and Samaria. The Lord pointed out that in the day of their pride and prosperity they despised these sister nations as being far beneath them and unworthy of their notice in every way. But in the restitution times (Acts iii, 19) they will be glad to have a share of the Divine favor in conjunction with those nations formerly despised. The Lord declares that it is not be-

cause of the worthiness of any of these that he proposes their restitution; but because of his glorious character, to which his namesake. Let me quote to you this remarkably clear statement of the Divine purposes regarding and let us notice that it is emphatically declared, that the ones to be restored and blessed are the very ones who perished in the days of Lot. We read,—

"Sodom thy sister hath not done... as thou hast done... Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread and abundance of idleness was to her... neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and the needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me; therefore I took them away as I saw good. [God did not see good to take them to a hell of eternal torture; but he did see good to destroy them and to make them an example of the destruction of all ultimately displeasing to him after enjoying a knowledge of his grace and an opportunity for eternal life.]

"Thou also which hast condemned thy sister nations bare thine own shame for thy sins. They are more righteous than thou as Jesus declared. When I shall bring again their captivity [bring them from the prison house of death]... then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them; that thou mayest bear thine own shame and mayest be confounded in all that thou hast done. In that thou art a comfort unto them. When thy sisters Sodom and her daughters shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate... I will remember my Covenant with thee in the days of thy youth and I will establish unto them an everlasting Covenant [the New Law Covenant of which Messiah is the Mediator and which under his Mediatorial Kingdom shall bless Israel and all who will come into Israel] under the glorious terms of that New Covenant [Jeremiah xxxi, 31].

"Then thou shalt remember the ways and be ashamed when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger; and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by the Covenant [not under your present Law Covenant, but under the New Law Covenant and its better Mediator]... that thou mayest remember and be confounded and never open thy mouth any more, because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God" (Ezekiel xvi, 48-63).

Length and Breadth—Height and Depth.

How wonderful it at first seems to us to find that we really have a good kind, loving God, and not an unmerciful and vengeful one! So grossly were we deceived respecting his character, by the traditions handed down from the past, that we gave him the reverence of fear, rather than that of love and devotion. The clearer light comes to us as a fresh revelation of the meaning of the Apostle's words when he wrote about "lengths and breadths and heights and depths of love of God, which passeth all understanding."

The words of the Lord through the prophet come to our minds. "Fear not their fear, neither be afraid." "Their fear of me is not of me, but is taught by the precepts of man." "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my plans higher than your plans. Oh! Thank God that it is so! To all eternity we shall praise God that he did not allow our forefathers to make him or change his character. Yes, and he is the same yesterday, today and forever. He changes not. The great, vast, just, loving plan for the salvation of mankind which he is now carrying out was the very one "which he purposed in himself before the world was created." The plan of selecting the Church through fiery trials, through the straight gate and narrow way, for nineteen centuries, was what he purposed in advance; for the Apostle says that he foreknew the Church in Christ.

Likewise the times of restitution soon to come for the world of mankind be foreknew and pre-destinated, and made all the arrangements for, just as they are being carried out now. The end will be glorious. His name will shine resplendently when the mists have cleared away, and when the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his beams, scattering all the darkness and degradation of sin and superstition.

"Then will we see what God hath wrought: Then will we praise him, praise him as we ought."

"To You It Is Given."

We are well aware that only the few can see the beauties of this subject as we see them. We are aware that only those to whom "It is given to know" will understand in the sense of fully appreciating the depth of the Divine message. But we are sure that all such will rejoice more and more in the God of our salvation, as they come to appreciate his worthiness of our love and confidence and devotion.

As for those who shall under Divine tests prove themselves sympathetic with iniquity, we are glad that the Divine sentence is that they shall have from the Eternal One a destruction total, complete—one from which there will be no recovery, no redemption, no resurrection. "They shall be as though they had not been." But all the willing and the obedient shall have the blessing of the Lord unto life eternal—either on the spirit plane as members of the Church of the firstborn or on the human plane as members of the saved Israel restored to human perfection.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

THE MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY, TRUSTEE; THE FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY, TRUSTEE; GEORGE J. GOULD, ET AL., COMPLAINANTS, VERSUS INTERNATIONAL AND GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, DEFENDANT.

Consolidated Cause No. 2501. THE FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY, TRUSTEE, COMPLAINANT, VERSUS INTERNATIONAL AND GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, THE MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY, AND THOMAS J. FREEMAN, AS RECEIVER OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY, DEFENDANTS.

Equity Cause No. 254.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in pursuance of a decree in these causes made and entered on or about the tenth day of May, 1910, foreclosing the mortgage made by the International and Great Northern Railroad Company to The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, as Trustee, dated June 15th, 1881; and of decrees of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Southern District of Texas, entered on or about the 25th day of June, 1910; the Eastern District of Texas, entered on or about the 27th day of June, 1910; and the Western District of Texas, entered on or about the 29th day of June, 1910; in the suits in equity in each of said last mentioned Districts pending, wherein The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, Trustee, is complainant, and the International and Great Northern Railroad Company, The Mercantile Trust Company and Thomas J. Freeman, as Receiver of The International and Great Northern Railroad Company, are defendants; I, WILLIAM H. FLIPPEN, the Master Commissioner in and by said decree appointed for the purpose, will, on Thursday, the 15th day of September, 1910, at twelve o'clock noon, at the passenger depot of the International and Great Northern Railroad Company, in the City of Palestine, in the County of Anderson, in the State of Texas, sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder therefor, and as an entirety, and without valuation, appraisement, redemption or extension, and with all muniments of title thereto and evidences of ownership thereof, the following property, premises and franchises described in the said decrees, as follows:—

"ALL and singular the lands, tenements, and hereditaments of the defendant International and Great Northern Railroad Company, whether owned at the date of the execution of the said Second Mortgage, namely, on the 15th day of June, 1881, or thereafter acquired by it, including its lines of railroad in the state of Texas, extending from the town of Longview, in the County of Gregg, in said State, through said County, and through the Counties of Rusk, Smith, Cherokee, Anderson, Leon, Robertson, Milam, Williamson, Tjvass, Hays, Comal, Bexar, Medina, Frio, La Salle, Encinal and Webb, to Laredo, in said last-mentioned County; and from the town of Mineola in Wood County, to Troup in Smith County; and from the City of Palestine in Anderson County, through the Counties of Houston, Trinity, Walker, and Montgomery, to Houston in Harris County, and from the town of Spring in Harris County through the Counties of Montgomery, Walker, Grimes, Brazier, Robertson, Falls, McLennan, Limestone, Hill, Navarro, Ellis and Johnson, to the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County; with branches and branch lines from the town of Overton to the town of Henderson, in Rusk County, from the town of Round Rock to Georgetown in Williamson County, from the town of Phelps to the town of Huntsville in Walker County, from the City of Houston in Harris County to the town of Columbia in Brazoria County, from Navasota in Grimes County to Madisonville in Madison County, from Calvert Junction to Galvert, and from Waco Junction to East Waco; also, the railway and railway tracks and property appurtenant thereto, and certain tracts of land in and adjacent to the City of Houston in Harris County, State of Texas, known as the Houston Belt Terminals; a total distance of about eleven hundred and six miles of completed railroad, all in the State of Texas; also the trackage rights of the said International and Great Northern Railroad Company from Houston in Harris County to Galveston in Galveston County, in said State of Texas, over the railroad of the Galveston, Houston & Henderson Railroad Company, of 1882, according to it by an agreement between said last-named railroad company and said International and Great Northern Railroad Company, dated November 19th, 1895; also, all and singular the said International and Great Northern Railroad Company's railroads, tracks, rights of way, main lines, branch lines, superstructures, depots, depot grounds, station houses, engine houses, car houses, freight houses, wood houses, sheds, watering places, workshops, machine shops, bridges, viaducts, culverts, fences, and fixtures, together with all its leases, leasehold-interests, leased or hired lands, leased or hired railroads, and all its locomotives, tenders, cars, carriages, coaches, trucks, and other rolling stock; its machinery, tools, weighing scales, turn tables, rails, wood, coal, oil, fuel, equipment, furniture, and material of every name, nature and description, together with all its corporate rights, privileges, immunities, and franchises, whether held at the time of the execution of the said Second Mortgage, namely, on June 15th, 1881, or thereafter acquired (including the franchise to be a corporation), and all the tolls, fares, freights, rents, income, issues, and profits thereof, and all the reversion and reversions, and remainder and remainders thereof, as well as all property purchased or held by the Receiver herein, including any balance of cash, credits, and income which may remain in

his hands after application thereof, as herein provided or as has been or may hereafter be directed by the Court herein, to the payment of receivership obligations and charges and to the payment of claims which may be allowed by the Court herein against the same with priority over said Second Mortgage, dated June 15th, 1881; excepting, however, all land grants, lands, land certificates, town lots, and town sites, owned or controlled by the said International and Great Northern Railroad Company at the date of the execution of said Second Mortgage, namely, on June 15th, 1881, or at any time prior to said date, which were not, on the first day of November, 1879, or thereafter up to the said 15th day of June, 1881, actually occupied and in use by the said Railroad Company and necessary to the occupation and maintenance of its lines of railroad; and excepting further, any portions of said premises and property which may have been released from the lien and operation of said mortgage dated June 15th, 1881, and the releases for which have been duly filed for record in the proper county."

The said premises and property will be sold subject to the mortgage dated November 1st, 1879, made by said International and Great Northern Railroad Company to John S. Kennedy and Samuel Sloan, as Trustees, and known as said Railroad Company's First Mortgage; and subject also to any unpaid indebtedness or liability contracted or incurred by said International and Great Northern Railroad Company in the operation of its Railroad, which the Court has, since the entry of said decree herein, ordered or decreed, or which it may hereafter order or decree herein, to be prior or superior to the lien of the said mortgage dated June 15th, 1881, except such as shall be paid or satisfied out of the income of the property in the hands of the Receiver herein under orders of the Court entered or to be entered herein; and subject also to such debts, claims, liens and demands of whatsoever nature heretofore incurred or created, or which may hereafter be incurred or created by the Receiver herein under orders of the Court heretofore or hereafter entered herein, and which have not been or shall not hereafter be paid by said Receiver under orders of the Court heretofore or hereafter entered herein, or other parties in interest herein, or out of the proceeds of said sale, as in said decree directed; and certain specific portions of said property and premises, namely: The San Antonio Passenger Station, the Colorado Bridge and certain equipment to be sold respectively subject to the existing recorded mechanic's lien, the First Mortgage Colorado Bridge Bonds and the unsatisfied recorded equipment liens, specifically and respectively affecting the same. And the Court reserves jurisdiction over said property, notwithstanding such deed or deeds or delivery of possession, for the purpose of enforcing such payment.

For a more detailed statement of the terms and conditions under which said sale will be made, reference is hereby made to the said decrees and each and every one of them on file with the Clerks of the several Courts heretofore mentioned.

Dated Dallas, Texas, August 16th, 1910.

William H. Flippen, Master Commissioner.

Geller, Rolston & Horan, Baker, Botts, Parker & Garwood, Solicitors for Complainant, The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company.

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Result bringers—Herald want ads.

time as the Court may allow on application of the purchaser for good cause shown, the purchaser or purchasers, his, its or their successors and assigns, shall complete payment of the entire amount bid to the Master Commissioner; and on such payment the said purchaser or purchasers, his, its or their successors and assigns, will be entitled to receive a deed of conveyance and bill of sale of the property purchased from the Master Commissioner and from the other parties to this cause as in said decree herein provided, and to receive possession of the property so purchased from the parties holding possession of the same, subject, however, to the said mortgage, dated November 1st, 1879, made by said International and Great Northern Railroad Company to John S. Kennedy and Samuel Sloan, as Trustees, and known as said Railroad Company's First Mortgage; and subject also to any unpaid indebtedness or liability contracted or incurred by said International and Great Northern Railroad Company in the operation of its Railroad, which the Court, since the entry of the said decree herein has ordered or decreed, or may hereafter order or decree herein, to be prior or superior to the lien of said mortgage dated June 15th, 1881, except such as shall be paid or satisfied out of the income of the property in the hands of the Receiver herein, under orders of the Court entered or to be entered herein, and subject also to such debts, claims, liens and demands of whatsoever nature heretofore incurred or created, or which may hereafter be incurred or created by the Receiver herein under orders of the Court heretofore or hereafter entered herein, and which have not been or shall not hereafter be paid by said Receiver under orders of the Court heretofore or hereafter entered herein, or other parties in interest herein, or out of the proceeds of said sale, as in said decree directed, and subject also, as to certain specific portions of said property and premises, namely, the San Antonio Passenger Station, the Colorado Bridge and certain equipment to the existing recorded mechanic's lien, the First Mortgage Colorado Bridge Bonds and the unsatisfied recorded equipment liens, specifically and respectively affecting the same. And the Court reserves jurisdiction over said property, notwithstanding such deed or deeds or delivery of possession, for the purpose of enforcing such payment.

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