

No.

58.

"IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST, SEEK THOSE THINGS
WHICH ARE ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST SITTETH ON THE
RIGHT HAND OF GOD." COL. 3. 1.

CONSIDERATION OF SOME QUESTIONS

ON

THE PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES.

An Address (revised) at

Walham Green,
9th September, 1914.

by

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An Address by Mr. P.W.Heward
At Walham Green, 9th Sept. 1914.

It is a pleasure to realize, beloved friends, that God has not left His people in a maze. Scripture is written to guide, and the Holy Spirit is very real. But Scripture is vast, and who can understand its fulness? Yet God delights that His people should understand. One notices with joy the words to Daniel, that have come before us this evening. Daniel was instructed to understand, and the messenger from the Lord emphasizes this again and again. God delights in His people's knowledge. Concerning the prophets it was written, Surely the Lord God will do nothing but He revealeth His secret unto His servants, the prophets; and when God was about to bring judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah, He said, Shall I hide from Abraham the thing that I will do? I do not mean to imply that we are prophets, but the same tender love of God, that tender love for His people in which He delights to make known to them His own counsel and His own purpose, - that unchanging tender love remains. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him, and He will show them His covenant. He made known His WAYS unto Moses, but remember this, that His way is in the Sanctuary, and unless we go into the sanctuary we cannot perceive His way. ALL earth's history must be a tangle, unless we are permitted, in grace, to draw near unto our God, and look upon everything from His standpoint, to realize He has a purpose which cannot be frustrated, and that the words of the Book of Job must be fulfilled, which declare God worketh to hide pride from man. As I was coming along this evening, one verse, from a human standpoint accidentally stood out in front of me, and I believe God means that it should ring in our hearts tonight. "The Lord of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory". Ah, beloved friends, here is the key to the strange events of history. "The Lord of hosts hath purposed it to stain the pride

of all glory". The lofty looks of man MUST be laid low, and the Lord alone MUST be exalted. It is our rejoicing, if, ~~in~~ in mercy, we are children of God, that He, our Father, has linked us with the Son of His love, in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and Christ cannot be laid low, nor can those who know Him be laid low; - and therefore though we look with deep concern upon the ups and downs of history and the ruin of a ruined earth, yet we know that our gracious God will not fail of His loving purpose to bring many sons into glory, and to save out from all nations a people for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ah, it is delightful when we look around upon the conflict of nations to remember there is a heavenly nation beyond all conflicts, and that those who are linked with the Lord Jesus Christ out of every people under heaven, shall be for ever to the praise of His glory. On earth they may be counted by men as belonging to different tribes, but in the Lamb's Book of Life their names are close together and they ^{need} shall not be erased from that book, nor shall the lovingkindness of God permit that one of them be lost. It is delightful to turn aside from all that would distract, and to remember as we behold Him Who attracts, that in Him there is security, and in Him a binding together, which no confusion of earth can unbind and no circumstance untie.

We are gathered this evening, by the grace of God, to consider the prophetic Scriptures with reference to the present crisis, and particularly certain questions which have reached me. You will recollect that a few weeks ago we considered the Prophetic Scriptures and the Crisis, and we realized that the crisis has many manifestations, of which the sad havoc of war is but one. There is a grave crisis in the history of the world. Undoubtedly many feel this, when they see war, but children of God felt this crisis long before the war started. There have been evidences all around that men have been on the brink of a volcano. There have been reminders, in all parts, that everything is heading up to a solemn close,

even the close of the present dispensation, and we have felt. I trust with some sorrow of heart, and some prayerfulness, a deep concern because it is not manifest among believers that there is a true understanding of the times or a true discerning of the signs of the times. How can we know what to do unless we have Scriptural understanding of the times? Believers have felt that a crisis is near, they have felt that a crisis is present, but they have vaguely wondered what will happen next. They have only been concerned in some small measure to know what God is teaching, and thus unable to understand exactly what He is teaching. At least we must sorrowfully acknowledge this has been apparently the state of many who profess the worthy Name of the Lord Jesus, nor can a single one of us claim to be free from that ignorance which is so prevalent through Bible neglect, and the absence of prayerful dependence.

We saw, on a previous occasion, that the pleasure loving, though dwarfed at the present time, is a clear indication that these are the last perilous times in which men are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. We felt the Prophetic Scriptures showed that although there was this pleasure loving, even amid this sad war, yet the Lord COULD draw His people together, using the very ruin to make them ashamed of worldliness, and to bind their hearts together, with the Son of His love as the Center of their affections. But so deeply attracted by worldliness have many who profess the Name of the Lord been, that every child of God is tinged with it, and therefore every child of God has much to give up in that stepping forth from worldliness of doctrine and worldliness of practice unto Christ, and Christ alone, without the camp. The Lord Himself has revealed that He is, as it were, waiting for us, that He is not slack concerning His promise, but He is longsuffering to draw His people away from all that is away from Him, that there may be, as in the days when Christ first came, a people prepared for the Lord. The message of Rev. 19 is to be fulfilled. "His wife made herself ready", and I suppose, beloved friends, the sad ~~and~~ conflict

of today will draw some believers to look into the Scriptures, and looking there they will ~~draw some believers to look into the Scriptures, and~~ find something, yea much, beyond the low level of mere profession, and they will say, "O How I want to live with my Lord, and live for my Lord, marked off from those things which are against Him. How I want to live unto His praise and glory, and realize I am linked with an holy nation, and am not to be occupied with the attractions of earth". We also saw that Scripture prophesied an alteration of the political geography of Europe, and that the present war would probably lead to two things. First to a reaction against war from which would arise a federation of countries which God has prophesied. Secondly that those countries would be distinct to some extent, at least in their boundaries, from the countries that now exist, within the sphere of the ancient Roman earth, and this leads up to the first question asked.

Will you turn with me to Dan. 2? Here we have a striking vision brought before Nebuchadnezzar, not a beast but a man. (Every part, or almost every part of the man SHINING forth. Head of gold, next silver, then brass, or copper; and lastly iron, in the lower part of it mixed with miry clay. The image gradually deteriorates. It begins magnificently, and ends with that which will not support the weight. If the feet with the miry clay be struck, the whole image will totter. Daniel declares to the king at the end of verse 45 that the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter, and the dream is certain and the interpretation thereof sure. It is plainly marked out that Nebuchadnezzar was figured by the head of gold, (verse 38). The kingdom that succeeded him, emphasized at the beginning of verse 39, we know historically to have been that of the Medes and Persians which is aptly described by the arms, for the kingdom was two-fold. The kingdom which followed that, a world-wide kingdom, we know to have been the Grecian, which had in Alexander something

of the glory of a supreme ruler, as the color of copper is like to gold. The stress at the end of verse 39 upon ruling over all the earth, is important. All these kingdoms had the rule of the civilized world. I need hardly say all the earth is here explained by Scripture itself, - and this is important as to Revelation, - explained by Scripture not to signify every individual in the whole earth, but dealing with the dominion of empires which have governed the civilized world. After the Grecian or Macedonian rule, there was the fourth kingdom historically Rome, which is well described as strong as iron. This divides into two parts, and the Roman empire was thus divided. But the two parts are lengthy, the legs, and the two parts of the Roman empire have had a strangely long history. The eastern part remained a great while, and the western part, though we do not notice it always to the front in history, was succeeded by certain western kings who took as far as they could the position of western Roman emperors, and it is remarkable to this day that the Roman eagle still appears in the standards of various continental nations. ^{AND USA} Yes, it is the ROMAN eagle which is still associated with the present kingdoms of Europe. That the Roman empire had not completely died in the days of Napoleon is now evident. It is true that one section of it was officially laid on one side, but that only emphasizes the long continuance, nor is a gap in prophecy anything remarkable. If the empire had ceased for centuries then the gap would not alter the fact. God takes up threads of history again. Israel have been laid on one side for years, God will take them up again. Indeed there are such a number of prophecies which are yet to be fulfilled that we can only enter into Divine revelation as we realize this. Israel have no temple, but you will find prophecies that lead quickly ^{on} from the time they had a temple, to the time when they will have a temple in the future. You will find prophecies which speak of Christ and His rejection, and at once go on to speak of Antichrist, or of the coming glory of the

Lord Himself. The present period is often passed over quickly in chronological prophecy, and in, what I may call, other-event-prophecy, because God wishes His dear people not to be spending their time so much in arithmetic but in looking for the return of their beloved Lord. Practical godliness is concerned with everything that God has revealed, but, beloved friends, there must be a due proportion and God has emphasized that His people are NOT to expect that they will die, but that they ARE to expect that Christ will come in their lifetime. This is the HOPE.

But the difficulty that stands in front of us here is as follows: - The toes plainly suggest TEN kingdoms and kings, and in the days of these kings, says verse 44, shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. I need hardly say that is NOT a view of Christianity. Undoubtedly salvation in Christ shall stand forever, but it does not break in pieces other kingdoms. The Lord Jesus came the first time despized and rejected of men, and His people are not to take governmental positions till He returns. I know some Christians err upon this point, but the Lord has distinctly declared that since He has died there is the ^AJUDGMENT of this world, and His people are to be as strangers and pilgrims going through it till their Lord comes back. The path is not easy, but the path is blessed, and He will not fail nor forsake those who take Him at His Word, and seek to illustrate the painful, but wonderful address on the mount. There we have a rejected suffering people laying up treasure in heaven without anxiety for the morrow, with a holy dependence upon God for everything, conscious that if they seek first the kingdom of God, and have this as their object, not the kingdom of men, all the needed things (not the wanted things) but the needed things shall be ADDED unto them. There are some who would like to see these blessings first, but the Lord does NOT say "Shall be given". Mark His words: - "Shall be ADDED". There must be something FIRST,

and that is spiritual willingness to take the Lord at His word. Christianity, therefore, is NOT set forth by this kingdom nor has there arisen a kingdom which shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms. Consequently, this is future, and therefore the ten kings and kingdoms are future, therefore the Roman earth must be revived, divided into ten states, and in connection with their final federation there will be the glorious descent of the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will lay low the power of man His kingdom will be the stone cut out without hands, that smites the image, becomes a great mountain, instead of Babylon's destroying mountain, and fills the whole earth. But the strange part is this. In verse 35 we read, the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, are broken to pieces TOGETHER. Does Babylon still remain? Does the kingdom of the Medes and Persians still remain? Where is the Grecian power? Beloved friends, in one sense the revival of one will be the revival of all, for the second kingdom included the dominion of the first, the third included the second, and the fourth included the third. Consequently, if the feet are smitten, the whole of the kingdoms represented by the image are laid low. Dan. 7 indicates this. Four beasts are there seen and we definitely read that concerning the first three of them, (verse 12) they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. But the fourth beast, who is destroyed by the personal appearance of the Lord, has no respite given him. Verse 11 says so. In other words the various empires laid low by previous kingdoms have continued to exist subordinately, and have been absorbed by the following kingdoms, but this kingdom of the fourth beast with its twofold division shall not be absorbed. There shall be an ENTIRE change. Luke 21:24 brings before us a striking utterance of the Lord Jesus. "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations, and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles UNTIL the ^{seasons} times of (the) Gentiles be fulfilled, (and they shall be fulfilled). Therefore the period which is seen in Dan. 2 is the times of the Gentiles.

Nebuchadnezzar was the first king who conquered Jerusalem after God had given it to David, and therefore he is the FIRST king who is the king of the Gentiles, himself beginning the times of the Gentiles, and those times will go on until the Lord Himself claims Jerusalem! He will do this, for every word of God must come true, and we read that the Lord says, Sing, and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord; and many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be My people. And the Lord shall inherit Judah His portion in the Holy Land, and shall choose Jerusalem again. While God set aside Jerusalem, first partially, and then when the Lord Jesus was rejected, VERY DEFINITELY, - while this has taken place, with present effects, believers are manifestly called to a definite pilgrim life. Beloved friends, I would reiterate that, for we need always to have it in front of us. The world with all its evil is, at present, rather too comfortable for us. We are not caused to wander about in sheepskins and goatskins being destitute and forsaken, but it needs great grace to live as a stranger when you are not forced to be a stranger. It needs great nearness to the Lord to be a pilgrim when you have a house wherein to live. This wonderful message of Dan. 2 therefore implies that the power of the Gentiles is one. It is the power of man. It ~~being~~ begins with Nebuchadnezzar, and goes on to these who are laid low, and the thought is that God will not only sweep on one side a kingdom, but He will sweep on one side the gold, silver, and brass as well. He will remove entirely all the characteristics of all the empires, will sweep away that dominion which inherits previous dominion and will assert Himself in a way which is entirely contrasted. For soon the words will sound forth, Now is come salvation and the kingdom of our God and the power of His Messiah, and again. The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever. There is to be an entire contrast. Now we see illustrated the words of ¹⁵ 1 Cor. 4:3 (margin) Man's day. Then it will be the

Day of the Lord. Now it is the time in which man's lofty looks are seen, but the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon everyone that is lofty. Isa. 2 is a solemn unveiling of what shall assuredly happen. We do well to keep this in mind, for we see thereby two men. On one hand the man of the image, in Dan. 2, being crystallized in Antichrist, the MAN of sin who has the number of MAN in Rev. 13. May I in passing say a few words about Antichrist? That he is a PERSON is plain from several Scriptures, plain from the revelation of that which he will do, in wearing out the saints of the Most High, and thinking to change times and laws. A system does not think. Plainly, moreover, he is a man in connection with the names that God has given him. He is called the wicked one, the son of perdition, the one who opposeth and exalteth himself, THE Antichrist. I have already referred to two passages where the word MAN comes into prominence with respect to him. And types of Antichrist such as Lamech, Nimrod, Saul, Absalom, Adonijah, Antiochus Epiphanes have been men, and further, more there is nothing in the history of Antichrist to prevent him being a man. His years are very brief, according to Scripture, not the years of a system, but the brief period of a human life. Everything shows that Antichrist will be a man who will arise to be the counterfeit of Christ. We have in Revelation, the dragon, the beast, the false prophet, opposed to God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Thus the counterfeit implies personality. Antichrist is a person. I grant that with Antichrist there will be identified a system. Blessed be God with His beloved Son there are identified a people. They are in Him, but this does not affect His personality. If I might so put it, we have on one hand the body of the Lord Jesus Christ, and on the other hand the carcass of Antichrist. You say, Why call it a carcass? Wheresoever the CARCASS is there will the eagles be gathered together. Now Scripture is there speaking of those who will be left behind when the Lord takes up His people, those who are left

behind for judgment. Now we know from Rev. 3 that then will be the hour of testing, and that those who are left behind and are not marked off by God, as Israel will then be sealed, - that those who are left behind, and are identified with Antichrist and his final assault on the things of the Lord, will be brought to an eternal judgment for they have no rest day nor night that worship the beast and his image, and if anyone receiveth his mark. The eagles of judgment will swoop down upon the carcass of Antichrist, but Antichrist who is called both the beast, and the little horn of the beast, is a person at the head of a two-fold system. Indeed in 2 Thess. 2 he is contrasted with a system, We read, The mystery of wickedness, or lawlessness, doth inwork, and it goes on to speak of the lawless one. Now if we have brought before us a contrast with a system, it is plain Antichrist is not a system, but a person. This personal Antichrist who will be the leader in the last days will indeed illustrate this colossal image of a man. He will be the hero of men. On the OTHER hand we have the Lord's dear people who are linked with that precious Lord Who became the Man Christ Jesus, that His own might come unto a perfect MAN, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Ah, beloved friends, with which are we linked? The man of Dan. 2, or the Man of Eph. 4? The way in which all history leads up to the climax is further illustrated in connection with the prophecy of Babylon. Babylon is said in Rev. 18 to contain within it the blood of all that are slain on the earth, verse 24. You see here is the same summing up. Babylon is the heir of all ills. In like manner the Lord Jesus said concerning Jerusalem that the blood of Abel would be required of Jerusalem. If a man takes over a business he takes over its responsibilities, and Babylon takes over the responsibilities, ~~and~~ of the evils that have gone before. The last kingdom will be the climax, leading on from men's other kingdoms, and therefore the WHOLE will be swept away at once.

A word or two concerning the rebuilding and the consequent destruction

of Babylon. We have already considered this, but I do want to emphasize it, as the Lord may enable, upon everyone present. I know that in measure it looks unlikely for Babylon to be rebuilt with all its splendor. That there shall be some reviving in the east, I mean commercial reviving, is evident to many. The labor that has been spent on irrigation and with a view to quick transit will not be labor in vain from an earthly standpoint. It is evident that Mesopotamia will yet be opened up, but many, in spite of this, draw back from the thought of a rebuilt Babylon. The argument is a very simple one. Scripture reveals the destruction of Babylon, it reveals that destruction is future in the days of Isaiah, in the days of Jeremiah, in the days of John, not only in the earlier Scriptures, but in the later. Scripture must stand, or fall; we cannot twist it. Either we accept God's word against appearances, or we accept appearances against God's word. There is no path in between. History has been filled full of unlikely things. So much so that we might almost say, the unlikely is likely, and why? God has been pleased to give His people encouragement to their faith, - though they should not require this encouragement to their faith, - encouragement by doing strange things in the past. If we had not a single prophecy yet fulfilled we ought to believe every prophecy ~~unfulfilled~~ unfulfilled. Our heart-knowledge of God is surely sufficient to cause us to trust Him, against all the theories of the world, and against all the feelings of the flesh. But God has encouraged our faith by showing that He has worked in a marvellous way. Now it is revealed that Babylon shall be destroyed. Can we say that this means the gradual destruction, which has "nearly" been accomplished, - for during many years the site of that colossal city has been marked by ruins and villages? No, Scripture has declared the entire destruction, and that it will be sudden. In one day, in one hour. Dan. 7 is fairly plain that when the power of Babylon was taken away in olden times, the life of the Babylonian beast was pre-

served. Never has Babylon's power been suddenly laid low. It must, therefore, be laid low in the future. Zechariah, who lived AFTER the days of the taking of Babylon by the Medes and Persians, referred to a re-exaltation of the land of Shinar. This has not yet taken place. We have therefore a double prophecy, one of the revival of Babylon, and one of the destruction of Babylon. Shall we accept the Scripture, and say, It must be so? or shall we doubt the Scripture? Beloved friends, I believe that our hearts if taught by the Holy Spirit, are ready to say, We believe God that it shall be even as it was spoken to us. Let God be true but every man a liar.

I have already referred to Dan. 2, but in connection with the same passage the following question has been asked. If the Roman Empire is to be the great world power, is the neutrality of Italy an indication of ITS coming power, and has it any Scriptural inference? This gives me an opportunity to say that the revival of the Roman Empire does not necessarily mean the exaltation of Rome. There is no Scripture, as far as I can see, for the locating IN THAT TOWN of a central government, Zech. 5 tends the other way. It says that the ephah of commerce, associated moreover with government, having its "eye" through all the earth, as verse 6 puts it literally, - that this ephah of commerce will be taken back to build it a house in the land of Shinar, it shall be established and set there upon her own base. The times of the Gentiles began with Babylon, not with Rome, and they will end with Babylon, not with Rome. The Lord chose Jerusalem, and the Lord shall choose Jerusalem. Satan always travesties what the Lord does. Oh it is a solemn thought, but it has a gleam of real encouragement. Shall Babylon be rebuilt? Thus we are encouraged to see that even Satan believes the prophecy that Jerusalem will be rebuilt, and then even Satan is compelled to acknowledge that the Lord will take up Jerusalem again. Satan's plan, as it is a parody, is a marvellous encouragement to the Lord's people. O let us not be those who falter as

to cheerful acknowledgement of that which even the Devil is COMPELLED to acknowledge.

A question has been asked with respect to Napoleon as a type of Antichrist. I believe, beloved friends, that in one sense EVERY man is a type of Antichrist, and unless grace has laid hold of us, we have in ourselves with a certain amount of awful freedom, the very germs of that rebellion which would lead up to the lawlessness of the lawless one. If grace has laid hold of us then it is our privilege is the power of the Holy Spirit to buffet our body, and to bring it in subjection, and to seek to live in the power of the Lord that we may not fulfil the desires of the flesh, but the flesh is enmity against God. I know of nothing worse than that predicated concerning antichrist. You follow what I mean, all sin is of the SAME character. It is easy to be interested in the study of history. There is nothing more fascinating than history to the man of the world, it is attractive to the child of God, it is important as giving side lights upon his Father's purpose, or rather His Father's purpose gives sidelights upon it, but the difficulty is to really know history. People always write from their own standpoint, and it is very easy to misunderstand. Oh how many lies have been spread because man has a natural bias. How one praises God for the verbal inspiration of Scripture. I do not feel that I could trust in men however godly he might be, unless there were a verbal inspiration, because we all have such a bias, but with God there is no bias, and so Scripture is given to guide us. But it is so hard to see in human history all that one would see. Scripture types of Antichrist are the clearest and the most numerous. I have already referred to such as Lamech, Nimrod, Saul, and such like. There are many that God brings before us with this subject in view. Some were kings, some, as Judas Iscariot, were not kings. God gives different sidelights. Just as many names are needed to express something of the worthiness of the

Lord Jesus, and many types contributed their little quota to exalt His comprehensiveness, so many types contribute their quota to show the awfulness of Antichrist, the climax of man's civilization, and the uniter of men and demons. But Napoleon is remarkable in many ways, illustrating the rising up of Antichrist from a comparatively obscure origin, illustrating too the shameless lying which will mark Antichrist, showing forth that persistency of character which will force its way through against all opposition, and particularly Antichrist is prefigured by the way in which Napoleon posed as a patron of various religions. Whereas in certain parts he would favor the pretestants, on another occasion he showed himself as a defender of the pope. Out in the east he issued his decrees in language to conciliate the Mohammedans, and when he was engaged on that eastern journey which I suppose HE definitely chose for himself, though it was not marked out for him, and the fact is remarkable, - when he was on his eastern journey he spoke of himself and meditated upon himself as one becoming the founder of a new religion. Antichrist will certainly patronize various religions for a while, and then in the midst of all destroy these, and place himself forth as the founder of a new religion, centering about himself. Moreover, Napoleon becomes a more striking type of Antichrist when we associate his career with that sad French revolution which contained within itself such wonderful manifestations of the way in which there will be an upheaval in the nearing future. There we see a religious nation throwing off its bands and restraints and becoming a nation of professed fraternity and equality, at the same time establishing a reign of terror and iniquity and wickedness with the very worship of reason and the setting aside of everything that is in accord with the will of God. At that time, as we know, there was the attempt to change times and seasons, and the laws that God had stamped upon all, but God showed that the time when transgressors should come to the full had not then arrived. The type, however, is suggestive and it sweeps away the thought,

that many still hold, when they imagine that the heart of man is not capable of the iniquity which Scripture declares will yet be poured forth from the civilized heart, Beloved friends, if a few restraints are removed the world will be in a terrible condition within a few days. We little know what MAN is. God has been pleased to hold back, but if the flood-gates of iniquity burst open, who can say what will happen, and the suddenness was, and will be, remarkable. I believe that the events concerning this war have already shown, and will in the nearing future make more manifest to not a few that everything now will be sudden and quick, and this encourages God's dear people, for they see in THAT fact an illustration of Scripture, and something which cheers them on to think that though there are certain events before Christ takes up His kingdom, those events can pass through within the period of a very short time. Ah, that bright and glorious hope of the Lord Jesus becoming the exalted Prince of Peace over the earth, is not far distant. It would seem that the six thousand years have nearly run out, though chronology will not exactly allow us to say when. Similarly the gap in chronology prevents us from working out any suggestions as to the length of the times of the Gentiles, but we know that God has His arrangement, and He will not be a moment too late. The times and the seasons are placed within His own authority, and we can trustfully and thankfully leave them there.

A word in closing as to Gog and Magog, which are mentioned in Ezek. 38. In Ezek. 38 we have brought before us Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince, for it may be, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and we find that this prince sweeps down upon the land of Palestine. Various other kings are with him. Not only have we the mention of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, but in verse 5, Persia, Ethiopia, and Phut, as the margin puts it. Also Gomer and Togarmah, in verse 6. Thus we have brought before us various kings and kingdoms, but ONE king is over all, and that king is called Gog, and Magog means the place of Gog. So he is the MAN who gives

the name to the land. Undoubtedly there will be a manifestation of a Gog and Magog AFTER the thousand years reign. Rev. 20 shows this, but Ezek. 38 and 39 is before the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ezekiel 39:12 makes this clear. It is evidently the attack in the days of Antichrist of Antichrist himself, upon Israel. That this is Antichrist, Ezek. 38:17 would suggest. That Israel have not yet been brought to see the Lord till this day, Ezek. 39:22 makes evident. Consequently we have here a prophecy of Antichrist's attack on Jerusalem when the Lord will step in, and in the words of Ezek. 38:23 magnify himself, and sanctify himself, and will be known in the eyes of many nations, and "they shall know that I am the Lord". The various countries that are SAID to be with Gog are to be found for the most part in Gen. 10. But Ashchenaz which has been associated with Germany is not found in this connection. On the contrary Ashchenaz is found against Babylon in Jer. 51. Ashchenaz is understood by Israel to signify the district of Germany, and this would seem to illustrate that Germany being outside the old Roman earth, may be unlinked with that federation of which I have spoken. This would give some sidelight on the present state of the war: I do not want that we should attempt to prophesy, but we see how God is making certain lines of demarcation already appear, with a view to the reorganization of that Roman earth. God known His purposes. God knows His plans, That Russia though of old outside the Roman earth will be inside the revived Roman earth is, I think, plain from Ezek. 38. I do not believe we can avoid seeing a reference to parts of Russia in the second verse, and England was, as we know, the northern limit of the Roman earth. Scripture thus is BEING "Illustrated" and PROBABLY the greatest territorial alteration at first will be found in the neighbourhood of Austria, inasmuch as the association of that country with Ashchenaz would seem to be necessarily changed in the future. Moreover it is fairly evident that Antichrist is to arise from the neighbourhood of Servia, or

further east. It is therefore not surprising that the district round about Servia has already been the scene of wars, and that two of the necessary kingdoms for the Revived Roman earth have already been partly prepared in connection with Balkan troubles. You may say, how do we know two of the kingdoms with regard to the revived Roman earth? Scripture declares in Dan. 8 that four of the Revived ten kingdoms will be the four kingdoms of Alexander's generals. We know what these kingdoms were. Therefore they must be revived. They do not exist at the present time, but the Balkan re-arrangements certainly altered boundary lines with a view to approaching that which God has declared will happen. These things are remarkable sidelights to believers and we need, by the grace of God, to be kept outside all the excitement of today, and to simply look upon things from a HEAVENLY standpoint, longing for our Lord to come, but willing to be patient amid all the ruin, not occupied with the world's sensationalism, not occupied with the world's enmity of race against race. The believer's position ~~is~~ ^{is in seek +} to pray for all classes of men, and acknowledge the solemnity of death, whether it be upon an ordinary deathbed, or a battlefield, to seek to occupy the moments in godly witness not only by lip, but by life, - godly witness that there may be a testimony which the world can see, that there are those who are in Christ Jesus, and who have something which the world has not, who own Someone Whom the world owns not, because they have been and are owned by HIM.

+ see in 1 Tim II.4

Further literature, concerning the Lord, gladly sent (international) to exercised believers for personal perusal, and **passing on** to God's glory, some also in German, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Czech, Romanian:

- "To Testify the Gospel of the Grace of God." -

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