"There shall arise False Christs and False Prophets and show great signs and wonders. . . . .
"Behold I have told you before."—Matt. 24:24-25.

SECTION 3

GOD’S GREAT PROPHECIES

No. 7—THE ANTICHRIST—Individual or System?
No. 8—THE ANTICHRIST—Man or Demon?
No. 9—The BATTLE of ARMAGEDDON or The Climax of Battles.

The Events that take place between the RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH and the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST are so awe-inspiring and terrible that one cannot fail to be impressed by the degradation and blasphemy of humanity in sin and wickedness; thus it is that the MAN of SIN is able to delude them.

‘Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that ANTICHRIST SHALL COME, even now are there many Antichrists: whereby ye KNOW THAT IT IS THE LAST TIME.’

—I. John, 2:18

Prophetic Bible Conference Lectures
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YOU SHOULD NOTE THIS

Books of Prophecy are not easy reading, although they should be intensely interesting. They assume a careful knowledge of past history as well as a wise discernment of movements now in operation. But more than this, a broad, comprehensive knowledge of God’s Word is fundamentally essential. This is probably the main reason that the field of prophetic investigation is so largely neglected.

Another reason is found in the confusion of the various schools of interpretation. Of these there are two main Systems with various sub-divisions in each. One is avowedly Non-prophetic, with its Sceptical, Preterist, and pseudo-spiritual divisions. Of these, the first denies; the second relegates to the past; and the third, Spiritualizes away all prophecy and its fulfilment.

The True Prophetic System includes two Schools—the HISTORICAL and the FUTURIST. These correlate with each other and yet are quite distinct. Thus, the Historic Interpreters, hold that the seventy weeks in Daniel represent a continuous period from the Edict of Artaxerxes to Christ’s Second Coming, and that the visions of the Apocalypse extend over a continuous period from the time of St. John to the Second Coming of our Lord. The Futurist, on the other hand, considers that the first sixty-nine weeks extend to the crucifixion of our Lord, and the seventieth week is a separate period of seven years, immediately prior to our Lord’s Second Coming; and the visions of St. John he contends are mainly concerned with that seventieth week.

My own contention is that the complete interpretation of Prophecy requires both schools. There is both Historical and Futurist truth in Prophecy. The divine revelation has been hammered out of the anvil of human experience, and the visions of the future have always a basis in history past or present. That is why the Books of Prophecy are still the statesmen’s best guide to sound wisdom.
PROPHETIC LECTURE No. 7

THE ANTI-CHRIST

1—INDIVIDUAL or SYSTEM?

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF LAST THREE LECTURES

In our previous three lectures we dealt in general with the Keystone event of Prophecy, viz: THE SECOND Coming of the Lord, and the events that cluster about it. I tried to point out that GOD'S Word plainly declares that the Coming of the Lord is preceded by certain events (2 Thess. 2:1-10) one of which is the Rapture of the Church. Between the Rapture and the Day of the Lord is a period of about seven years, known as Daniel's 70th week. Everyone who recognizes this seven year period knows at once the folly of predicting the Coming of the Lord in 1919, 1923 or 1926.

We then pointed out the necessity of getting a general view of this 70th week before plunging into details. We suggested that the Analytic Method of Prophetic Study (beginning with the whole and proceeding to the details) be used in order to avoid confusion and misapplication.

The Divisions of Daniel's Week Emphasized

Following this Analytic Method we then pointed out the Three Great Divisions of this period of Seven Years.

(1) Forty-two Months.

During this time the temple worship will be established in Jerusalem and continued. It is stated that there are secretly hidden away, at the present time, in the homes of some of the rich Jews of Italy, Great Britain, United States, France and Russia, gorgeous parts of the temple—the ivory-work and the gold, and the bronze and silver ornaments—which shall be rushed to Palestine as soon as the proper time comes. Can you picture the temple rising to its completion in an incredibly short space of time the covenant signed with the Antichrist for Seven Years, and the Daily Sacrifice beginning?

Suddenly, however, to the surprise of all, the order comes from this Antichrist: "The Daily Sacrifice must cease!" And 144,000 loyal Hebrews willingly pay the supreme penalty for defending their covenanted rights.

(2) 1260 Days.

Following this appears the two witnesses, Elijah and Enoch, who will bear their testimony for 1260 days, warning the people of coming judgment and the Day of the Lord. At the conclusion of this period the two witnesses will be slain by the Antichrist and left in the streets of Jerusalem for 3½ days, at the end of which they shall be taken to Heaven. Rev. 11:7-10.)

(3) Time, Times and Half a Time.

After this period of witnessing and the faithful ones' slaughter, the Great Tribulation Period of 75 days will occur. At the end of "time" (i.e., 30 days)
the Image of the Antichrist is to be set up in Jerusalem and all commerce will be controlled by the "powers that be," just as they controlled us one summer (1918) when we were carrying around our registration cards. A greater strictness will be observed and in place of cards, brands on the palms of the hands or on the forehead will be used.

Allow me to digress a moment. It seems to me it will serve some people right. I mean some of those folks who will not enter a church but who scoff at religion—those who will not bow the knee to the loving Saviour, who died that they might be delivered from the Wicked One—those who will not accept the Saviour, who gave up the glories of Heaven in order to save them—the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords—the pure and Holy One.

Yes, they may find fault with you and me as followers of Christ, but they cannot find fault with the Captain of our Salvation. Pilate had to acknowledge it and so will they. I say it will serve them right when that vile person, that Man of Sin, the Antichrist, sets up his image and forces them to crawl upon their hands and knees before it; to bow down and say prayers to an image of the Beast while his ambassadors take cognizance of it and brand them like cattle, so that they may go and buy their daily bread. (Read it for yourself in Rev. 13:14-17.) Hear me, my brother, don't be a fool! Give your homage and love to the Saviour who died for you and not to that Beast, the Antichrist, who will make merchandise of you. It always puzzles me how the working man, the man who honestly earns his living, will turn his back on the Carpenter of Nazareth, the Great God of Heaven, the Saviour Christ, and look toward the coming Antichrist.

PEOPLE ARE IGNORANT CONCERNING THE ANTICHRIST

The trouble is that people do not know about the Antichrist. Many of those in the pulpits of our land, who are supposed to be Specialists in Scripture Knowledge, do not tell us anything about this fearful opponent of Christ. The Devil has seen to it that the great bulk of the people know absolutely nothing of it. Thank GOD for the number of earnest people, here and there, the world over, who are opening their Bibles and reading for themselves what men have failed to tell them.

Now, hear me, please. Be careful not to allow any dust of prejudice to be thrown into your eyes, so you will not see. There are many false interpretations abroad in the world today, which are bewildering people. Your only hope is to turn faithfully to your Bibles. It has been too much the custom of humanity to apply the term "Antichrist" to any person or system that is bitterly opposed to them. For example: (1) The early Christians declared that Nero, the terrible Roman Emperor who burned them at the stake and brutally murdered his own mother, was certainly the Antichrist. (2) In the 11th Century the Waldenses and the Wickliffites and the Hussites declared, on account of their terrible persecutions, that the Roman Catholic Church was indeed the Antichrist. Later, for the same reason, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland took up this same cry. (3) And the Roman Catholic Church in its turn, when Napoleon Bonaparte stood up and deified the Pope, and then successfully over-ran almost the whole of Europe, in his mad ambition for power, declared that certainly Napoleon was the predicted Antichrist. (4) Thus it has continued until the present time. Many people of our land, following the same natural instinct, asked during the Great War, if the Kaiser, that cruel withered-arm villain who plunged Europe into this dreadful war which has taken our best men, was not the Antichrist? (5) Bible students today, of the different schools of thought, spiritualize and allegorize certain passages and give us as many more interpretations of the Antichrist as you could name. They tell us Antiochus Epiphanes, one of the Princes of Greece, back in the time of Alexander the Great, was the Antichrist. Another says Judas Iscariot was the Antichrist, etc., etc.
Let us beware of prejudice that may blind us, so that we will not read our Bibles.

I have no brief for the Roman Catholic Church. I could not be a true Roman Catholic because I believe in salvation by the sacrifice of Christ and by Him alone. I could not accept the doctrine that the prayers of the priests have any efficacy insofar as my soul’s salvation is concerned, either here or hereafter. My Bible tells me:

Acts 4:12.—“Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.’

No other name can help; no, not even the name of the Virgin Mary.

Titus 3:5.—“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

I take it, therefore, that no works or penance can avail for my soul’s welfare. It is Christ alone who must save.

Rom. 3:28.—“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

My Bible teaches me to trust only in Christ and His Blood for my justification. And this same Bible informs me that the.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOT THE ANTICHRIST**

The examination of a few passages of GOD’S WORD soon clears up this error and a few other similar errors:

John 5:43.—“I am come in My Father’s Name, and ye receive Me not; if ANOTHER shall come in His Own Name, HIM ye will receive.’

(1) The Antichrist is an Individual, not a religious or political system.

The comparison is evidently between the man, Jesus Christ, and another individual, the Antichrist.

The verse contains a solemn warning.

If a man rejects Christ he surely will join the ranks of the Antichrist if he lives after the Rapture.

(2) Scripture speaks of him as a Prince and later as a King.

Rev. 17:10-13—“And there are seven kings; five are fallen and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh he must continue a short space. And the BEAST that was, and is not, even HE is the EIGHTH and is of the seven and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns, which thou sawest, are ten kings, which have received NO KINGDOM AS YET; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”

This passage plainly states that the Antichrist is to be a king and will be elected as Supreme Ruler over the Ten-King Confederacy, or, that is, the Fifth World Empire. Hence it is surely evident that the Antichrist is not the Roman Catholic Church, nor Nero, nor Antiochus Epiphanes, nor Napoleon Bonaparte, but a future King who has not yet received a Kingdom. May I suggest once more that the present international affairs are of momentous importance in their bearing upon the future.

I wonder if GOD is preparing for the Rapture to take place shortly.

It appears to me that it is very plain that the Roman Catholic Church is not the Antichrist. The fact is the coming Antichrist will cause the downfall of the Apostle Church.

Rev. 17:15-16—“And He saith unto me: ‘The waters which thou sawest, where the WHORE sitteth, are people, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore and shall make her desolate and naked and she shall eat her flesh and burn her with fire.’"
This terrible "Whore" represents the Apostate Church. I believe it takes in all the various organizations left after the Rapture. The Methodist or Presbyterian or Baptist Churches have no grounds for pointing the finger at the Roman Catholic Church in regard to Apostasy. "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

You should note, therefore, that the Antichrist and his fellows will destroy the woman, the Apostate Church. They hate her, not because they are more righteous, but because they will have nothing of religion, outside of the worship of the Devil himself. Oh! men and women, I wonder do we begin to comprehend the state of affairs that is coming upon the world?

No, the Antichrist is not a religious system of any kind, but an individual.

THE ANTICHRIST WILL HAVE AN IMAGE SET UP

Further, be it also noted that the False Prophet who arises out of the Apostate Church urges those in authority to set up the Image of the Antichrist. Hence, he must be an individual.

Rev. 13:14.—And deceiveth them that dwell in the earth by means of these miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the Beast, saying to them that dwell on the earth that THEY SHOULD MAKE AN IMAGE TO THE BEAST which had the wound by a sword and did live.

Again, we read that at the close of the Battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist was cast ALIVE into the Lake of Fire.

Rev. 19:19-20—"And I saw the beast and the Kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse and against his army. And the beast was taken and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

Those words could not be applied in any literal sense to other than an individual.

I, therefore, feel satisfied that the Antichrist is a future individual—a wonderful, brilliant superman. He is to be a powerful king, the Supreme Ruler of the Fifth World Empire.

THE SCRIPTURES PLAINLY INDICATE HIS RISE TO POWER

At first he is introduced to us as the Prince of Tyre.

Ezek. 28:2-3—"Son of Man say unto the Prince of Tyrus. Thus saith the Lord God: because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God. Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee."

This is plainly a description of the blasphemy of the Antichrist and of his wonderful cunning (cf. 2 Thess. 2:3-4). He, therefore, begins as Prince of Tyre, a vile wretch, despised by the citizens but so crafty that he continually gains power until, when the King of the North (Russia) dies, he makes claim to the throne.

Dan. 11:26.—"Then shall stand up in his (King of the North) estate, a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom; but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger nor in battle. And in his estate shall stand up a vile person to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom, but he shall come in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries."

His claim shall appear in vain at first, but he will cleverly make a co-tenant with the Jews to give them their temple worship for seven years if they will support him, and immediately he will obtain the kingdom peaceably.

From this time on his rise in power is rapid and phenomenal, until finally he secures the control of the Fifth World Empire, or Ten-King Confederacy.
AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE

I wish to close our study for this time by asking you to note carefully the distinction between the real Antichrist and what Scripture calls the Spirit of the Antichrist.

In the last lecture I told you it was necessary for you to note that John the Baptist was not the real Elijah that is yet to come. John the Baptist came into the world in the Spirit and Power of Elijah. He was a forerunner of Elijah. Elijah will yet come. (Matt. 17:11-12.)

In a similar way the real Antichrist has his antecedents who pave the way for him.

1. John 2:18.—Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that Antichrist shall come even now are there many Antichrists; whereby ye know that it is the last time.”

There are many Christains today who have never heard of the coming Antichrist. No wonder they are deceived by the many who are working in the Spirit of Antichrist. I want you to realize, right here and now, if you have not already known it, that there are men and women in the world today who are working in the Spirit of Antichrist. Keep your eyes and ears open, brother, and you will recognize them.

1. John 4:3.—Every Spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of GOD. And this is that Spirit of Antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come and even now already is it in the world.

Jesus—Immanuel; i.e., GOD with us.

If anyone denies the Deity of Christ he is an Antichrist. If a man denies his humanity, he is an Antichrist.

Have you seen any of them? Are you receiving them into your homes; or doing them reverence; or paying their salaries?

1. John 2:22-23.—Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is Antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father; but he that acknowledgeth the Son, the same hath the Father also.

How do these descriptions tally with Christian Science which denies matter? Flesh is material. How will Unitarianism appear under this flash-light? It denies the Deity of Christ. They tell you that they worship the Father but Jesus was a mere man. He made mistakes. “Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father.” This is GOD’S estimate of that Spirit of Antichrist.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

The time has come when Christians everywhere must take a definite stand.

There is no intermediate position here.

1. John 7:10-11.—For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an Antichrist. . . . If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him GOD speed. For he that biddeth him GOD speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Are you going to receive these people into your homes? Pay their salaries? Bid them GOD Speed? When you know that they deny the Virgin-birth of Jesus, the Deity of our Lord, and the Death, Resurrection, Ascension and Return of the Messiah Christ; can you bid them GOD-speed?

If so, remember, you become a partaker in their evil deeds.

I know this, that a loyal disciple of the Christ of Calvary will never be found following this school of Higher Critics, who exhibit plainly the Spirit of the Antichrist who is yet to come.
THE ANTI-CHRIST

2—MAN or DEMON?

In our last lecture we began our investigation of the character and rank
of the Antichrist, and found that GOD'S WORD plainly declares that he is
an individual and not a political or religious system. The Antichrist is,
therefore, not the Roman Catholic Church, nor Mohammedanism, nor the
Apostate Church. The fact is that he is antagonistic to and finally destroys
the Apostate Church. (Rev. 17:16.)

Not only do the Scriptures represent him as an individual but they
also declare that he is a prince and later a king that shall rise in the latter
times and secure supreme control over the Ten-King Confederacy.

The Apostle Paul distinctly speaks of him as that MAN of SIN and the
WICKED ONE.

II. Thess. 2:3-8.—Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not
come except there be a falling away first and “that MAN of Sin” be revealed, the Son
of Perdition.

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For
the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth (hindereth) will
let (hinder) until he be taken out of the way; and then shall that Wicked ONE be re-
vealed, etc.

In this chapter the Spirit of GOD, through the Apostle Paul, is trying
to correct an error, which had crept in among the Saints. Through the
agency of the Devil and a bogus letter, forged with Paul’s signature (vs. 2)
the Saints had been led to believe that the “Day of Christ” (i.e. the Second
Coming of Christ, the Millennium) was at hand. This passage tells us that
before the Day of Christ could come three outstanding facts should be
realized: (1) There must be a falling-away, a departure from the true worship
of GOD unto the worship of the Devil. (2) The Antichrist, the Man of
Sin, must be revealed. He will ascend to his throne and obtain his power.
(3) The Rapture of the Christ must take place (vs. 7). When the Holy
Spirit, who is now restraining all evil, departs with the Church, then the
Antichrist will be revealed and, following this, the falling-away will take
place, the Christ will come instead, destroy him and set up His kingdom.

ANTICHRIST REVEALED AFTER THE RAPTURE

It is, therefore, evident that the Antichrist will not be revealed until
after the Rapture takes place. He is not then the kaiser, nor Napoleon
nor Antiochus Epiphanes, nor Judas Iscariot.

Scripture is very definite in this regard. It even tells us the exact time
after the Rapture when the Antichrist shall be revealed.

Dan. 8:13-14.—Then I heard one Saint speaking and another Saint said unto that
certain Saint: “How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice and the
transgression of desolation to give both the Sanctuary and the host to be trodden under
foot?” And he said unto me: “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then
shall the Sanctuary be cleansed.”
We have previously ascertained (Lecture 6) that Daniel’s seventieth week contains 42 months or 1260 days of Temple worship, 1260 days of witnessing, and time, times and a half time, or 75 days of the Great Tribulation. The Abomination Image that maketh desolate is to be set up at the end of the 30 days or 1290 days from the time that the Daily Sacrifice is to cease (Dan.12:11).

Now, 2300 days back from the Abomination Image that maketh desolate would bring us to (2300—1290) 1010 days before the Daily Sacrifice or 250 days after the Rapture. Thus we know the Antichrist shall make his covenant with the Jews 250 days after the Rapture and will become King of the North (Russia.)

I am quite aware of the fact that some apply the year-day principle to these 2300 days as they do to other time passages. They claim that, counting from 444 B.C. for 2300 years brings us to 1856, the end of the Crimean War. But what has this to do with the cessation of the Daily Sacrifice in the Temple or the setting up of the Abomination Image of the Antichrist? No, the Antichrist is an individual, a King who is yet to come, crafty, cunning, and powerful.

ANTICHRIST IS CALLED THE SON OF PERDITION

At this time I purpose to carry our investigation still further, for you will find GOD’S Word has not been silent in regard to this matter.

A particular term has been applied to the Antichrist which I wish you to note now.

II. Thess. 2:3.—Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come except there come a falling-away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the SON of PERDITION.

What is the significance of the term “Son of Perdition”? Let us follow GOD’S instructions and find the passage some place else in the Bible. Christ uses the expression himself in connection with Judas Iscariot.

John 17:12.—While I was with them in the world I kept them in My Name; those that Thou gavest Me I have kept; and none of them is lost; but the SON of PERDITION, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

In connection with Judas Iscariot, we are further enlightened with respect to his character in:

John 6:70-71.—Jesus answered them: “Have I not chosen you, twelve, and one of you is A DEVIL.” He spake of Judas Iscariot, the Son of Simon; for he it was who should betray Him.

Notice carefully, please, that Jesus did not say Judas HAD a devil, but IS a devil. There is a vast difference between a demon incarnate and a man possessed by a demon. One belongs to the Race of Demons, the other belongs to the Human Race. Judas was a Son of Perdition, or, i.e., a demon incarnate.

The statement made concerning his death is also significant:

Acts 1:25.—That he (Matthias) may take part of the ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

“His own” place is that from which he came. We read that when the Angels left their first estate at the time of the Flood and came down among mankind that they were cast in everlasting chains into a place of darkness.

Jude 6.—And the Angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains, under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

This was the place from which Judas came and to which he went. Son of Perdition apparently means, then, a demon incarnate.
DEMON INCARNATION A CONSTANT MENACE

In the days when our Lord sojourned here in the flesh, it was a time of persistent and vicious attempts of the Demonic Spirits to possess men or become incarnate in order that Jesus should not win mankind to Him. Time after time, the Master cast the demons out of men whom He met wholly under their power. Of course, there was no hope for the Demon Incarnate such as Judas Iscariot.

What a terrible thing it must have been for the mother to surrender her body so much to Demon influence as to bear such a child!

I cannot refrain from turning aside for a moment to call your attention to the amount of indifference and gross ignorance there is abroad today concerning the Spiritual Conflict that is going on about and above us. Read it for yourself.

Eph. 6:12.—For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

People do not seem to realize that the hosts of wickedness are striving their best to break through into the sphere of mankind in order to gain possession and destroy them if possible. Thanks be unto GOD! the forces of righteousness are on our side. The mountains are full of the Chariots of the Lord and the horsemen thereof. But when the Rapture takes place and the Spirit partially removes his restraining power the Demonic intercourse will again be manifested.

PROPHECY WARNS US OF FUTURE DEMONISM

In addition to Christ’s great comparison between the Days of Noah, the former days of terrible Demonism, and the latter days (Matt. 24:39), we have the Apostle Paul’s inspired warning:

1. Tim. 4:1.—Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing Spirits and doctrines of devils.

Men and women, I believe it is time we should realize how much this very Spiritism is being developed in our day in the form of Spiritualism, Theosophy and Occultism, all of which in the ultimate analysis degrade or prohibit true marriage.

Dr. Wild, in “Theosophy and the Higher Life,” pp. 8-9, declares: “Thus the love towards the woman is the substitution of external for internal delights, and calls forth the jealousy of the ‘Divine Sophia’ with whom those who, with profound reverence, worship GOD as a Spirit, and thus invoke their spiritual centre and find the Logos, are united. These know that there is a Spiritual marriage incompatible with that of the flesh.”

This spiritual marriage theory has a drift that is plainly evident to any serious-minded person. The glorious marriage of earth and sky, of which they speak, soon becomes the “mystery of iniquity” already at work between Wicked, Fallen Spirits and deluded mortals. The ceremonious marriage of a woman to a demon is a thing not unknown at the present time in United States. In a book called “An Angel’s Message,” which claims to be communications from a Spirit, it is affirmed that he (the Spirit) has become an angel to an English Lady, his destined bride for eternity. The communicating demon described himself as the spirit of a man of deep religious feeling, who during his sojourn in the flesh, was accustomed to visit the house of the medium’s (the English lady’s) father, though at that time he found no attraction in the medium herself. In the course of years he died, as did also the mother of the lady. Soon after the decease of the mother, the daughter began to receive communications understood to come from her. Later the demon-lover inspired the medium, and as time went on she received his ardent caresses. Thus it declares: “Plainly did she receive that ardent sphere of love; palpably did she feel the living breath; clearly did she hear the whispering voice; rapidly did that angel form pass over her passive
frame and she opened her eyes to the world of nature filled with tears of joy.”

What, then, shall we say to these things? Had Pope Innocent the Eighth a real insight of the truth when he culminated his decretal against intercourse with the incubi and succubae? Are we really aware that the Nephilim again threaten a general descent upon our world and a repetition of the great sin of the days of a Noah?

ANTICHRIST, A DEMON INCARNATE

In the twelfth chapter of the Apocalypse it is plainly announced that before the development of the Antichrist and the unparalleled woes of the end, Satan and his angels will be driven out of Heaven, swept down from their aerial abodes and confined to the narrow bounds of the earth.

Rev. 12:9-12.—And the great Dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, which deceived the whole world; he was cast out into the earth and his angels were cast out with him.

For this terrible inroad, Spiritualism, Occultism, and Theosophy appear to be preparing the way. The army of demons has been sent forth in advance to bring about universal apostasy from GOD and denial of the Christ, and to establish a general communication between the powers of the darkness and the children of disobedience. Manifestations are continually increasing in power; appearance of tangible forms from the unseen world are matters of common occurrence; women are being taught that they are wives of angels; the world is becoming accustomed to supernatural visitants.

The Antichrist is to be a Son of Perdition, born of one of these demoniac Liaisons. No doubt even today the Devil is prepared. He is already alive, awaiting the day of his revelation.

II. Thess. 2:6.—And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

Immediately after the Rapture when the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way he will be revealed. Then he shall rapidly ascend to the throne of Russia and gradually secure power over the Ten-King Confederacy and finally lead the armies against the Lord and His Saints.

HIS VIOLENT DEATH AND MOCK RESURRECTION

I could not close this study without saying a word concerning his violent death and mock resurrection, by which he captivates the homage and admiration of the world.

After he has gained sufficient power to cause the Daily Sacrifice to cease, by crafty means he scatters among the people the plunder and thereby gains more loyal support from the multitude, on the basis of which he claims the world’s homage before the Abomination Image set up by the Antichrist. (Dan. 8:25.)

After this he once again becomes embroiled in a war against Great Britain and her colonies, which results in the loss of Egypt.

Dan. 11:30-42.—And at the time of the end shall the King of the South push at him; and the King of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind. . . . He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

But help comes from the East (likely Japan) to support Great Britain and her colonies and in the battle that ensues he shall be killed.

Dan. 11:44-45.—But tidings out of the East and out of the North shall trouble him; therefore, he shall go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to make away with many . . . yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him.

In this battle he shall receive a terrific wound which shall prove fatal.

Zech. 11:17.—Woe to the Idol shepherd that leaveth the flock the sword shall be upon his arm and upon his right eye; his arm shall be clean dried up and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.
But at once he shall present a mock resurrection. He shall come forth from the pit and take on him again his scarred body, the wounds of which he shall proudly carry to the end. At the sight of this all the world will wonder after the beast and look upon him as super-human.

Rev. 13:3-4.—And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the Beast. And they worshipped the Beast, saying: "Who is like unto the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

In reality there is no resurrection but a re-habitation of his old body by the Demon returning from the Bottomles Pit.

Rev. 17:8.—And the Beast, thou sawest, was and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition; And they that dwell on the earth will wonder (whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world) when they behold the Beast that was and is not and yet is.

These men and women refused to accept as reasonable the glorious and true resurrection of our Lord, but they will believe in and wonder at the Mock Resurrection of the Antichrist. What folly!

Jesus, the Saviour, was three days and three nights in the grave and in hell and then He triumphantly came forth, showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs and actually ascended to Heaven in full view of the Disciples, from whence He shall some day return.

It is a sign of true intelligence to accept these things as facts and inquire into their import, rather than to delay it all and be duped by the Devil.

May GOD help you!
PROPHETIC LECTURE No. 9

ARMAGEDDON
THE CLIMAX OF BATTLES

THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY

When we enter the political aspect of prophecy you will find that the complexity of the subject becomes much greater. The difficulties in the way of its presentation have also increased owing to the mixed variety of opinions you have formed regarding it.

To some of you the subject is entirely new and you hesitate and wonder to think that GOD’S WORD does reveal something of the affairs of nations. But the great majority of you have read profusely on the subject and you, therefore, approach it with more or less fixed opinions. It may make it hard, therefore, for you to follow me if I venture to go off the beaten track of the prophetic writers.

I must confess to you that it is rather presumptuous on my part to dare make an effort to blaze a trail that has never been, so far as I know, trodden on before.

In spite of the fact that I may weary you by my method, I have laboriously held you to the Bible, thereby protecting myself from being lost in the maze of books and pamphlets that have been written on the subject.

FOUR CHIEF ATTITUDES ASSUMED IN PROPHETICAL STUDY

You may be aware that there are four chief attitudes expressed by the various writers on prophecy:

1. The Spiritualizing School.

Some spiritualize and allegorize every statement of prophecy. Take for example—

Zeoh. 14:4-5.—And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the East; and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the East and toward the West and there shall be a very great valley . . . . and the Lord my God shall come and all the Saints with Thee.

The Spiritualizing School, whose founder was Origen and Constantine, tells us that “feet” does not mean “feet,” nor does Mount Olivet mean Mount of Olivet, even though its exact location is told and corresponds directly with the mountain of that name today.

By this method of interpretation the Bible can be made to say anything you wish to read into it. I remember meeting a man down in Ontario with this peculiar method of never believing the literal statement of GOD’S WORD. He asked me one day what I thought Matt. 27:51, meant.
And behold the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.

I proceeded to tell him regarding the veil that shut the world out of the Holy of Holies in the temple and of the earthquake that broke up the boulders when Christ died. "Oh!" he said, "you're entirely wrong; the veil was the blindness over the people, and the rocks were their hard hearts and the sight of Christ on the Cross broke them all to pieces." I asked him if the Cross was real and was the Christ actually a person? He admitted that, but spiritualized the rest. I trust this method of interpretation has not caught any of you.

Not long ago one of these Spiritualizers informed me it was a shame to teach the story of David and Goliath as we commonly did. The idea of stating that David actually felled the giant with a stone! Why, this stone meant "an idea" which little David argued into the Giant's brain. That is a new way of educating giants by means of a sling, and David surely took an unfair advantage in cutting off his head while he lay on the ground before him.

(2) The Preterist Attitude.

According to the preterist idea, all prophecy has already been fulfilled. The time of the Hebrews is over. The Jewish Nation has failed. Nero was the Antichrist and the Messiah came long ago. They make their strongest argument from—

Matt. 24:34.—Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away till all these things be fulfilled.

They claim that the generation when Christ was upon the earth has passed away long ago and therefore all prophecy has been fulfilled including the darkening of the Sun and Moon and the Messiah’s return as declared in this 24th Chapter.

But they fail to recognize that the demonstrative adjective "this" or the former and "that" or the latter, may not refer to the generation then present. For example one may say "this state of happiness will continue for ever" and refer not to the present but to the future about which we have been talking.

It is interesting to notice that this school had its rise about the 16th century.

(3 and 4) The Historical and Futurist.

There are still two more attitudes assumed by prophetic writers, viz., the Historical and the Futurist. They differ in two chief respects.

(a) The Historical looks upon the events of prophecy as continuous. The Futurist recognizes a gap or break during this dispensation. The result is that writer after writer of the Historical School has attempted to fix dates of coming events, but more particularly of the Second Coming of Christ. Miller placed it at 1841, after carefully consulting figures and Old Testament dates. Elliott differed, when Miller’s calculation failed, and he set the date at 1865. Then Pastor Russell had two trials at it. The first he set at 1874 and then later at 1914. Dr. Grattan Guinness, probably the greatest champion of this school, now sets it at 1918 or 1923. Now the Futurist School declares that the Clock of Prophecy was stopped at the day of Pentecost and will not begin again until after the Rapture. Therefore, no valid dates can be set until after the Rapture. They accept as true today the statement of Christ—

Matt. 24:36-42.—But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the Angels of Heaven, but my Father only. . . . Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
(b) Again, the Historical School make prophecy more or less **symbolic**, whereas the Futurist cling to the **literal** fulfilment. Let me illustrate.

Rev. 8:8-9.—And the second Angel sounded and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea; and a third part of the sea became blood; and a third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

The Historical writers interpret this as a Maritime Invasion when burning and bloodshed and destruction of commerce shall take place. The Futurist accepts it as actual and literal and declares that the symbolic interpretation is vague, speculative and indeterminate. Sir Robert Anderson is probably the greatest outstanding writer of the Futurist School.

**Which is Correct?**

There are many students of prophecy who have read and read these historical writers' publications until they are actually prejudiced and will not even consider any other interpretation.

Now, I am not going to say that the Historical Method is altogether wrong and has not contributed anything to prophetical truth. That would be a foolish unwarranted and extreme statement, but I do say that the student who shuts out the Futurist School of interpretation is dropping the "meat" while he reaches for the "shadow," and is, therefore, in danger of losing it.

It is surely evident that all the prophecies in connection with the Lord Jesus have had a literal fulfilment. He was born in Bethlehem—born of a virgin—brought out of Egypt—scourged—crucified. None of His bones were broken. His garments were gambled over. He was raised from the dead—all in actual, literal fulfilment of prophecy.

I have, therefore, no hesitation in declaring that all prophecy must have a literal fulfilment.

But this does not preclude "shadowy" fulfilment as declared by the Historical School. For example—

Mal. 4:5.—Behold, I will send Elijah, the Prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful Day of the Lord.

As I have already pointed out, in previous lectures, Elijah will surely return (Matt. 17:11) and be one of the two witnesses (referred to in Rev. 11) who are slain in Jerusalem, etc. And I have no hesitation in agreeing with the Historical School when they say that John the Baptist was his shadowy forerunner. Or again—

Hos. 11:1.—When Israel was a child then I loved Him, and called My Son out of Egypt.

Now, I do believe that this was actually fulfilled in Christ’s removal from Egypt.

Matt. 2:15.—And was there until the death of Herod; that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt have I called My Son.”

That was the literal and actual fulfilment, but I can admit that in a "shadowy" way it may also speak of Israel’s departure out of Egypt from their bondage or of Jeremiah’s departure with the two daughters of Zedekiah for Spain and finally for England where tradition declares he went.

Therefore, I suggest that all prophecy has an actual, literal fulfilment as claimed by the Futurist School, and also has a spiritual or shadowy fulfilment or shadowy cycles of fulfilment before its real and actual one.
ARMAGEDDON—A BATTLE OF THE FUTURE

With this preliminary clearing away of some of the difficulties, let us now approach the subject of our study—"Armageddon, the climax of all battles."

(1) I need not surprise you when I say that there are some who refuse to think of it as a real battle, but declare that it refers to the Spiritual Conflict that is ever raging between the two natures of the believer.

Gal. 5:17.—For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary, the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that he would.

Now, no doubt this is a real Armageddon for the Individual, but the Armageddon of Prophecy is between the Kings of the Earth.

(2) Some of the Preterist School tell us that the battle of Armageddon was fought at the time of the Crusades. Others declare it was in the Crimean War, and others again declare it was in A.D. 70 when Titus with his host besieged Jerusalem and took it. The more modern prophets declare that since Napoleon was the Antichrist (?) and the British nation being the ten tribes of Israel, therefore, the Battle of Waterloo was Armageddon. Again, recent writers tell us that since the Kaiser is the Antichrist (?) then the Battle of the Marne was the Armageddon. There is no end to speculation of this kind. Notice—

Joel 3:9-10.—Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles, "Prepare war. Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up. Beat your plow, shares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say I am strong."

In no previous war has this passage had its fulfilment. In the great European war, the greatest of all, the cry constantly went forth: "Keep up production." No one ever suggested that the agricultural implements should be changed into war material. It, therefore, follows that the real Armageddon is still a battle of the future.

A PRELIMINARY STRUGGLE

One would naturally suppose that a battle of such magnitude as Armageddon would be preceded by a preliminary struggle.

But that no part of that preliminary struggle must essentially take place before the Rapture it is evident, for then Paul would have been mistaken in looking for the Appearing of Christ (1 Thess. 4:16), (Titus 2:13) in his day.

Suppose, as some confidently believe, that the shaking of the nations as seen in this great European War was to occur before the Rapture, then Paul, being entirely in ignorance of this, was decidedly mistaken. No, not at all. The fact is prophecy places no event of this preliminary struggle before the Rapture.

There is this to be said, however, the close study of the world’s history reveals to us the fact that certain cycles of events and conditions are constantly recurring and at numerous times have the nations of the earth been terribly shaken.

The preliminary struggle following the Rapture is described in the 8th chapter of Daniel. Before noticing it in detail it is well to remark that some interpreters tell us that these events have already taken place. Some declare it is a part of the past history of Greece. The little horn spoken of in verses 10-12, they claim, is referring to Antiochus Epiphanes. The chapter, however, is very, very explicit.

Dan. 8:17.—Understand, O son of man, for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

Verse 19: Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation for at the time appointed the end shall be.
It is the vexed Eastern Question that will flood upon this earth like a thunder cloud.

The Ram or the Kings of the East (Japan, China, etc.) shall take up arms against the West, the Kings of Europe. For a time the Yellow Race will seem unconquerable, but by GOD'S help, victory comes to the Western Allies.

In the settlement the Allies are broken into four sections, North South, East and West.

Dan. 8:22.—Now that being broken (single leadership) whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation.

These four kingdoms are to have seven kings as follows: North, 1; South, 1; East, 4; West, 1. These Kings or Kingly lines shall not all be in existence at the same time.

Rev. 17:10.—And there are seven kings; five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh he must continue a short space.

Scripture tells that the four kings over the Eastern Kingdom (Persia) will also not have power at the same time.

Dan. 11:12.—Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia and the four shall be far richer than they all.

THREE WARS TO FOLLOW THE PRELIMINARY STRUGGLE

(1) Russia and Germany vs. Great Britain, France and Italy.

Immediately after the struggle described above we find the King of the North, Gog and Magog and Gomer, etc. (Russia and Germany) casting plundering glances toward the unwalled cities and villages of the Holy Land where Israel are returning with all their wealth.

Ezek. 38:11-12.—And thou shalt say, “I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go up to them that are at rest, that dwell safely... to take a spoil, and to take a prey.

The 16th verse tells us that this shall be in the latter days. The 13th verse reveals to us the action of Sheba, Dedan, and the Merchants of Tarshish (Italy, France and Great Britain).

They will demand that no such plunder be undertaken. Thus war ensues.

At first the Southern Allies are successful (Dan. 11:8, 11, 12) but later the hosts of the North sweep down and take Palestine (Dan. 11:14-16) and then turn in an attack upon the “Isles of the Sea” (Great Britain). This attack fails. The King of the North dies and almost immediately the Anti-christ is revealed.

(2) Great Britain vs. Antichrist, King of North.

It is not long before Great Britain is again forced on her honor to enter into war with the Northern Kingdom because of the unscrupulous dealing of the Antichrist. The result of this is the cessation of the Daily Sacrifice which was being offered in the temple and the massacre of 144,000 loyal Jews.

(3) Antichrist Overpowers the Ten Kings.

Following the success of the Second Campaign, the Antichrist now will proceed by careful scheming, bribery and crookedness to secure supreme control over the Ten Kingdoms of the World. He comes at Great Britain like a whirlwind (Dan. 11:40-42) and takes Egypt and then the other two Kingdoms submit. It is during this war that the Beast is fatally wounded.
and comes back to life again, and immediately the whole world wonders after the Beast.

THEN COMES THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

At once the Devil dispatches his wicked spirits into the world to delude the Kings into this terrible fight.

Rev. 16:13-14.—And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the False Prophet. For they are the spirits of Devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the Kings of the Earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of GOD Almighty.

Then the cry goes forth—

Joel 3:10.—Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears. . . . assemble yourselves and come . . . . to the valley of Jehoshaphat

And a terrible result follows—

Rev. 19:19-21.—And I saw the beast and the Kings of the Earth and their armies gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse and against His army. And the beast was taken and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him with which he deceived them which received the mark of the beast and them that worshipped his image. These were both cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse . . . . and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

What a slaughter! Seven months shall they be burying the dead and seven years burning the weapons.

Ezek. 39:12.—And seven months shall the House of Israel be burying of them that they may cleanse the land.

Verse 9-10.—And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years; so that they shall take no wood out of the field; neither cut down any of the forests.

Surely we must conclude that the Battle of Armageddon is a real battle and not symbolic. We know nothing like this has ever happened, therefore, it is yet future.

Thank the Lord! those trusting in Christ will be taken out before this happens.

Men and women, be wise! Make your peace with GOD before it is too late.

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me pure within?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.