

*The Star In The East*

BY

J. W. H. NICHOLS

## THE STAR IN THE EAST

Nearly twenty centuries ago, the most profound event this world has ever witnessed, was ushered in without ostentation. There was no great convulsion of nature; but a lone "star in the east" appeared, to gladden the hearts and eyes of those who looked for the fulfilment of the prophetic word.

Small indeed, was the remnant who "feared the Lord and spake often one to another," of Israel's hope and "looked for redemption in Israel," but they still cherished the word of the prophet: "Behold I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me AND THE LORD WHOM YE SEEK SHALL SUDDENLY COME TO HIS TEMPLE . . . BEHOLD HE SHALL COME, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS" (Mal: 3-1). The Simeon's and Anna's, whose dimming eyes had long since been closed to earthly glories, were illumined to see, in the blessed Babe, brought into the Temple in Jerusalem, the glad fruition of their hopes: ISRAEL'S LONG PROMISED MESSIAH, the Saviour Son of God.

The Magi too, in their far off country, had seen the star, and with anointed eyes, "they rejoiced with exceeding great joy" (Luke 2:1-10), and all this, while the religious world coldly and disinterestedly shut ears and hearts to the voice of God. Another "star in the east" is seen by faith today, not a heavenly constellation but an earthly omen, pregnant with deepest meaning, blessed portend of a bright and more glorious dawning of another day, when the Saviour will appear, and rapture His waiting people home to glory. The "star in the east" today directs our eyes once more to the Holy Land, where events have recently been happening with startling swiftness, and where prophecy is being rapidly fulfilled before our eyes.

Over thirty years before the great world war, Dr. H. Gratan Guinness, wrote in his book "Light for the Last Days" a sentence which now seems almost prophetic. He said: "There can be no question that those who live to see the year 1917 will have reached one of the most important, perhaps *the* most momentous, of these terminal years of crisis."

From the beginning of the war in 1914, no happening can be compared in importance, with that which took place when in 1917 General Allenby broke through the Turkish lines at Beersheba, and almost unresisted, pressed forward to his goal—Jerusalem which was entered in December, 1917. From that moment events kaleidoscopic in character—with lightening rapidity have taken place, and today the eyes of the world are focussed upon that land, destined by God to be the battle ground of the nations in the great final struggle.

It is evident that the great prophetic clock, (silent for so many centuries) has been started by the Hand of Omnipotence, and nothing can stay the trend of events which are rapidly ushering in the last moment of this dispensation. The Lord in that remarkable forecast of the future—given to His disciples, (Matthew, chapters 24 and 25) said: "Learn a parable of the fig tree, when his branch is yet tender and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh." (Matt. 24:32.)

There is today, a mighty exodus from the nations of the earth of the unwanted Jew; multitudes are flocking to Palestine, with the hope that the land of their fathers will prove a haven of rest. The nations too, are recognizing more and more that to that country they belong. Premier Mussolini has lately voiced these sentiments in his personal organ; "Il Popolo D'Italia," advocating the creation of a completely autonomous Jewish state, and suggests it shou'd have a population of not less than 8,000,000. The Italian paper says: "Only a state of this kind can offer a permanent solution of the Jewish problem," and further it states that Palestine, as it now exists,

is neither fish nor fowl, and does not satisfy Jews or Arabs.

It is further urged that Palestine have its own government, army, and navy, and it is suggested some steps be taken for the speedy emigration of the Arabs to some other country in exchange. This is interesting, coming from the source it does. Premier Mussolini does not say *how* these things are to be done, but at least we see that the fig tree is putting forth its leaves and that the politicians today are unconsciously helping the Jews back to the land, though in unbelief.

There is a remarkable word in Deuteronomy 32:8-9: "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel; for the Lord's portion is His people, Jacob is the lot of His inheritance." The first part of this scripture refers to Genesis 10, when the original settlement of the great national boundaries took place. How little men grasp the fact, that when this was done, the Most High (God's millennial Title) did so in direct reference to a people then unformed! This is an important and deeply interesting fact we do well to ponder. If we look from the divine standpoint upon history and geography we shall recognize that Palestine and the children of Abraham are God's center, and that little strip of country bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, (some 11,000 square miles in area) is the pivot upon which the destinies of nations turn.

Elaborate and voluminous have been the written histories of many nations, greater and more important in the eyes of men than that little strip of land; but these, in God's eyes are as nothing, when compared with that country which He has chosen and designs to call His own. Here, without doubt, is the prophetic center of the earth, and though the sons of Jacob have been for centuries broken, peeled, scattered, despised, downtrodden, and oppressed, as they are in a measure today, this won-

derful people more alone than any other, in spite of the fact that they have no kingdom or country, are the greatest standing witness to the Word of God and His faithfulness, and in them lies the key and solution of the great eastern problem which for so many years has baffled the wisdom of the cleverest politicians.

It is in this direction, God is quietly but assuredly working out His purpose; and today, there is every indication that the time is near, when the Jews, as a nation, will once more be found in the Holy Land. Rapid strides have been made in this direction, since the "Balfour declaration" startled the world, and immense numbers of Jews have flocked back to Palestine, but it is obvious that—since the sons of Ishmael are in possession, grave problems have to be faced and solved for—as we say, "possession is nine points of law" and the Arab resents this entrance of the ancient stock, whose ability and aggressiveness is threatening to disposses him. Strange indeed it is, but true, *the Jew is unwanted*, even in his own country! In spite, however, of all the hatred and opposition of the Arabs, the sons of Jacob must soon possess Palestine, and when God Himself establishes them in the land, they will hold undisputed sway from the Nile to the Euphrates, according to the promise made to Abraham. (Genesis 15:18.)

But this will only be the commencement of more stirring events than this world has ever witnessed, which will amaze the world and be—the beginning of the end.

To better understand this interesting subject, it is necessary to briefly trace their *national* history. For our present purpose, we need not go beyond the time when the people no longer satisfied with the leadership of God, demanded a King, desiring to be "*like other nations.*" Saul, the Son of Kish the Benjamite, was the choice of the people, and they lived to rue the day, when their rebellious hearts turned from the Living God (Samuel 8:7), and they proved the truth of His Word, "Ye shall cry out in that day because of your King which we shall have chosen,

and the Lord will not hear you in that day." (Samuel 8:18.) How frequently we see that principle of scripture exemplified, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." This remains true whether as to individuals or nations.

Saul—as we well know, was finally rejected from the throne by God Himself and He chose David, a man after His own heart, to be king. To David—Israel's deliverer—God made promise of a stable throne. (2 Sam. 7:7.) How beautiful it is to see David sitting before the Lord (verse 18) accepting God's promises, in the simplicity of faith, and without a question as to "how" or "when," pouring out his full heart in adoration and thanksgiving!

David, after establishing the kingdom, passed away, to be succeeded by his son Solomon, whose peaceful reign is a blessed type of Christ's millennial glory. How greatly God honored him! but alas, history repeats itself and we can only exclaim, "what is man"! The reign which commenced so brightly and promised so much ended in failure on his part. We read that "his wives turned away his heart" (1 Kings 11:3), and he who was the honored instrument to build that magnificent temple, turned to idolatry (verse 5) and brought God's chastening upon his house. As a result, the kingdom was divided at the death of Solomon; ten tribes were given by God to Jeroboam, while Judah and Benjamin alone remained to Rehoboam, Solomon's son.

The subsequent history of both these kingdoms, tells the same story of unfaithfulness. God bore long with the backsliding of His people, and waited patiently for their repentance, yet again and again we read the same sad story of departure and idolatry. There were brighter intervals and at times godly kings, but alas, it appears the human heart is set to do wickedness. God's solemn indictment against His people we read in 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. His repeated warnings by His messengers unheeded, in His governmental dealing. He first allowed the Assyrians to carry away the ten tribes in the reign

of Hoshea, son of Elah (2 Kings 17). From that time Israel is lost to our knowledge, but known to God, who will yet gather them from among the nations, back to the land. In 2 Chronicles 36, we read that God brought upon the Jews, the King of the Chaldees who slew with the sword and carried away captive to Babylon, destroying Jerusalem with its magnificent temple, and carrying the holy vessels away as the spoils of war. From this time, Scripture is more occupied with the history of the Jewish Kingdom (Judah and Benjamin).

Through the prophet Hosea (chapter 1:9) God said: "Ye are not my people, and I will not be your God," therefore, He has written over them, "Lo-ammi," and as a nation, they are left to their oppressors. It is here that "The Times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24) commenced. (See chart.) It is these "Times of the Gentiles" which are so graphically and minutely described in the book of Daniel, commencing with the domination of Nebuchadnezzar, and ending with the coming of the Son of Man in glory, when the kingdoms of this world will give way and be superseded by the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is very much in the lives of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, both instructive and typical, but this need not detain us, since our purpose is to give a brief outline of events, which lead up to the present world crisis, and its culmination.

### **SEVENTY YEARS CAPTIVITY**

(See Chart)

In the book of Daniel we read (Chapter 9:2): "I, Daniel, understood by books, the number of years whereof the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolation of Jerusalem," and in 2 Chronicles 36:21, we read that the carrying away of the Jews to Babylon, was for the fulfillment of this Word that the land might enjoy her sabbaths.

In Leviticus 25, we find the divine institution of one year in seven to be given to God and the land. In Ezekiel 22:8, we read, "Thou hast despised mine holy things and profaned my sabbaths."

For 490 years the nation robbed the land—and God—of the year of rest, so that seventy years was a debt which had to be repaid. We cannot trifle with God, and as this ordinance had been set aside, the time of retribution came, and the land was left desolate for three score years and ten. The lament of the captives we read in Psalm 137:2 "By the rivers of Babylon there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps on the willows in the midst thereof. For there, they that carried us away captive required of us a song and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying: 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.' How shall we sing the songs of the Lord in a strange land?"

As those seventy years expired, the time arrived for the fulfilment of the first part of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's vision. (Daniel 2:31 and chapter 7.)

#### **FOUR WORLD EMPIRES**

(See Chart)

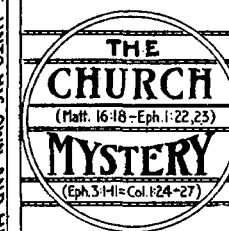
The dream, forgotten by the King, was recalled by Daniel: "Thou O King, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee: and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and arms of silver, his belly and thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part iron and part clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image on his feet that were of iron and clay, and break them to pieces. Then was the iron and clay, the brass, the silver and the gold broken to pieces together and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floor and the wind carried them away and there was found no place for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."



# The Four Great World Empires according to Daniel The Prophet (Matt.24:15)

Jewish Rule - Two Tribes.		"The Times of the Gentiles."				"The Times of the Gentiles." Luke 21:24.			The Twelve Tribes One Nation in the Land		
"Hath God Cast Away His People?" Rom.11:1.		"Messiah... Cut off"				"God Hath Not Cast Away His People" Rom.11:2					
THESE FOUR BEASTS		1	2	3	4	(PARENTHETICAL DISP'N)	4	(3)	"AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM" Dan.7:27.		
A	Chap.2 Neb's Dream	Great Image	Head of Gold	Breast & Arms of Silver	Belly & Thighs of Brass	Legs of Iron			Kingdom of Heaven (The King ABSENT).		
VERSE	1	31	32	32	32	33			feet (a toes) (Little Horn)		
B	Chap.7 Dan's 1st Vision	Four Beasts	Lion	Bear	Leopard	4th Beast Dreadful etc.			"and it had ten horns" and there came up among them another little horn!"		
VERSE	1	2,3	4	5	6	7,19			[Little Horn] [ "B" ]		
C	Chap.8 Dan's 2nd Vision			2 Horned Ram	1 Horned He-Goat				out of one of them came forth a little horn."		
VERSE	1,2			3	5				9:12		
A	Chap.2 Interpretation		Thou art This Head of Gold	Another Kingdom Inferior	3rd Kingdom of Brass	4th Kingdom Strong as Iron			"The Kingdom Shall be Divided."		
VERSE	36		37,38	39	39	40			41-43		
B	Chap.7 Interpretation.	Are Four Kings				4th Beast is the 4th Kingdom.			"The ten horns are ten kings" "another king shall arise the prince that shall come"		
VERSE	15,16	17				19,23			(20),24 (20),24,(9:26)		
C	Chap.8 Interpretation			Kings of Media & Persia	King of Grecia				"And the people... Shall Destroy" "A king of fierce countenance shall stand up" ("a vile person")		
VERSE	15,19			20	21				23-25(1;21-32)		
"ARE FOUR KINGS?"		BABYLON 70 Years Captivity	MEDO-PERSIA	GREECE	ROME (ROME dwelling)	(ROME non-existing)			ROME, (Revived), (ASSYRIAN)		
DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS		7 WEEKS	62 WEEKS			UNRECKONED TIME	I WEEK		1000 YEARS		
THE OLD TESTAMENT				THE GOSPELS		THE ACTS THE EPISTLES		THE REVELATION			
THE KINGDOM PROMISED				THE KINGDOM PREACHED		THE KINGDOM FORM IN MYSTERY		THE KINGDOM PREACHED		THE KINGDOM SET UP	

"HE CAME INTO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT"



"THE SECOND COMING of the CHRIST Dan.7:10,22  
The "stone cut out without hands" Dan.2:34,35  
The Beast dethroned. Dan.7:24  
The Beast slain Dan.7:11  
The Assyrian "broken" Dan.8:25(1;45)  
The Saints Reign Dan.7:18,22,27.

It is with the latter decree that the celebrated seventy weeks of Daniel commences (Daniel 9), it being divided thus: seven weeks, *the restoration period*, then sixty-two weeks *until the cutting off of Messiah*; the last week *yet unfulfilled*. Here it is important to see that it is sevens of years, not weeks of seven days. The word rendered "weeks" does not necessarily mean weeks as we use the term, but as already stated, "heptads."

The exactitude of the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy, Chapters 7 and 8, may well fill anyone (apart from any spiritual insight) with wonder. The He-goat (we are told) is the King of Grecia. Daniel wrote 300 years before Alexander the Great, who was victorious over the Persian power, and Ch. 8:21 is confirmed by history that when he died the kingdom was split into four parts (Ch. 7:6 and 8:8), and out of this, according to the prophet, there should arise "a little horn."

This third or Grecian power is to be revived, like the fourth power, and will be in the last conflict, when the Lord Jesus comes in warrior judgment (Rev. 19) and so will meet its doom, after that of the Beast and false prophet (or the ten kingdom confederacy and the anti-Christ).

Daniel 11 shows that upon its break-up the Grecian kingdom should be divided toward the four winds of Heaven, and "not to his posterity." It was divided between his generals, and did not pass to his sons.

At the time of Daniel's prophecy Rome had just been founded, a mere village on the banks of the Tiber. To think of it as ever becoming a world-wide and tyrannical empire would seem impossible, yet Daniel confidently affirms its entrance into the political arena. The dominion of Alexander, being divided at his decease, Rome suddenly arose to power, and about 50 B. C. became mistress of the world. Rev. 13 gives us its rise from among the nations. The vision is similar to Daniel 7, thus the beast of composite character has the marks of all the king-

doms, pictured in the four beasts. This last beast has "seven heads, one of which was wounded to death, but afterwards healed." Rev. 17:10 says the seven heads are seven kings. In John's time five had fallen, one then existed, the other had not, nor has yet appeared. Verse 12 says: "The ten horns . . . are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings, one hour with the beast." This points to the revived Roman empire, in a ten kingdom confederacy form, with a prince at its head.

This must not be confounded with the Roman papal power, though a close alliance may exist, but "Babylon the Great" of Rev. 17 embraces more, and pictures the vast worldly religious system dazzling the nations by her wealth, magnificence and artifice, called "the mother of harlots," a great Satanic and ensnaring system.

#### **ROMAN EMPIRE REVIVED**

(See Chart)

The Roman Empire then, must be revived, and the map of the old Roman Empire clearly indicates the meaning of the recent fearful conflict in Europe as preparing the way for the fulfillment of Scripture.

Many, perplexed by the present world-wide crisis, are asking if Scripture does not give us light upon it. Undoubtedly it does, but we must remember that the present period, from the cutting off of Messiah until the Lord's coming for his Church (I Thes. 4:15, 16, 17) does not come into prophetic Scriptures at all. Her origin and destiny is heavenly, and before the thread of prophecy is resumed she must be removed. Manifestly we are at the close of the present parenthetical period, and events are rapidly preparing the way for the fulfillment of God's purpose concerning the earth, but as kingdoms totter and fall, the eye of faith can pierce the midnight gloom and hail the morning dawn.

With "times and seasons" (I Thes. 5:1) the Church has no connection. She will be kept "out of the hour of

temptation, which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth." (Rev. 3-10 N. T.) This cannot be too strongly emphasized, as it is the key to a right understanding of prophetic truth.

With the removal of the Church to Heaven, the Holy Spirit (the great restraining power of evil) will also depart (2 Thes. 2:7), ushering in a time of unrestrained wickedness, and Satan, at some time prior to the last half of Daniel's unfulfilled week, (see chart) cast out into the earth (Rev. 12:9), will dominate the world.

Events will then move with kaleidoscopic rapidity, and Palestine, rapidly coming into prominence even now, will be the battle ground of the nations. A ten-kingdom confederacy will be quickly formed of the western powers (reviving the old Roman Empire) with a supreme head, to whom every political difficulty can be referred. Already such a coalition is spoken of and the suggestion made that international difficulties be settled by a referee. England's future is bound up with the Roman Empire. Russia, unconnected with this coalition, but possibly forming another, stands as the dominant eastern power and must necessarily increase in greatness.

The prophecies which definitely connect Russia with prophecy are found in Ezekiel 38 and 39. In the former we read: . . . "Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: . . . Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya" (Phut, Marg), verses 3-6. Of this passage J. N. Darby says: "The chief prince of Meshech and Tubal is properly translated, Prince of Rosh (Russia), Meshech (Moscow), and Tubal (Tobolsk). This translation, of whose correctness I have no doubt, is of the elder Lowth some hundred and fifty years ago; before these prophetic views were mooted." (Collected writings, Vol. 8-453.)

Again, "If you consult Genesis 10, the generations of the sons of Japheth are named Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. Of these we get Gomer, Magog, Tubal, Meshech under the same names

as followers of Gog in Ezekiel 38, you will also find Persia which was united to Media (Madai). These mentioned above are the nations that comprise Russia, Asia Minor, Tartary, and Persia . . . They are described as under the dominion of Gog, Prince of Rosh (Russia), Meshech (Moscow), Tubal (Tobolsk)." Collected writings, Vol. 2-517.

The Assyrian power, too, must once more come into prominence. During this time matters will develop in the religious world. The Jews, gathered back to their land in unbelief, will reinstate their temple worship, and at the commencement of the last seven years of Daniel's prophecy, will make a covenant with "the Prince" spoken of. It will be broken in the midst of the week (Dan. 9:27), and then will follow Jacob's time of sorrow, the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21), and day of vengeance. (Luke 21:22.)

For three years and a half all the sorrows predicted by the Lord (see Matthew 24) will be poured upon the guilty Jews, a just retribution for their treatment of their Messiah.

Anti-Christ, whose blasphemous claims are foretold in 2nd Thes. 2:4, Rev. 13, etc., will not only gain the homage of the apostate Jews, but sway the Roman Empire. In Rev. 13 we are told "they worship the dragon who gave power unto the beast." Hell's counterfeit trinity will meet their doom at the Lord's warrior judgment. (Rev. 19: 11, 12.)

#### **BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON**

Compared with this final struggle, the great world war sinks into insignificance. Armageddon, mentioned in Revelation 16:16 (the word means Mount of Slaughter) will be the battle ground of the world in that coming day. Satan, cast out of heaven, marshals the armies of the world in the land, in apostate hatred to God and His people. "The harvest of the earth" ripe, the sharp sickle of God's judgments will be thrust into the earth

and reaped. (See Revelation 19:15-20.) Here, apostate Russia will meet her doom, and the prophecy of Ezekiel, Chapters 38 and 39 will be fulfilled. The confederate nations too, in open rebellion against divine authority will "make war with the Lamb" (Rev. 17:14), but the pride and power of men will finally be broken and the armies slain with the sword of the One Who sits upon the white horse (Rev. 19:11) "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

The leaders, the first beast of Rev. 19:19 (head of the revived Roman Empire) and the false prophet (Anti-Christ) the open blasphemer, and the intriguing, corrupting deceiver are "cast alive into the lake of fire." (Rev. 19:19, 20.) The third person of the counterfeit trinity, viz., the Devil, does not meet final doom until the close of the Millennium.

What a miserable contrast to the two Old Testament witnesses: *Enoch*, who when the world fast hasted to the flood, walked with God and was translated. Then when the world has grown older in wickness, and Israel was corrupt and apostate, *Elijah* gave his faithful testimony, and was also taken to heaven without dying. Here these two deceivers are cast alive into the lake of fire, without the judgment of the great white throne, and before Satan is cast there.

Today there exists an almost universal longing for peace on earth. Many and varied are man's schemes to bring it about. Some said that when the late war ended, the nations must perforce enter a compact that would shut out war. Others thought a supreme power would rise out of it to whom all questions could be referred for final decision. But all this ignores God. He will first purge the earth with judgment and all evil will be restrained, when Satan is bound. (Rev. 20:1 and 3.) The supreme head to whom every question can be referred, is the One to Whom God can alone entrust universal government, and of Him He had said: "Yet have I set my

king upon my holy hill of Zion . . . Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession." (Psa. 2:7, 8.)

### **MILLENNIUM ESTABLISHED**

(See Chart)

Rev. 20 sees all things in Heaven and earth gathered under the headship of Christ and His saints. All things are under Him now, in title, but it will be then in manifestation. Psalm 97 celebrates that day. "The Lord reigneth," then all creation will be delivered from its groanings, and rejoice under His glorious reign (Rom. 8:21, 23). Of this kingdom the prophets have written. Isaiah 2:9 gives us its characteristics, and Psalm 72:8 its extent. Another has said, "Christ will be then publicly exalted in the world, in the very place where He was despised and rejected. And the saints will be publicly exalted with Christ in the place of their shame and sorrow, where they have followed Christ with feeble and faltering steps, but where they clave to the name of Jesus in spite of loss and reproach, but besides these special rewards there is the glory, blessedness and joy which will never pass away."

The Jews already in the land in unbelief, will look upon Him Whom they pierced (Zech. 12). The ten tribes slumbering among the nations when reassembled at the blast of the trumpet (Lev. 23:24), will ask, "What are those wounds in Thy hands?" and He will reply, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends" (Zech. 13:6). Then it will be said: "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him, and He will save us; this is the Lord, we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation. He will swallow up death in victory and the Lord God will wipe away all tears from off all faces, and the rebuke of His people shall be taken away from off all the earth" (Isaiah 25:8 and 9).

The nations also, who have received the messengers and accepted the "Gospel of the Kingdom," will enjoy

the millennial blessings (Matt. 25:34-40), and all the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. For a thousand years it will witness the righteous reign of Christ, the poor no longer oppressed, nor the righteous suffering (Psa. 72), everything perfectly adjusted by His hand. Sin (for there will be sin in the millennium, man's heart being the same), will be instantly dealt with (Isa. 65:20), for righteousness will reign. But even that bright day will end, as every previous dispensation, with man in rebellion against God. Brief and graphic is the description given in Rev. 20:7, 19. A thousand years of untold blessings will no more convert souls to God than all the outward blessings of this Gospel day. Apart from new birth man's case is hopeless. Once more Satan is loosed, millions flock to his standard. Jerusalem, the city of the Great King, and the earthly saints, will be attacked, but short and sharp is the judgment that falls upon them, "Fire came down out of Heaven and devoured them," and the leader, Satan, is cast directly into the lake of fire.

Thus ends God's dealings with the earth, the scene of all man's boasted greatness, and when His purposes have been accomplished, all that is visible will pass away, as a thing God has done with (2 Peter 2:10, 13). The final judgment of those who have died in their sins will be held (Rev. 20:12, 15), and all whose names are not in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

#### **ETERNAL STATE**

What a beautiful contrast to all that characterizes this sad earth is presented in Rev. 21:1-4. The Eternal state reached, God rests in the eternal delight of that new earth wherein will dwell righteousness; every trace of this sad earth will be wiped out. God will tabernacle with men, and men shall find their eternal delight in Him.

As a final word, the Lord speaks in grace: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give *unto him that is athirst* of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Rev. 21:6). Reader, interesting as present hap-



penings may be in the light of the revealed Word, and *stirring* as future events may be as pictured in prophetic scriptures, the all important question for all most assuredly must be, "What think ye of Christ?" He is the center of all God's purposes and counsels. *By Him*, and *for Him* were all things created "whether they be thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers" (Colossians 1:16). Is He your Saviour and Lord?

We stand at the close of the present age, with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ imminent, and the gospel era rapidly closing; let it not be that you miss your way, and find yourself outside a closed door, exposed to impending judgment. The thirsty may yet drink of the water of life; the cross of Christ, center of two eternities, is the alone ground of all God's dealings with men, and the one who trusts that blessed, once crucified, now glorified Saviour is eternally saved, and united to the One Who is the theme of all Scripture.

J. W. H. Nichols.

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A book especially adapted for the young, giving the interesting story of its romantic preservation and various translations.