

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS' CONVENTION A GREAT SUCCESS

GOD'S KINGDOM TO TOP ALL OTHERS

Messiah to Be King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

THE DAY OF CHRIST AT HAND.

Pastor Russell Says That Great Day Will Witness the Overthrow of Sin and Death—Satan Shall Be Bound, and Divine Justice Will Be Executed in the Earth—A Sermon to Bible Students—A Great Crowd as Usual.



Mt. Lake Park, Md., Sept. 10th.—The International Bible Students' Association has been holding a convention here for more than a week; many able speakers have been heard. Higher Criticism is at a discount amongst these Bible students. They claim that the internal harmonies of the Bible attest its Divine authenticity. Amongst these earnest students are many who at one time were infidels. They profess greater faith than ever in the Bible as the result of reading Pastor Russell's books, to which many of them were led through his sermons.

Pastor Russell was the principal speaker at the Convention today. He arrived during the week, and is being entertained some distance from the Park, at the Weber mansion. Hundreds visit him every evening. Pastor Russell spoke twice today in the large Auditorium. He delivered one of his discourses from the text, "In the last days the Mountain of the Lord's House shall be established in the top of the mountains, . . . and all people shall flow unto it" (Isaiah 2, 2). He said in part:

"Our text tells of great events in the 'last days.' It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that these words imply the end of time or the end of the world, in the ordinary sense. The Bible declares that 'the earth abideth forever,' and it tells of the wonderful blessings of Restitution, when the Lord's footstool shall blossom as the rose—Paradise restored. All this is to come in the 'last days.'

The Jews understood that the seven days of the week, six of labor and the seventh of rest, were typical of seven greater days of a thousand years each. In harmony with this thought, some of them tell us that we are living in the Friday night of the world's history—which means that the great Sabbath of Rest is about to begin—the thousand years of Messiah's reign (the Jewish day beginning in the evening).

The New Testament writers seem to have had the same thought. Thus our Lord declared, "My Word shall judge you in the Last Day." Similarly, Martha declared her faith in the resurrection of her brother, saying, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection, at the Last Day"—the Millennium Day, the Day of Christ—the great Day which will witness the overthrow of sin and death and the uplifting of humanity. Of that great Day we read, "In His Day shall the righteous flourish, and evildoers shall be cut off." This Seventh Day is frequently spoken of as "that Day," as indicating the time when Divine power will no longer permit the reign of sin amongst men, but Messiah's Kingdom will actively intervene. The overthrow of Satan, sin and all unrighteousness, will then take place. It is during this Day that Messiah will put down all things opposed to righteousness: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

Throughout that glorious Day the resurrection process will be in operation; mankind will be rising out of its meanness, sin, sickness and death, back to all that was lost in Eden and redeemed by way of the Cross. In the end of these days, or "after these days," of the reign of sin, God promises to make a New Covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah, through which they shall be uplifted, and the blessing will flow from them to all nations (Jeremiah xxxi, 31). It will be after these days also that "God will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh," as says the Prophet Joel (Joel 2, 28).

Our text is to be considered from this standpoint. In the end of these days, in the promised Day of Messiah, the Mountain of the Lord's House shall be established, fixed, in the very top of the mountains—above all other kingdoms. This is in full accord with the entire tenor of the Scriptures. A mountain symbolizes a kingdom; and as the Prophet declares, God's Kingdom will be the highest Mountain; it will be over the top of all other kingdoms. It will be established or fixed permanently above all others.

Messiah, the great King, with His Elect Bride and associate with Him, will exercise His Divine power, Satan shall be bound for a thousand years, and sin will no longer be permitted. From the invisible plane of glory and majesty, Justice will be executed in the earth; every good word, thought and deed will be rewarded, and every evil thought, word and deed will be punished—swiftly—surely. Perhaps paralysis of the tongue will be the means by which evil speaking, false words and deceptions will be punished. Perhaps paralysis of the arm or

finger will be the means employed to stop the crime. Certain it is that "Nothing shall hurt or destroy in all God's Holy Kingdom" thus established. How speedily the world will then learn righteousness! Now it doubts the very existence of God, and declares that if He exists He pays little or no heed to wrong-doers. "Now the wicked flourish; yea, they that tempt God are even exalted," as the Scriptures declare. But the New Day will change all this. Messiah "will lay righteousness to the line and Justice to the plumb line; and the hall [Truth] shall sweep away the refuge of the misrepresentations, misunderstandings" (Isaiah xxviii, 17, 18). "The blind shall see out of obscurity, and the deaf ears shall be unstopped."

"The knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall fill the whole earth," until "None shall need say to his neighbor, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Him."

Gravitation Reversed

The present tendency is to gravitate downward, but our text tells of a reversal of this order. All nations shall then flow or gravitate upward—toward the righteous Kingdom of Messiah. "Many people shall say, 'Let us go up.' The Kingdom, in its original establishment, will be Israelite—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the Prophets will be made Princes in all the earth" (Psalm xlv, 10).

The Jews, naturally, will rally to their standard and begin to recognize the fulfillment of the prophecies of old. Other nationalities will begin slowly to realize the import of the great, New Jewish Dispensation. Their ideas and ideals will be antagonistic for a time. Gradually they will see the Restitution blessings coming to Israel, in harmony with the Divine arrangements of the Kingdom. Then, as our context declares, "Many people will say, 'Come, let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob; He will teach us [as well as the Jews] His ways and we [as well as they] will learn to walk in His paths.'"

Both Spiritual and Natural Israel are in the picture. Mt. Zion is the higher, the Spiritual Jerusalem; the lower, the earthly. The Law shall go forth from Mt. Zion (Spiritual Zion, the Messiah—Head and Body—Bridegroom and Bride)—while the Word of the Lord (the directing and instructing) will go forth from Jerusalem (the Patriarchal Princes, who will represent the Kingdom).

Judging Among the Gentiles

The context tells us that the new King, Messiah, will judge amongst the nations—amongst all the peoples. It will be a general judgment first, an individual one subsequently. The national judgments will mean calamities upon the nations. The demonstrations of the great dreadnaughts and great armories will prove that they are not to be the peacemakers of earth. On the contrary, those trusting in these devices will suffer most severely. All must learn the lesson that Messiah's Kingdom comes not by human might nor power, but is the Lord's institution, in His own appointed time.

The lesson will be so thoroughly learned in that Day of Trouble that the prophet will judge that they are not to be the peacemakers of earth. On the contrary, those trusting in these devices will suffer most severely. All must learn the lesson that Messiah's Kingdom comes not by human might nor power, but is the Lord's institution, in His own appointed time.

In one of His parables the Lord tells us that the mighty army of the Lord, through Messiah's Kingdom, will work havoc with present institutions. Then "He will make wars to cease unto the ends of the earth." Our context tells us that thereafter "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Even Boys' Brigades, etc., thereafter will be at a discount. Human energy and activity will find better employment in conquering self, sin-sickness and death.

Hiding in the Rocks

The description given by the Prophet Isaiah of the Day with which this Gospel Age will end, the great Day when Messiah's Kingdom begins, agrees very closely with a description of the same given in the book of Revelation. Isaiah tells us that idolatry to gold and silver shall be brought to an end, and the great trouble of that Day will cause many to hide themselves in the rocks, for fear of the Lord and for the glory of His Majesty (Isaiah 10, 11). "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and their haughtiness shall be bowed down and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that Day" (vs. 18-21).

The idols He shall utterly abolish, and those who worship them "shall go into the rocks and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord and for the glory of His Majesty, when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth." The Catastrophe Cannot Be Averted

It is impossible for us, or for any one, to avert the great catastrophe which is surely bearing down upon the world. The Lord's people are to have nothing whatever to do with bringing about the great catastrophe any more than had the Prophets whose words we are using. It is for us to make our own "calling and election sure," and as far as possible to send out the Divine Message in no uncertain tones to all of God's people, that each and all may be found faithful in the use of their pounds and talents—retrieving each possible loss of opportunities, or, as the Apostle says, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (vs. 18-21).

The same picture is set before us in Revelation vi, 15-17. Here the great ones of earth are represented as calling upon the mountains to fall on them and to hide them from the presence of the Lord. The thought is to fall over us, hide us, protect us. The Prophet Malachi asks, "Who shall abide in the great Day of the Lord?" "Who shall be able to stand?"

Let us construct a picture before our minds. Let us suppose the vast oceans, constituting three-fourths of the earth's surface, to represent the masses of mankind unsettled, unattached, without property, with little hope or prospect, with illimitable longings, but no power to satisfy them—"without God and without hope in the world." Let us consider the land behind and before us to represent society, fixed, established, desirous of peace, having something which it does not wish to lose, which it does not wish the "sea" class to wash away.

As in the sea we find shallows and mighty depths, so on the land we find low places, higher places and mount-

NEARLY SIX THOUSAND WAS THE DAILY ATTENDANCE AT MOUNTAIN LAKE PARK

FORTY-FOUR SPEAKERS REPRESENTING MANY STATES PARTICIPATED IN THE TEN DAYS MEETINGS AT THE MARYLAND CHAUTAUQUA—EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW OF THE COMPLETE PROCEEDINGS—DELEGATES WILL LEAVE FOR THEIR HOMES ON MONDAY.

MT. LAKE PARK, Md., Sept. 12.—The many special parties of International Bible Students, whose convention at Mountain Lake Park Md., has just closed, are beginning to think of and arrange for their return home. The two special from New York, composed of delegates from Atlantic coast points, left Mountain Lake Sunday midnight, via Washington, where they spent about nine hours sightseeing.

Regrets were expressed by many because no opportunity had been provided to visit Independence and Liberal Hall and other noted points of interest in the city of Philadelphia.

Those from Canada and the Northwest will return on the Toronto and Chicago trains. The Southwestern contingent traveled to St. Louis as a party, where they will separate. The specials for points within three hundred miles left early Monday morning, thus giving a day-light ride home.

The excellent facilities for entertaining large crowds at the many Mountain Lake hotels and cottages have for once proven insufficient, and consequently Deer Park and Oakland are most graciously entertaining a portion of the vast I. B. S. A. throng.

The convention opened September 1, with an attendance of over four thousand, and closed September 11. Some delegates attending during the early days, who were unable to remain throughout the convention, have departed, giving place to a more than equal number of belated arrivals.

The average attendance has been near the five thousand mark, with a total attendance of six thousand on special days. In another column the objects of the I. B. S. A. are set forth in a perspicuous statement by its president, Pastor Russell, of Brooklyn Tabernacle.

GEN. W. P. HALL'S OPENING ADDRESS.

The formal opening of the convention took place Friday afternoon, September 1 at 4 o'clock, when General W. P. Hall, U. S. A., delivered an address of welcome, which was responded to by Judge Rutherford, the chairman.

In his address General Hall said, in part:

"In behalf of the people of this section of the United States, it has been accorded to us the pleasure and privilege of extending to you a heartfelt welcome. Hon. J. F. Rutherford, of the International Bible Students' Association, the chairman of this convention, will have the honor of delivering to you the opening address.

Neverthless, it is my honor to welcome the International Bible Students' Association. As its name indicates, it has branches over the entire world, and I know it is the desire of its members to encourage and assist in the study of the Scriptures whenever opportunity affords. It needs no argument to prove that the parts of the world where the influence of the Bible is greatest are those parts which are most advanced in civilization and refinement.

"While members of this association believe the Bible from Genesis to Revelation to be the inspired word of God, and believe it to contain His wise and gracious plan toward the human race, I understand you are not affiliated with any of the denominational churches. You are undenominational. We understand something of your belief, and while we agree with you that there is much good in most of the creeds of our day, we also agree with you that the doctrine of eternal torment for those who have never heard of the only name given under heaven whereby they must be saved is discrediting to God and belittling His character. Eternal punishment is not necessarily eternal torture for any one.

"We will not take any more of your time in expressing our welcome, a welcome which all broad-minded Christian people in this community must feel. But we will now give place to those more competent in explaining the hidden mysteries of the Kingdom."

Judge Rutherford then responded, and the convention adjourned until Saturday following a praise, prayer and testimony meeting.

Addresses by W. M. Herse, Daniel Toole and A. M. Saphore occupied the morning hours on Saturday, while the afternoon was devoted to talks by E. Streeter, F. F. Cook and O. L. Sullivan. The day was called "Thankful Day" on the programme, and this theme was taken by most of the speakers.

ACTIVE WORK BEGAN WITH MONDAY'S SESSION.

After a quiet Sunday spent in devotional exercises and praise services the delegates got down to real hard work on Monday.

The speakers for the morning session were J. D. Wright and P. E. Thompson, while for the afternoon meeting a symposium on "The Christian's Armor" was the object of interest. Those who participated in the symposium were Elliot Thompson, Edwin Gray, A. G. Wakefield, F. C. Detwiler and W. M. Wisdom.

Among those who have been active in the meetings of the convention, some of them occupying seats on the platform, are the following:

Dr. S. A. Smith, Louisville, Ky.; Morton Edgar, Glasgow, Scotland; Dr. C. R. Rhinehart, South Bend, Ind.; Professor Charles Ackerman, Tiffin, Ohio; Dr. Charles Owen, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Roy Mitchell, Los Angeles, Cal.; Dr. H. J. Peterson, Philadelphia, Pa.; Dr. S. N. Wilcox, Norristown, Pa.; Professor H. S. Frost, Washington, D. C.; Professor J. T. Reid, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. E. J. Beardley, Alexander, Ind.; Dr. H. C. Temple, Alliance, Ohio; Dr.

which all acknowledge should be there if all the writers of the Bible were inspired by the same Holy Spirit. More than this, unlike any other class of Christian people in the world, these Bible students claim to have found the key of interpretation which makes the entire book harmonious from Genesis to Revelation. Surely no more earnest company of Christian people ever assembled as Mountain Lake Park. Surely none ever assembled to give more careful study to God's Word. Surely none ever seemed more thoroughly rejoiced, more happy in the Lord. And the claim is that this happiness springs from a right understanding of the Bible which has drawn the hearts of believers nearer to God and nearer to each other. Ah!

says one, our hearts are glad because we see that the Bible's teaching rightly understood is that God is love and that God's dealings with the world are not ended but really only beginning. We now see what we were blinded to for a long time, namely, that the work of this Gospel Age is the selection of the "Church of the First Born, whose names are written in heaven" (Heb. 12:23). We now see that these are to be the Bride of Christ, associated with Him in His glorious kingdom for which we pray. "Thy kingdom come." We now see that Messiah's kingdom is to be established in power and great glory amongst men; and that its work will be a blessing and uplifting one. Once misled by the creeds of the Dark Ages, we supposed that all the heathen must be in torture because we knew that these were not qualified as saints for the presence of God and His eternal glory. How we wondered at these! We wondered how our great Creator could be either just or loving that be—the ruling powers, the political powers, financial powers, social powers. Doubtless these like ourselves are doing all in their power to forward the cause of truth and righteousness, each along his own lines and according to his own light. This work has been in progress for centuries, and we feel sure can effect the grand results foretold in the Bible. For their accomplishment it was necessary that our Lord Jesus, the invisible, glorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords, should assume His great power and begin His reign of a thousand years of triumph over sin and death. Nor is it our expectation that His kingdom will be inaugurated in a peaceful manner nor that the world will even know what is the matter with affairs. The Bible teaches us that we are on the verge of the most terrible time of trouble which the world has ever known. The only consolation we have in connection with this matter is that divine promise that behind that awful cloud of human misery and suffering, there is a silver lining. The storm will level poor humanity in the dust, but thereby incidentally it will act as a bloughshare to prepare humanity for the blessing of Messiah's reign of righteousness, peace, justice, truth."

"Can you wonder that we are cheerful, happy in the Lord," continued Pastor Russell, "rejoicing that we can now see our God and the teachings of the Bible in a new light—a light consistent with consecrated reasoning faculties? Can you wonder that we are happy to find that the Church is to get even greater blessings than we ever dreamed of—ever with the Lord Jesus, the Redeemer as His Bride in a great work of blessing, reclaiming and saving mankind from sin and death?"

"Can you wonder that we are happy in realizing that the heathen millions who never had an opportunity for testing and trial which God declares is secured for every member of Adam's race through the merit of Christ's sacrifice?" Can you wonder that we feel greatly relieved to know that many noble men and women, friends and neighbors of all denominations, not saintly and not followers in the footsteps of Jesus, and not therefore to be accounted worthy of a share of His kingdom as members of His Bride Class, are nevertheless to have a glorious provision in God's due time? We are glad that while we may hope for heavenly, spiritual blessings beyond the vail, the hope of the world is in restitution to all that was lost by sin and redeemed at Calvary. We are glad to think that in God's due time Adam and every member of his race will have full opportunity of coming back to harmony with God and to everlastingly life in an earthly Eden. We are glad to understand God's Word to teach that the second death will be everlasting—none will be redeemed from it. But we are glad that none but the wilfully wicked, the incorrigible, will be consigned to that obliteration, annihilation. Of such St. Peter tells us that they will perish "like natural brute beasts."

"Will it be long before these mat-

(Continued on page eight).

BIBLE STUDENTS' TEN DAY SESSION IN THE MOUNTAINS

President Russell's Review of Work of Ministers, Teachers and Scholars.

DIVERSIFIED PROGRAMME.

Large Attendance Proof of the Widespread Interest in the Proceedings.

"For the past week a most remarkable Bible school has been in session in the top of the Allegheny Mountains, in the well-known Chautauqua grounds. The hotels and cottages have been filled to overflowing, and numbers of cots have been in use. The delegates are from all parts of the world," said Pastor Russell, president of the association. "The enthusiasm is not of the boisterous sort, but manifests itself in earnestness of look and tone, and in the continued large attendances at the meetings. These begin in the morning and continue practically all day with an intermission for noon luncheon. The programmes are pleasantly varied. The large auditorium has splendid acoustic properties. Its capacity is rated at forty-five hundred, including the platform which seats five hundred men.

"Lovers of the Bible cannot fail to be impressed with the earnest fidelity of every speaker to the Holy Scriptures. Higher criticism finds no place on the programme, neither does the doctrine of evolution. Both are publicly denounced as contrary to the teachings of the Bible. The Bible is treated not as many books but as one book. The claim is set forth that it is God's Book because holy men of old spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. It is claimed that this operation of the Holy Spirit in the minds of the writers of the Bible is responsible for the oneness of their creeds in the past, but partially understood its teachings. Rightly understood it must be in complete harmony with itself and have but one teaching—one Lord—one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father over all, and one Lord Jesus Christ, and one Church of the First Born, whose names are written in heaven."—Hebrews XII, 23.

These students seem intent upon finding the harmony in the Bible

Aids To Bible Study

Pastor Russell's six volumes, entitled "STUDIES IN THE

SCRIPTURES," are obtainable in twelve different languages. Over

5,000,000 copies are in circulation. Thousands of Christian people write of the blessing received in Bible Study since obtaining the help furnished by these volumes.

They are published by The Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of Brooklyn, N. Y., at cost price. As a consequence the six beautiful volumes, in handsome cloth binding, over 3,000 pages, are sold, expressage prepaid, for the very small sum of \$2.00. This is only about the price usually charged for one such volume. Reader, you should have them. Do not delay the blessing they will bring.