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— ON THE —

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For the Senior Division.

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Lessons on the Coming of the Lord

FOR SENIOR CLASSES.

April 1 to June 24, 1893.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

IN the study of these lessons on the coming of the Lord it is expected that the pupil will make an effort to commit the leading texts so as to repeat them without the Bible. It will be well to study the historical extracts until the substance of them can be readily given. As the day of the Lord is drawing near, those who are looking for him should be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in them. To do this means more than to point the hearer to the text in the Bible. It means that the believer is filled with that word, until it flows fresh from the mind. We should not be satisfied when we have looked up the texts that are given in the lessons, but should let these texts lead us to others on the same subject. If the student will do this, the study of the coming of the Lord will be a profitable study.

LESSON I.—April 1, 1893.**THE WORK OF REDEMPTION.**

1. In whom do we have redemption? Rom. 3: 24.
2. What is the signification of the term? See note 1.
3. What did man lose by the fall? Rom. 5: 12; Gen. 2: 17.
4. When man was created, what was given to him? Gen. 1: 26.
5. To whom did he surrender this dominion? Luke 4: 6.
6. Then what needs to be done that man may be brought back to God's original plan? See note 2.
7. What is Christ made to believers? 1 Cor. 1: 30.
8. What does Jesus say of his own existence? Rev. 22: 13.
9. What signification has the expression "alpha and omega"? See note 3.
10. What is the first step in the work of redemption? Eph. 1: 7.
11. Through whom does the forgiveness of sins come? Matt. 1: 21; Acts 13: 38.
12. When sins are pardoned, how does it affect the sinner's past life? 1 John 1: 9.

13. How does the Lord look upon the forgiven one? Rom. 4:7, 8.

14. What does forgiveness or justification bring? Rom. 5:1.

15. Why have we peace? Rom. 8:1.

16. What has Christ given to everyone whom he has redeemed from sin? 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13.

17. Of what is this spirit an earnest or pledge? Eph. 1:14.

18. To what time are believers sealed? Eph. 4:30.

NOTES.

1. THE original word from which our word "redemption" comes is defined by Bullinger as "the act of freeing or releasing; deliverance; redemption for one from guilt and punishment, brought about by expiation. Deliverance from the guilt and punishment of sin, and applying to the whole being, deliverance of the soul from sin, and the body from the grave."

2. IN listening to the words of Satan man lost his innocence, his life, and his dominion. In this he fell under condemnation. Before he disobeyed, he was innocent, or free from condemnation. In Rom. 5:16 we read that condemnation came upon man by sin. As soon as he transgressed, he showed his loss of innocence by hiding himself (Gen. 3:8, 10), and trembled when he heard the word of the Lord. This condemnation has passed on all (Rom. 5:18), so that the whole world stands guilty before God (Rom. 3:19). To be placed in his original position before his Creator, man must be redeemed from condemnation and death, and reinstated in his dominion.

3. THE Jews expressed the whole compass of things by

“aleph” and “tau,” the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. But John was writing in the Greek, and accommodates it to the Greek alphabet, of which “alpha” and “omega” are the first and the last letters. By his word Christ spoke the worlds into existence (Ps. 33:6-9); and by the same word he upholds them. Heb. 1:3. It will be by the same word that he restores all things, thus making him the beginning and ending of all things.

LESSON II.—April 8, 1893.

THE WORK OF REDEMPTION—Continued.

1. Review questions:—

(a) What three things were lost in the fall?

Give proof texts.

(b) Why does Christ call himself the “alpha” and “omega”?

(c) What is the first work in man’s redemption?

(d) Give three texts showing man’s condition when redeemed from sin.

2. To whom does the Lord give his Spirit as a pledge? Gal. 4:6.

3. To what time will the sons of God look with interest? 1 John 3:2.

4. What is said of their life? Col. 3:3.

5. In Christ what do they have? 1 John 5:11, 12.

6. How do we have Christ? Eph. 3:17, first clause.

7. How does faith come? Rom. 10:17.
8. Then how do we know that we have the pledge or earnest of the Spirit? See note 1.
9. What is said of the words of Christ? John 6:63.
10. What power has the Spirit that is given to the believers? Rom. 8:11.
11. What is it that brings the dead forth? John 5:28, 29.
12. To what time do those who have the earnest look? Rom. 8:23.
13. When will the body be redeemed? 1 Cor. 15:22, 23, 51-53.
14. At that time what change will the body undergo? Phil. 3:20, 21.
15. Then what Bible subject ought to be of great interest to every child of faith? *Ans.*—The coming of the Lord.
16. What will the scriptures on this subject be to the believer? See note 2.
17. Then what should we do? John 5:39. See note 3.

NOTES.

1. WE have Christ in the heart by faith, and faith cometh by the word of God; therefore, we can only know that we are Christ's by this word that abideth in us. John 15:7; Gal. 5:22, 23; Rom. 8:16.
2. THE Saviour said unto his disciples, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." This is true of all the words he spake, and therefore

true of those words he spake concerning his second coming. When he comes, he will give life to all the dead, and remove all corruption from those who have kept the pledge he left with them when he redeemed them from sin. When we study his words on this subject, they should indeed be life to us.

3. THIS text is often used by Bible students as a command. But by reading the Revised Version we perhaps get a better understanding of its meaning: "Ye search the Scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me."

LESSON III.—April 15, 1893.

THE WORK OF REDEMPTION—Concluded.

1. Review questions:—

(a) What assurance has the believer that Christ will complete the work of redemption that is begun at conversion?

(b) How can we know that Christ dwells within? Give texts.

(c) When will the life that was lost in Adam be fully restored?

2. Of what does the Spirit bear witness? Rom. 8:16.

3. How does the Spirit bear witness? See note 1.

4. If we are children, what rights have we? Rom. 8:17.

5. With whom are we joint heirs? Same verse. See note 2.

6. With whom are we connected, if we are heirs? Gal. 3:7, 9, 29.

7. Of what was Abraham the heir? Rom. 4:13.

8. To what time are the saints sealed? Eph. 1:14.

9. To whom is the first dominion promised to be restored? Micah 4:8.

10. What is meant by the "tower of the flock"? Ps. 61:3; Prov. 18:10. See note 3.

11. Who are the daughters? See note 4.

12. To whom is the kingdom to be given? Dan. 7:27.

13. What will be the condition of the earth when the kingdom is restored? Matt. 6:10.

14. How will the first dominion be restored to its original beauty? 2 Peter 3:10, 12, 13.

15. With what important event is the renovation of the earth connected? Verse 7.

16. With what is the day of judgment connected? 2 Tim. 4:1.

17. When the dominion is restored, what will be its condition? 2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 11:5-9; 35:3-10; 55:12, 13.

18. What should those who are heirs with Christ be doing? 2 Peter 3:12.

19. What effect will it have on their lives? Verses 11, 14.

NOTES.

1. IN John 6 : 63 we learn that the words of Christ are spirit and life. Then, when his word abides in us (1 John 3:24), and our lives answer to that word as the reflection in the mirror does to the face, we are assured that we have the witness, or testimony, for the word is the Spirit's testimony that we are children of God.

2. THE original word is much stronger than our English word: "Receiving a portion, *especially of an inheritance*; as *substantive*, an heir, one who has a lot (not one to whom a lot is allotted, because it is derived from the active; but), he who has the inheritance, the stress being laid on the possession."—*Bullinger*. A joint heir is one who is in partnership with another in the inheritance; man lost the dominion, or inheritance; Christ gave his life to redeem it, and man, by accepting him, becomes an heir with him.

3. RABBI LESSER'S English Translation of the Old Testament reads: "And thou, O Tower of the flocks, the Stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall go, and shall come, the former dominion, the kingdom belonging to the daughter of Jerusalem."

4. BY comparing Micah 4 : 8 with Ps. 45 : 9, 10; Songs 5 : 8, we must conclude that the term "daughters" refers to the believers, or the flock. Christ is often spoken of as the Shepherd of the flock. See John 10 : 7, 16.

LESSON IV.—April 22, 1893.

LOOKING FOR CHRIST.

1. Review questions:—

(a) What three points in the work of redemption have we considered?

(b) How and when will the work of redemption be complete?

(c) Give three texts that speak of the restored dominion.

2. When did Peter say the restoration of all things would take place? Acts 3:20, 21.

3. Who does he say has spoken of this time? Verse 21, last clause.

4. What promise was made to Abraham? Gen. 17:7, 8.

5. Who are heirs of this promise made to Abraham? Heb. 11:9.

6. Did they receive the promise while they were living? Verse 13.

7. For what did they look? Verses 10, 16.

8. To what time did Job look for final deliverance? Job 19:25-27.

9. What was revealed to Balaam when he was seeking to prophesy against Israel? Num. 24:17, 19.

10. What does the Psalmist say about the coming of the Lord? Ps. 50:3-6; 97:3-6; 37:10, 11, 29.

11. What warning is given by Zephaniah? Zeph. 2:3.

12. Why were they commanded to seek the Lord? Verses 1, 2.

13. To what point in the plan of redemption did all the prophets look, and why? See note 1.

14. What did Jesus say his people should do after they saw certain signs in the heavens? Luke 21:28.

15. What does Paul say of the coming of the Lord? Heb. 9:28.

16. Why should the Bible writers say so much about the coming of the Lord, when he would not come for so many hundred years after they wrote? See note 2.

17. What admonition did Jesus leave for his people? Mark 13:35-37.

18. What effect should this theme have on all believers? 1 Thess. 4:18.

19. How can we comfort one another? Heb. 10:25.

NOTES.

1. PETER said that the time of restoration of all things was spoken of by all the prophets since the world began. By carefully studying the prophetic scriptures, it will be noticed that the Lord very frequently reminds his people of a judgment day when the Lord would cut off the wicked and give the faithful an inheritance in the new earth.

2. THE Scriptures everywhere teach that God hath appointed a judgment day (Acts 17:31), when every man shall give an account of all that he has done (Eccl. 12:14; 2 Cor. 5:10). They also teach that all the dead are to be raised from their graves (John 5:28, 29); to receive their rewards, and that these great events are connected with the second coming of the Lord (2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 22:12).

LESSON V.—April 29, 1893.

**THE COMING OF CHRIST WILL BE PERSONAL
AND LITERAL.**

1. Review questions:—

(a) When will the restoration of all things take place?

(b) How many prophets have spoken of this time?

(c) Name three prophets that have written on the subject, and repeat a text from each on that subject.

2. What does Paul say of the manner of Christ's coming? 1 Thess. 5:2.

3. To whom will he come as a thief? Verse 3.

4. What is said of the brethren? Verse 4.

5. How many will see him when he comes? Rev. 1:7.

6. What is said of the ascension of Jesus? Acts 1:9.

7. Who appeared to the disciples as they were looking after him? Verse 10.

8. What did they say of the manner of his return? Verse 11.

9. What was the last thing seen when he ascended? Verse 9.

10. What will be the first thing that will be seen when he returns? Matt. 24:30.

11. Will the righteous know him when he appears? Isa. 25:9. See note 1.
12. Will the wicked know him? Rev. 6:14-17.
13. What will be heard at that time? 1 Thess. 4:16.
14. What will that voice say to the righteous? Isa. 26:20, 21.
15. How will the wicked feel, and what will they do at that time? Isa. 2:10, 17-20.
16. Could all these scriptures be fulfilled if Christ should appear in secret, so that all of the wicked and a portion of the righteous know nothing about it?
17. What is he to bring with him? Rev. 22:12.
18. Will the reward be literal? See note 2.
19. What will be the appearance of the Lord when he comes? Luke 21:27. See note 3.

NOTES.

1. "THOSE who would have destroyed Christ and his faithful people, now witness the glory which rests upon them. In the midst of their terror they hear the voices of the saints in joyful strains exclaiming, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us.'" —*Great Controversy, page 644.*

2. It would be impossible to have a literal reward if Christ's coming was secret. If no one knew when he had come, they would not know whether they had the reward or not.

3. THE King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled to-

gether as a scroll, the earth trembles before him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place. Ps. 50:3, 4; Rev. 6:15-17; 2 Thess. 1:7, 8. "The derisive jests have ceased. Lying lips are hushed into silence; the clash of arms, the tumult of battle, with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood (Isa. 9:5), is stilled. Naught now is heard but the voice of prayer and the sound of weeping and lamentation. The cry bursts forth from lips so lately scoffing, 'The great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?' The wicked pray to be buried beneath the rocks of the mountains, rather than meet the face of Him whom they have despised and rejected."—*Great Controversy*, page 642.

LESSON VI.—May 6, 1893.

CAN WE KNOW OF THE TIME?

1. Review questions:—

(a) Explain how Christ can come as a thief in the night and his people be looking for him when he comes.

(b) Give four texts that prove that Christ's coming is a literal coming.

(c) What difference will there be in the reception of Jesus by the wicked and righteous?

2. To whom is Christ to appear with salvation? Heb. 9:28.

3. What are those called who look for him? 1 Thess. 5:4, 5.

4. What is their light? Ps. 119:105; John 8:12.

5. What particular portions of the Scripture give light on the coming of the Lord? 2 Peter 1:19.

6. What is prophecy? See note 1.

7. How was prophecy written? 2 Peter 1:21.

8. What is said of the interpretation of prophecy? 2 Peter 1:20. See note 2.

9. If the prophet did not speak according to his own mind, who is responsible for what he says? 1 Peter 1:10, 11.

10. Then who instructed all the prophets what to write? See note 3.

11. Does Jesus make known the definite time of his second advent? Matt. 24:35.

12. How near does he come to giving us a definite time? Verse 34. See note 4.

13. What expression does the Saviour use which shows that the term "generation" means but a short period in this connection? Matt. 24:33.

14. What does Jesus expect his people to be doing when he is at the door? Verse 42.

15. What will the unbelievers be doing in this generation? 2 Peter 3:3.

16. What do they say? Verse 4.

17. What is said of their ignorance? Verse 5.

18. How could they have known differently? Verse 5. By the word of God.

19. What should those who know of the time be doing? Rom. 13:11-14.

NOTES.

1. PROPHECY is history written before it is made. God, who knows the end from the beginning, speaks through his prophets to the world, that they may know what is coming in the future, and be prepared to meet it. The Saviour often spoke of himself as fulfilling the words of the prophets concerning his work. Had the people given heed to the prophetic Scripture, they would not have rejected him. So in the last days they that study the word of prophecy and believe it will be in the light, while those who reject this word will be lost.

2. "THAT no prophecy of the Scripture, whether that referred to above, or any other, is of any private interpretation, proceeds from the prophet's own knowledge or invention, or was the offspring of calculation or conjecture. The word 'epiluisis' signifies, also, impetus, impulse, and probably this is the best sense here—not by mere private impulse of his own mind."—*Clarke*.

3. IN 1 Peter 1:11 we learn that it was the Spirit of Christ that was in the prophets that led them to speak the words they spake. In the opening words of the book of Revelation, we are informed that it is a "revelation of Jesus Christ," which he sent through his angel to John. This angel tells John (Rev. 22:9) that he was the fellow-servant of John and the other prophets before him. Then every prophet was instructed by Christ's angel, and Jesus himself was the authority for all that was spoken.

4. "By some of the ancients a generation was fixed at a hundred years, by others at a hundred and ten years, by others at thirty-three, thirty-five, and even at twenty years. So that there was nothing uniform and settled in this matter."—*Cruden*. "Genea, birth, race, descent, offspring; it denotes an age, or generation from the point of view of race."—*Bullinger*.

LESSON VII.—May 13, 1893.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING NEAR.

1. Review questions:—

(a) Who are called children of light? Why?

(b) What have we learned about prophecy and its interpretation?

(c) Give proof that Christ spoke through the prophets?

(d) How definite are the prophecies as to time concerning the second coming of Christ?

2. Where did Jesus say there would be signs? Luke 21:25.

3. What signs did Jesus say would be seen in the sun, moon, and stars? Matt. 24:29.

4. When did he say the sun would be darkened? Verse 29; Mark 13:24.

5. What is said of the character of this tribulation? Matt. 24:21.

6. What other great event did Jesus say would precede the darkening of the sun? Rev. 6:12.

7. What is connected with the great tribulation that helps us to locate it? See note 1.

8. What persecution of the past will fulfill these specifications? See note 2.

9. When would "the days" of the great persecution close? See note 3.

10. How does Mark speak of the tribulation and the days? •Mark 13:24.

11. Which closes first, the "tribulation" or "days"?

12. What time did the tribulation cease? See note 4.

13. Then between what two dates would the darkening have to come to be a sign? *Ans.*—Between 1776 and 1798.

14. Was the sun darkened at this time? See note 5.

15. Give a description of the dark day of 1780. See note 5.

16. What great earthquake was felt prior to 1780? *Ans.*—The Lisbon earthquake, in 1755. See "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation," chapter 6.

17. When was the sign in the moon fulfilled? See note 6.

18. What did Jesus exhort his people to do when they saw these things begin to come to pass? Luke 21:28.

NOTES.

1. THERE have been a great many tribulations through which God's people have had to pass. If the Saviour had only spoken of a tribulation, we should have been at a loss to know which one he meant. But he connects with it three specifications that locate it beyond a doubt; first, it is a great tribulation; second, there never was one like it before, nor ever will be another like it again;

third, there is a certain time called "days" allotted to it.

2. THERE is one persecution, and only one, that meets the demands of the Saviour's words, and that is found in the papal persecution, from A. D. 538 to 1798. It was great in extent and severity. There never was a time when so many of God's people sealed their testimony with their blood. About fifty million people suffered martyrdom at the hands of this power. According to other prophecies it was to have authority over the saints for "time, times, and dividing of times" (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:14); twelve hundred and sixty days (Rev. 12:6); or forty-two months (Rev. 13:5), which literally signifies twelve hundred and sixty years. See "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation."

3. THE days began with the subjection of the Ostrogoths in A. D. 538, and, continuing twelve hundred and sixty years, would close A. D. 1798, when the Papacy as a persecutor was overthrown.

4. THE empress of Austria was the first European ruler to issue an edict of tolerance to Christianity, which took place in A. D. 1776. Owing to the work of the reformers, persecution ceased in the other States about the same time.

5. "IN the month of May, 1780, there was a terrific dark day in New England, 'when all faces seemed to gather blackness,' and the people were filled with fear. There was great distress in the village where Edward Lee lived, 'men's hearts failing them for fear' that the judgment day was at hand; and the neighbors all flocked around the holy man, who spent the gloomy hours in earnest prayer for the distressed multitude."—*American Tract Society, Tract No. 379, Life of Edward Lee.* "Candles were lighted in many houses, birds were silent and dis-

appeared, fowls retired to roost. It was the general opinion that the day of judgment was at hand."—*President Dwight, in Connecticut Historical Collection.*

6. THE evening that followed the dark day which should have had the light of a full moon, was shrouded in inky darkness. In the latter part of the night, the moon was visible, but had the appearance of blood. See Rev. 6:12.

LESSON VIII.—May 20, 1893.

SIGNS OF THE NEARNESS OF HIS COMING.

1. Review questions:—

(a) What sign was there to be in the sun and in the moon?

(b) Give an account of its fulfillment.

(c) How can you prove that the dark day of 1780 is the one referred to in the prophecy?

2. What sign was to appear in the stars?
Matt. 24:29.

3. What is said of the manner of their fall?
Rev. 6:13.

4. Was it the real planetary stars that fell?
See note 1.

5. In what marked way was this prophecy fulfilled? See note 2.

6. Have there not been many meteoric showers?
See note 3.

7. Then how can we know that the one of 1833 is the one referred to by our Saviour? See note 3.

8. What signs were to follow the falling of the stars? Luke 21:25, 26.

9. Have the nations of the earth been particularly distressed since 1833? See note 4.

10. What marked disturbance of the seas has been witnessed in the last sixty years? See note 5.

11. What effect do all these things have upon the people? Luke 21:26.

12. At this same time what can be said of the mental improvement of the people? Dan. 12:4.

13. What do noted men say of the increase of knowledge in this century? See note 6.

14. Name some of the principal inventions since 1833. See note 7.

15. What are we to know when we see all of these things? Luke 21:31.

16. How near? Matt. 24:33, margin.

17. What expression is used that shows the coming of the Lord very near? Luke 21:32. See note 8.

18. Then what may we expect within the present generation? Rev. 6:14; Matt. 24:30.

19. What will he do when he appears? Matt. 24:31.

NOTES.

1. "THIS language of the prophet (Rev. 6:13) has always been received as metaphorical. Yesterday it was literally fulfilled. The ancients understood by 'aster'

in Greek and 'stella' in Latin the smaller lights of heaven. The refinement of modern astronomy has made the distinction between stars of heaven and meteors of heaven. Therefore, the idea of the prophet as it is expressed in the original Greek, was literally fulfilled in the phenomena of yesterday."—*Henry Dana Ward, in Journal of Commerce, November 15, 1833.*

2. "THE meteoric phenomenon which occurred on the morning of the 13th of November last, was of so extraordinary and interesting a character as to be entitled to more than a mere passing notice. . . . The lively and graphic descriptions which have appeared in various public journals do not exceed the reality. No language, indeed, can come up to the splendor of that magnificent display, and I hesitate not to say that no one who did not witness it can form an adequate conception of its glory. It seemed as if the whole starry heavens had congregated at one point near the zenith, and were simultaneously shooting forth, with the velocity of lightning, to every part of the horizon, and yet they were not exhausted, thousands swiftly following in the track of thousands, AS IF CREATED FOR THE OCCASION."—*Christian Advocate and Journal, Dec. 13, 1833.*

3. THERE is a record of not less than sixteen star showers between 902 and 1868 A. D. None of those previous to 1780 could be the one referred to by the Saviour. Since that date we have a record of six of these showers that have been noticed in different parts of the world. The skeptic may ask, "How can you know which of these is the fulfillment of the prophecy?" This is easily determined by reading Rev. 6 : 13. It is the one in which the stars fall as untimely figs. This was true only of the one in 1833. The astronomers speak of the shower of 1833 as the most important one that has yet been seen.

4. WE have a record of more disastrous storms and

fires, extraordinary sights in the heavens, and famines and pestilences within the last half century than has ever been seen in the same length of time before. There may have been times when some ONE of these may have been greater, but, taking the combination, it can be truly said that there has never yet been a half century that contained so many destructive agencies which were at work at the same time to bring distress upon the earth. See "Facts for the Times," pp. 134-136.

5. "THE tidal disturbances are the most remarkable and extensive of which there is any record. It is said their velocity was about ONE THOUSAND MILES AN HOUR. Both the great ocean waters of the Atlantic and Pacific have been agitated in their whole extent. We mention in particular the tidal waves at St. Thomas and all the neighboring islands, which were FULL FIFTY FEET IN HEIGHT. . . . It is said by those who have witnessed these waves that the ocean's ROAR IS EXCEEDINGLY FRIGHTFUL."—*New York Tribune of Nov. 12, 1868.* See "Facts for the Times," pp. 149, 150.

6. "IN the education of the intellect mankind has made great strides since the birth of this century. Whether we regard the number taught or the knowledge imparted, the progress made has been marvelous."—*Horace Greeley.*

7. REAPER and mower, 1833; telegraph, electrotype, and phonography, 1837; photography, 1839; electric light and sewing machine, 1846; submarine cable, 1851; telephone, 1876; phonograph, 1877; audiphone, 1881.

8. FROM the record in Matthew 24, it might be inferred that the period spoken of as "this generation" might begin with the darkening of the sun; but when we compare this with the record of Luke 21, we see that the generation must begin later than the darkening of the sun.

He mentions the sun, moon, and stars, then adds, "And upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring, men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things that are coming upon the earth." Then he says, "When ye see these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." The beginning of the signs was seen in the sun, moon, and it may be the falling of the stars. After speaking of the figure, he says: "So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand."

LESSON IX.—May 27, 1893.

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.

1. Review questions:—

- (a) What signs were to appear in the heavens?
- (b) Give the fulfillment of three signs.
- (c) Why select the meteoric shower of 1833 as the fulfillment of the Saviour's words?
- (d) Can we begin to look for the day of redemption?

(e) What is said of the nearness of Christ's coming when all the signs are seen?

2. To what time of the past are the days immediately preceding the second coming of the Lord compared? Luke 17:26, 28.

3. What is said of the time of Noah? Verse 27.

4. What instruction is given in regard to eating and drinking? 1 Cor. 10:31.

5. What is the real danger in the last days in regard to eating and drinking? Luke 21:34. See note 1.

6. To what time did the antediluvians keep up this excessive debauchery? Luke 17:27.

7. What warning was being given at that time? 1 Peter 3:18-20; 2 Peter 2:5.

8. How long was the warning given? Gen. 6:3.

9. What effect did the message have on the great mass of the world? Heb. 11:7.

10. What is said of the condition of the world at that time? Gen. 6:5, 6.

11. What brought them to this low state? See note 2.

12. Do we see any of these excesses at the present time.

13. What did the Saviour say in regard to the days of Lot? Luke 17:28.

14. What were the sins of Sodom? Eze. 16:49, 50.

15. What righteous man was living in this city? Gen. 19:1.

16. How did the people of this wicked city employ their time? See note 3.

17. Had they been informed in regard to the true faith? See note 4.

18. What effect did the lives of this people have on Lot? 2 Peter 2:7, 8.

19. Is there any similarity between the times of Noah and Lot and the present?

20. Did God find faith on the earth in those days? Heb. 11:7; 2 Peter 2:8.

21. Will he find faith when he comes the second time? Luke 18:8.

NOTES.

1. "SURFEIT, first, fullness and oppression occasioned by excessive eating and drinking; second, to overfeed, and produce sickness or uneasiness."—*Webster*.

2. "GOD bestowed upon these antediluvians many rich gifts, but they used his bounties to glorify themselves, and turned them into a curse by fixing their affections upon the gifts instead of the Giver. They employed the gold and silver, the precious stones, and the choice wood, in the construction of habitations for themselves, and endeavored to excel one another in beautifying their dwellings with the most skillful workmanship. They sought only to gratify the desires of their own proud hearts, and reveled in scenes of pleasure and wickedness."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 90, 91.

3. "IN Sodom there was mirth and revelry, feasting and drunkenness. The vilest and most brutal passions were unrestrained. The people openly defied God and his law, and delighted in deeds of violence."—*Ibid*, p. 157.

4. "AT the time of Lot's removal to Sodom, corruption had not become universal, and God, in his mercy, permitted rays of light to shine amid the moral darkness. When Abraham rescued the captives from the Elamites, the attention of the people was called to the true faith."—*Ibid*.

LESSON X.—June 3, 1893.

EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD.

1. Review questions:—

(a) What past history of the world is to be repeated just before Christ appears?

(b) Give two texts that show the condition of the world at the time of the flood.

(c) What is said of Sodom?

(d) Give a brief account of the warning of each and the results.

(e) Have we any indications that their history is being repeated at the present time?

2. What did Jesus say must go to the world before the end? Matt. 24:14.

3. For what purpose is the gospel proclaimed to the world? *Ans.*—For a witness.

4. What did Jesus say of the condition of the world in the last days that will show that it will be impossible for it to be converted? Luke 17:26–30.

5. When the Lord comes, what two classes will he find in the earth? Isa. 25:9; Rev. 6:15, 16.

6. Could this be so if all the world were converted before he comes?

7. Could they be converted before he comes? Rev. 22:11, 12.

8. What is the gospel commission? Mark 16:15.

9. Then for what does God hold his servants responsible? *Ans.*—Sending the gospel to every creature.

10. Who only will be saved? Mark 16:16.

11. Does God compel everyone who hears to believe? Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Matt. 22:14.

12. Will the most of the world believe? Matt. 7:13, 14.

13. From whence will the redeemed of the Lord come? Rev. 7:9.

14. Then to how much of the world must the gospel go?

15. What is the gospel of the kingdom? See note 1.

16. With what must it be connected? 2 Tim. 4:1?

17. Has the gospel been preached to all nations? See note 2.

18. What are the people of God admonished to do when they see the signs that indicate the coming of the Lord near? 2 Peter 3:11, 12.

19. What will hasten that day? *Ans.*—The evangelization of the world.

NOTES.

1. THE term "gospel" signifies good news. The gospel of the kingdom would mean the good news of the kingdom. The kingdom is associated with the second advent of Jesus Christ. Compare 2 Tim. 4:1; Luke 21:31; with Matt. 24:33. Therefore to preach the gospel of the king-

dom, in the sense of Matt. 24 : 14, would mean to preach the second coming of the Saviour.

2. THE Bible has been translated into more than two hundred languages and dialects, and there are but few nations who have not heard the sound of this gospel. In a few of these nations the sound of the good news of the coming kingdom has gone but faintly, but the people are calling for someone to come and instruct them. The Lord has prepared the nations to receive the everlasting gospel, and is now calling for his people to go forth and sound it with a loud cry.

LESSON XI.—June 10, 1893.

APOSTASY.

1. Review questions:—

(a) Give four texts that show that the world cannot be converted before the Saviour appears.

(b) Who only can be saved?

(c) How does the Lord work to get the people to believe?

(d) What can you say of the gospel of the kingdom?

(e) To what extent has this gospel gone to the world?

2. What does Paul say must take place before the coming of the Lord can be expected? 2 Thess. 2:3.

3. What message goes to the world before the Saviour appears? Rev. 14:8.

4. What is the meaning of the word "Babylon"? See note 1.

5. Who are in Babylon? Rev. 18:4.

6. How did God's people come to be a part of a fallen company? See note 2.

7. What class of professors does Paul say will come up in the last days? 2 Tim. 3:5.

8. What sins are found among them? Verses 1-4.

9. Of what are they to be lovers? Verse 4.

10. What is the extent of the sins of Babylon? Rev. 18:5.

11. What did Jesus say to his disciples about self? Luke 9:23.

12. What is said of covetousness? Col. 3:5.

13. What of pride? Prov. 6:16, 17.

14. What are the duties of children to parents? Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1; Prov. 23:22; Col. 3:20.

15. What position should God's people sustain to holiness? Matt. 5:48; Heb. 12:14.

16. What is said of thankfulness? Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:15.

17. What interest will the class mentioned in 2 Tim. 3:1-5 have in hearing the word of God? 2 Tim. 4:3, 4.

18. What will those who are called out be doing? Verse 2.

19. Have we come to the time when professed Christians are confused and fallen?

20. What should be the message for such a time?
Rev. 18: 4.

21. What should be the character of those who give the message? Rev. 14: 12; 2 Peter 3: 14.

NOTES.

1. THE word "Babylon" is from Babel, which means confusion. When applied to a body of professors, would signify that they were not united in the faith they held. By studying Rev. 14:6-12 it will be seen that the term is applied to a people that live just before the Lord comes. See verse 14. They have not only become confused as to what the true faith is, but, by unlawful connection with the world, they have fallen from what they know to be right. Dr. Adam Clarke expresses their condition in his comments on 2 Tim. 3: 5, when he says, "Who have all their religion in their creed, confession of faith, etc., while they may be destitute of the life of God in their souls." There are several hundred denominations in the land that profess to take the Bible as the foundation of their faith; yet each one condemns all the rest, showing a state of confusion that turns sinners from the word of God. With their confusion they have so far retrograded from their original that it can be truthfully said, "Babylon is fallen."

2. ALTHOUGH the world denounces the fallen state of the church in the last days, God has not yet taken his Spirit wholly from them. He at one time blessed them, because they were living up to the light they had. Then they brought sinners into the fold and were blessed in their work. But in turning to the world, the honest-hearted ones are still there, but do not enjoy the state of things they see. Finally the Spirit will be withdrawn.

LESSON XII.—June 17, 1893.

THE MILLENNIUM.

1. Review questions :—

(a) What can you say of the moral declension of the professed people of God in the last days?

(b) What do they lack?

(c) What sins do they cherish?

(d) What call is made to his true people?

2. What is the meaning of the word "millennium"? *Ans.*—It comes from "mille," thousand, and "anum," years.

3. What events are connected with the millennium? Rev. 20: 2, 4, 5.

4. What marks the beginning of that period? Verse 5, last clause.

5. What causes the dead to be raised? John 5: 28, 29.

6. When will his voice be heard? 1 Thess. 4: 16.

7. What is said of the dead who rise at that time? Rev. 20: 6; 1 Thess. 4: 16.

8. Just before the Lord appears, what decree goes forth? Rev. 22: 11, 12.

9. Then can there be any conversions during the thousand years?

10. What change will be wrought in the righteous that are living at that time? 1 Cor. 15: 51-54.

11. What will they do when they meet the resurrected ones? 1 Thess. 4: 17.

12. To what place has Jesus promised to take them? John 14: 1-3.

13. What will the living wicked do when they see Jesus in the clouds? Rev. 6: 15-17.

14. Why should they cry for the mountains to fall on them? 2 Thess. 1: 7, 8.

15. What does the Lord do with them? Jer. 25: 30-33.

16. When will they live again? Rev. 20: 5, first sentence; Isa. 24: 22.

17. If the righteous are taken to heaven, and the wicked are slain at the beginning of the thousand years, who will be left? Rev. 20: 2.

18. In what condition did the prophet see the earth? Jer. 4: 23-25.

19. When is this to be? Verse 26.

20. Then what will be the condition of the earth during the thousand years? Verse 27.

LESSON XIII.—June 24, 1893.

THE MILLENNIUM—Continued.

1. Review questions:—

(a) What marks the beginning of the millennium?

(b) What important events are connected with Christ's second coming? See 1 Thess. 4:16, 17; 1 Cor. 15:51-53; John 14:1-3; Jer. 25:30-34.

(c) In what condition will the earth be left?

2. In what place is Satan to be bound? Rev. 20:1-3.

3. What will be the condition of the earth at that time? Jer. 4:23. See note 1.

4. How is he bound? See note 2.

5. During this time where are the saints? Rev. 20:6; John 14:1-3.

6. What are they doing? Rev. 20:4, 6.

7. Are the saints to have a part in the judgment work? 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Ps. 149:5-9. See note 3.

8. What marks the ending of the thousand years? Rev. 20:5-7.

9. As soon as Satan is loosed, to whom does he go? Verse 8.

10. What is said of the character of Gog and Magog? Eze. 38:2; 39:1.

11. When are they to come forth? Eze. 38:8; Rev. 20:8.

12. Who will appear at that time? Zech. 14:4, 5, "Great Controversy," pages 662, 663.

13. What comes to earth with Jesus and the saints? Rev. 21:2.

14. To what place do they come? Zech. 14:4.

15. When Satan sees them, what does he do? Rev. 20:9; Eze. 38:10-12.

16. Why does God permit them to come against his people? Verse 16.

17. What will the Lord do to them? Eze. 39 : 4-6; Rev. 20 : 9.

18. What effect will this fire have on the earth? 2 Peter 3 : 10.

19. What shall come forth from this ruin? Verse 13.

20. Who shall dwell on the new earth? Matt. 5 : 5; Isa. 35 : 4-10.

21. Then what prophecy will be fulfilled? Micah 4 : 8. Note 4.

NOTES.

1. "THAT the expression 'bottomless pit' represents the earth in a state of confusion and darkness is evident from other scriptures. Concerning the condition of the earth 'in the beginning' the Bible record says that it 'was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep' (Gen. 1 : 2); the word here translated 'deep' is the same that in Rev. 20 : 1-3 is rendered 'bottomless pit.' Prophecy teaches that it will be brought back, partially, at least, to this condition. Looking forward to the great day of God, the prophet Jeremiah declares: 'I beheld the earth, and lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.'"—*Great Controversy*, pp. 658, 659.

2. "HERE is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. Limited to the earth, he will not have access to other worlds, to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen. It is in this sense that he is bound; there are none remaining upon whom he can

exercise his power. He is wholly cut off from the work of deception and ruin, which for so many centuries has been his sole delight."—*Ibid.*

3. "DURING the thousand years between the first and second resurrection, the judgment of the wicked takes place. The Apostle Paul points to this judgment as an event that follows the second advent. 1 Cor. 4:5. Daniel declares that when the Ancient of Days came, 'judgment was given to the saints of the Most High.' Dan. 7:22. At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God."—*Ibid*, pp. 660, 661.

4. "THE time has come to which holy men have looked with longing, since the flaming sword barred the first pair from Eden, the time for 'the redemption of the purchased possession.' Micah 4:8. The earth originally given to man as his kingdom, betrayed by him into the hands of Satan, and so long held by the mighty foe, has been brought back by the great plan of redemption. All that was lost by sin has been restored. Isa. 45:18. God's original purpose in the creation of the earth is fulfilled, as it is made the eternal abode of the redeemed. Ps. 37:29."—*Ibid*, p. 674.

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