



WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?
WHERE WILL IT ALL END?

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and *all* kindreds of the earth shall wail *because of him.*” (Rev. i. 7.)

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LONDON :
G. MORRISH, 20, PATERNOSTER SQUARE.

PRICE ONE PENNY.





It is desired that the scriptures referred to should be carefully read, in order that the statements made should be verified.

“*All* scripture is given by inspiration of God.” (2 Tim. iii. 16.)



WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? WHERE WILL IT ALL END?

THESE two questions must surely have been raised in the mind of every thinking man and woman during the last few years. The world-wide disorder and unrest, affecting, as it does, the *social* order in every country, as well as the strife and ill-will between *nations*, has become a commonplace topic, remarked upon wherever men meet and exchange views—with no solution as to it, indeed, in their minds, but in many a lingering hope, carefully fostered and appealed to by politicians, of the “dawn of a

new world" where men will no longer live as they have done for the last five or six thousand years, "hateful and hating one another," but by some unexplained process arrive at the peace and harmony of universal brotherhood.

The great war was said to be a "War to end war," and multitudes joined in the conflict with that in their minds, only, alas ! to be utterly disillusioned as they see the same spirit at work among the nations, avarice and jealous hate—the sure precursor of further armed conflict.

It is the writer's desire to point out the position in so far as he is able, so that no reader shall remain in the dark as to what it all means, and where it will all end.

The first thing to notice in regard to the present difficulties in the world, and the efforts of the leaders to solve them, is the entire absence of any reference to *God* and His claims. It is as if men, while they outwardly and nominally refer to Him, decline to admit He has any title to say as to the division of the earth ; they will stand up for *their* rights, and the rights of *small* nations, as they say, but *God's* rights—that *He* should have a say as to the dividing of the earth—are studiously ignored or refused. Now, as according to Genesis x. and xi. it was *God* who first divided men into nations, it would only seem right that *He* should order their goings, and determine the bounds of their habitations, and so He will !

To emphasise this, I would draw the reader's attention to a verse of scripture which refers to Genesis x., namely, Deuteronomy xxxii. 8: "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." This plainly shews that the "grouping of the nations" we hear so much about depends entirely upon Israel being restored to their true place as God's centre of government on earth, in which they will shortly be reinstated, under Christ.

The present happenings are just the introductory movements before God takes in hand the overthrow of the present world-system in order to bring

in the time of glory and rule and blessing He has ever had in His mind, in which He will display Himself in His triumph of good over evil in Christ.

It is in the blessed Man who solved the question of good and evil in the cross (by being made sin, and putting away sin by the sacrifice of Himself) that God will shortly take up the reins of the government of this world. "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness *by that man* whom he hath ordained ; whereof he hath given assurance *unto all men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead." (Acts xvii. 31.)

The present world-wide upheavals are just the preliminary warnings which the Lord Jesus spoke of when

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He was on earth. "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars ; and upon the earth distress of nations, *with perplexity* ; the sea and the waves roaring " (Luke xxi. 25)—language pointing clearly to the overthrow of all ordered government (of which sun, moon and stars are figures), and the tumultuous upheaving of the masses of men (figured by the sea and waves).

Let me draw the reader's attention to the previous verse (ver. 24), where the Lord speaks of Jerusalem being trodden down until the *times* of the *Gentiles* be fulfilled. Now Daniel in his wonderful prophecy gives us (chap. ii.) in the form of a great image the history of these great Gentile monarchies or empires. The gold, silver,

brass, and iron, and iron mixed with clay, well-known characteristics of the great Gentile imperial powers which followed one another—gold, the Babylonish ; silver, the Persian ; brass, the Grecian ; iron, the Roman ; and in the last, iron intermingled with clay, forming the feet of the image, we have the final character of the Gentile Empire. Iron, the military power crushing everything standing in its way. Clay, the democratic element which, as is stated in verse 43, is utterly incapable of combining with the spirit of militarism suggested in the *iron*. Who can doubt that this is an exact description of the forces at work in the world to-day ?

Now, mark specially what happens. Is, as is so constantly taught to-day

by the religious leaders of Christendom, Christ coming in to gather up all these elements and be the crown of glory to this universal Gentile supremacy ? *By NO means.* Read verses 34 and 35. "A stone cut out without hands" (figure of Christ as receiving His kingdom from God, without any human agency) *breaks them to pieces*—iron, clay, brass, silver and gold—and the stone that smites them becomes a great mountain and fills *the whole earth.* *This* is the way God's kingdom on earth will be set up publicly. (Ver. 44.) *This*, therefore, is what it all means, and where it will all end !

And now, reader, there is another question, and that is, How do you stand in regard to God and His ways ? Standing,

as we do, on the very threshold of the accomplishment of Daniel's prophecy, do you pay heed to them ? Perhaps you are among the many who never attend divine service, as it is called, without praying, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done *on earth*, as it is in heaven" ! Have you ever given a thought, as that prayer has come from your lips, as to what it involves ? what it will *mean* for God to set up His kingdom publicly on earth ! and whether *you* are prepared for it ?

Not only so, but there is also the question of your own personal relations with God ! When you think of Him and His just claims over you, and the question of your sins or guilty state, have you found the solution of it all ? and your conscience

and heart, are they at rest when you think of God ?

Let me tell you where you *will* find the solution of all these things—*in Christ*. Nowhere else ! The leaders of *this* world, who are trying to put in order a world already lying under the judgment of God, cannot help you in your soul's relations with God, or remove the pressure of death from your spirit. *Christ will do both*.

Suppose you try and begin to lead a better life, as men say, what about your past history, as it comes under the searching eye of God ? Will it stand that holy light ? You *know* it will not ; then why not turn to Christ and find every difficulty met and settled for ever ? *He* is God's answer to every question you may raise.

God has taken up, in this the day of His grace, the gracious attitude of a Saviour to all men, yourself included, in the blessed Man who gave Himself a ransom *for all*, and He invites you to commit yourself to Him. The cost has been *His*—the giving up of His Son for the suffering and woe of Calvary. The blessing is yours—without *any* demand. Your eternal welfare, indeed, is bound up in its acceptance or rejection.

If you are the head of a household, God would include your household in the blessing. His heart is great, commensurate with the way He has acted in Christ toward you. Believe on Him and you shall be saved, "*and thy house.*" (Acts xvi. 31.)

God *justifies* the believer in Jesus—He delights to clear you from your sins and guilt on the ground of the blood-shedding of Jesus, and give you an eternal footing in His presence, not on the ground of *your merit* or *works*, but on the ground of the merit and worth of the Person and work of Christ. Wrath—governmental wrath from heaven—is coming on this present world system as surely as the sun will arise to-morrow ! “Much more then, being now justified by *his* blood, we shall *be saved from wrath* through him.” (Rom. v. 9.)

Put yourself and your household under the shelter of Christ ! He is to-day “an hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest ; as rivers of water in a

dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." (Isa. xxxii. 2.) "Blessed," indeed, "are *all* they that put their trust in him." Where will you find rest if you do not find it in Him ? Will the President of the United States, or the rulers of any of the mighty empires you see shaken to the foundations to-day, give it to you ? or the trade unions ? or the Bolshevik régime ? Let the appeal of the Lord Jesus fall upon your ears once again and find a place in your heart. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and *I* will give you rest." (Matt. xi. 28.)

That appeal fell from His lips when here on earth, but is voiced again by the Spirit and the bride at

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the moment of His imminent return from heaven. "Let him that is athirst *come*. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. xxii. 17.)

Let the present world conditions be, as God intends they should be, His warning voice to you to avail yourself of the grace He presents to you *to-day*—lest the moment "when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth" should find you unprepared.

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Made and Printed in England.

London : G. MORRISH, 20, Paternoster Square, E.C.