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The Great Exhibition Tracts.

(No. 2.)

ARE YOU GOING UP?

No doubt many from every nation of the earth have thought about going up to see man's Great Exhibition—the most wonderful sight on earth. The nations may be said to have brought their glory and honor into it—the works of art, and manufacture, of the whole world. Well, then, the question will be put by thousands, "Are you going up to see it?" Thousands will answer "Yes;" and thousands will answer "No." Some will go up and see it, and many will remain behind. Now this reminds one, that even in this particular, there is a striking analogy betwixt what is about to take place in God's great exhibition, and what is now taking place in man's comparatively little exhibition—I say little, for we found in Tract No. 1, that if even the whole human race were brought into the heavenly city, that there would be far more space there for each, supposing the number to be 120,000 millions, than the space of man's Great Exhibition altogether. Be it however remembered, that that building is not of earth, or on earth—it is the heavenly city, whose builder and maker is God.

In the earthly exhibition, is the display of all that man can do by the works of his hands. In the heavenly building, shall be displayed what God hath done in the wonders of redeeming grace. But the point of analogy

—When Jesus gave His loved ones the promise of these heavenly mansions, He gave ~~one~~ divine certain assurance: as surely as He went to prepare a place for them, so surely would He come again to receive them unto Himself. Just hear His words, “In My father’s house are many mansions I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”—(John xiv. 2, 3.) I do not wish to discuss this as a doctrine, but may I ask my reader—“*Are you going up?*”

Jesus has finished the blessed work of redemption—the Holy One of God has died for sin—He has been buried—He is risen—He has gone up on high to prepare mansions of jasper and shining gold—He will come again to receive His own to Himself. I ask, then, this one all-important question, *Are you going up to meet Him, like the thousands that are going up to see the Exhibition? or, when the redeemed of the Lord shall go up, will you be left behind? You may say, “Why! not many professors of Christ even, think much about going up!” Too true: yea, even some scoff at the thought of His coming again; but is not this one of the signs of the last days? “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of His coming?”*—(2 Peter iii. 3.)

But he who knows Jesus, knows that His words are true. He knows that Jesus has died, and now his sins are washed away in His blood. He knows that Jesus is

risen—and now the believer is justified from all things. He knows that “This same Jesus, which is taken up into heaven, shall so come in like manner.”—(Acts i. 11.) Reader, why should I, as a believer, doubt the word of God? Did not believers in the very days of the apostles “WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN?”—(1 Thess. i. 10.) Had Paul any other hope than the untold joy and crown of rejoicing these converts would be to him “in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” (1 Thess. ii. 19.) I might fill pages of Scripture that speak of this blessed hope. The thoughts of going up ever filled the souls of the apostles. Could words be more plain than these?—“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain, SHALL BE CAUGHT UP together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”—(1 Thess. iv. 16, 17.)

I say, I do not here discuss this as a doctrine. These are God’s words: I believe them—The Lord Himself shall come from heaven—the dead in Christ shall rise first—all believers whose sins are forgiven, shall go up to meet Him, and be for ever with Him. He says, “I will come again, and receive you to Myself”—as surely as death and judgment is the certain doom of all out of Christ. “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many: and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time, without sin, unto salvation.”—(Heb. ix. 28.)

Are you looking for Him?—are you thinking of going up? What a moment!—and so certain to come! and come when the world least expects it! Yes, even whilst the men of this world are thronging the courts of man's Exhibition, even then the saints of God may be caught up in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. We know not the hour when the Son of man cometh. There seems to be a striking analogy betwixt the present time and the day of Noah—great were the buildings of those mighty men of old, men of renown—but the flood came and destroyed them all. And Jesus has said, Even so shall it be when the Son of man cometh. Well, what do you think of going up? Could you meet the eye of Christ with joy? Ah, nothing can fit you to meet that holy face but His own precious blood!

Fellow Christian, whose sins are all forgiven—thou who art dead, and risen with Christ—oh, let us think more of going up! A few more setting suns, at most, and we shall go up, and be for ever in the jasper city, which has “No need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it: for the glory of God did brighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”

C. S.

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