

## **HABAKKUK'S PROPHECY.**

Lest any should suppose the foregoing to be a forced construction of a portion of Habakkuk's prophecy, we here give below a general review of the preceding and succeeding context, which abundantly corroborates and emphasises the above. Our running comments are in brackets, and the translation is one gleaned from several authorities.

Chap. 1:2-4. "How long, O Lord, have I entreated, and thou wouldst not hear? How long shall I cry out unto thee because of violence, and thou wilt not save? Why hast thou shown me iniquity or grievance, and the robbery and violence that are before me? And there is a judgment, but oppression is more powerful. Therefore the law is powerless and justice cometh not forth victorious; for the wicked compasseth about the righteous: therefore doth justice come forth perverted."

[Certainly these words can well be applied to this "present evil world," when God seems to many to be indifferent as to whether good or evil succeeds, and permits evil to triumph, the godly to suffer persecution, and the wicked to flourish. In view of this, the prophet asks as the representative of all who love righteousness, "How long, O Lord," shall it be thus? When shall the present evil world give place to that wherein dwelleth righteousness?]

[The Lord answers the cry, declaring]: "Look ye about among the nations, and behold and be astonished and astounded, for I will fulfill a work in your days ye would not believe if it were only told you. [If you did not see some evidences you would consider the things impossibilities.] For lo, I will raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation [people], which shall march

through the breadth of the land to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs (vs. 5,6). [The people who are to do the astounding work among the nations are here called Chaldeans, and represent, we believe, the masses of the peoples of earth who, under the names Communists, Nihilists, Socialists, etc., are organizing with the avowed intention of overturning present governments. Chaldeans is a fitting name. Literal Babylon was the capital city of literal Chaldea, a vast country, so symbolical Babylon reigns over the people of the civilized world, who, therefore, might in symbol be fitly termed the Chaldeans.]

"They are dreadful and terrible, and from them shall proceed the judgment upon these [evils and nations] and their burden" [or restraint].

"Swifter than leopards are their horses, and fiercer than the evening wolves; their horsemen spread themselves abroad, for their horsemen shall come from afar; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat. They will all come for violence." [Horses represent doctrines in symbol, and horsemen teachers of those doctrines. The ferocity of the doctrines is here shown, and the rapidity with which they will spread, and the fact that the teachers of these doctrines will be foreigners.]

"Their faces will be set in opposition to the east." [The east is the direction of the sunrising, and here represents the dawn of the Millennial Day. Hence, the language here indicates that though these shall cause a measure of judgment to come upon evil institutions, yet they will not be in harmony with the true light, but in opposition to it; their mission is violence.] "And they gather the bounden ones as the sand."

"And they will make sport with kings and princes will be a play unto them: at every stronghold will they laugh, and they will cast up earth mounds and capture it. Then [by reason of their

success] doth their spirit become arrogant and they are surpassingly proud, and offend, imputing this their power unto their God. [Not realizing that they have been used as the Lord's great army to overthrow oppression and to bring down the proud and to thresh the mountains (kingdoms), they shall boast themselves of the victory of Liberalism.]

"Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ORDAINED THEM for judgment; and, O Protector, THOU hast appointed them to CORRECT NATIONS. [This is the confidence of the saints, as here expressed by the prophet.]

In the third chapter of this same prophecy the standpoint is changed, and the prophet rehearses the trouble coming upon the world during the day of the Lord, from the Lord's standpoint, showing whose power it is that shall really shake the kingdoms and bring in everlasting righteousness. Primarily reference is made to the marvelous display of God's power on behalf of Israel in their deliverance from Egypt, but we must not forget that Israel's deliverance from the darkness and bondage of Egypt into fruitful Canaan, was but an illustration of the world's deliverance, to be accomplished in the establishment of earth's new kingdom.

Chap. 3:2. "O Lord! I have heard thy fame, and was afraid: O Lord! thy work – in the midst of the years of sorrow [or time of trouble] revive thou it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy."

"God came from Teman, the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and of his praise the earth was full. His kingdom was like the sunlight; rays streamed forth out of his hand unto them, and there was the hiding [or secret] of his power." In truth, when realized properly, the Lord's coming and kingdom are blessings; for as the Sun of Righteousness he brings

light and blessing and joy; when properly seen his every act (hands in symbol) sheds light and blessing. This is for a time kept secret and not recognized by men, though it is the object of his taking his great power.] Pestilence shall go before his face [moral pestilence shall flee, as darkness does when the sun rises] and burning coals went forth at his steps [dross and stubble shall be consumed as righteousness steps in.]

"He stood and measured [judged] the earth; He looked and melted the nations and the ancient mountains [governments] were crushed to pieces; there sunk the perpetual hills: his ways are everlasting. I saw the tents of Cushan [dwellings of darkness or blackness, symbolizing iniquity] in affliction: they trembled – the curtains [those who caused obscurity or darkness] in the land of Midian [strife].

"Thy bow was made quite bare; like severe rods of punishment goeth forth thy word. Selah: thou didst cleave [open] the rivers [truth-channels] of the earth"...."In indignation thou wilt tread the earth under foot; in thy wrath thou wilt astonish the nations. Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people: for salvation with thy Christ. Thou struckest the head of the house of the wicked [Satan] and destroyed the foundation with the high towering walls." [It is a complete overthrow.] "Thou didst strike through with his own spears the chief of his warriors – them that came out as a whirlwind to scatter me."..."But thou didst pass along over the sea with thy horses, over the piled up billows of great waters." [The Lord's doctrines were enforced and conquered the great multitude – the "raging waves of the sea."]

"I have heard and my inmost parts tremble, at the report my lips tremble ...I trembled in myself that I might REST in the day of trouble."

In this "Day of the Lord" those only can REST who are built upon the rock foundation, who are strengthened by the heavenly manna, continually refreshed by the living water of truth, and in obedience to their covenant are following in the footsteps of Jesus. Such shall know the truth and the truth shall make them free. Such shall walk in the light and not be in darkness that that day should come upon them as a thief and a snare. (1 Thes. 5:1-5.) Such may rest in the remembrance that the trouble brings the chariots of salvation for the deliverance of the just.

page 2

### **INTERESTING LETTERS.**

FRIEND C. T. RUSSELL: – I have received the WATCH TOWER and the TABERNACLE which you sent me, and have gained more information from them than from all I have ever read before. I have been quite a Bible student; but very much of it was a sealed book to me. But since I have read the TOWER and your tracts, those very much perplexed questions are clear. Now I wonder why I did not see it before.

Since I have read Z.W.T. works, I have introduced some of the ideas gained therefrom into our Bible class, and it has produced a startling effect, and it has caused many to search the word of God. The doctrine is new, yet many are very much interested; but some few think it is heresy. I once preached what I supposed to be the Word of God, but I find that I did not understand the book then. I had not a proper idea of the plan of salvation. But thanks be to God, I begin to see its beauty and harmony. What was meaningless to me once, now prove to be a jewel of the rarest beauty and value. I cannot help thinking how blind the churches are; even the educated will not believe. I thank God for the light he has granted to me. I now see the truth of the expression, "God so loved the world," &c. I would be very much pleased to read your "Food for Thinking

Christians," and I think that if it is equal to your WATCH TOWER it will prove a power to convince very many that are now in the wilderness of error.

Yours in hope of eternal life.

---

**Moulton, Iowa, March 1, 1884.**

DEAR BRO. RUSSELL: – I was buying some notions of a peddler, the other day, and they were wrapped with ZION'S WATCH TOWER. Wife and I took a liking to the wrapper – it has the right ring. Enclosed you will find our subscription. Please send the WATCH TOWER. From an old soldier – both spiritual and temporal, and if the TOWER don't slack its hold on the truth, you will hear from me again.

Yours in Christ.

---

**Crawford Co., Kansas.**

DEAR BROTHER: – We have the privilege of sending you a little mite for the Lord's work, hoping that God will bless it to the feeding of other hungry souls as we have been fed. The question has been asked, How much will you give? For our part we can give but little, only ourselves to the Lord, and then one another, but if the question were reversed – What would you take? it would be unanswerable. We would not exchange what we have learned for the world. We are not public speakers, but we tell the glad tidings to those around us, if it is only to one person at a time. Though we meet with persecution on the right hand and on the left, the Lord gives us more strength and boldness to stand up for his Word. I think we could use some extra papers, will you please send us some.

Yours truly in Christ,

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Glasgow, Scotland, May 21, 1884.**

DEAR BROTHER RUSSELL: – I send along with this letter my subscription for Z.W.T. The brethren and sisters in Glasgow met in my house on the evening of April 8th to celebrate the Passover; there were present altogether seven, and we had an evening precious to me, and I think they all could say the same. We thought of the upper room in Jerusalem, where our Lord met with his disciples, and the words he spoke to them. We also read the TOWER'S comments on the supper, and sang a hymn altogether. I have two new subscribers for the TOWER, to send along with mine.

Yours in Christ,

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Harper, C. Palmas, Liberia,**

April 29, 1884.

DEAR BROTHER: – Having accidentally met with the little pamphlet published by you, entitled "Food for Thinking Christians," and having carefully read it more than once, I am deeply interested in it, believing I get through it a clearer and more correct knowledge of the teaching of God's holy word than I ever had before. I am constrained to avail myself of your very liberal offer, and ask you to send to my address some copies for distribution among some of my friends and neighbors, who I think will make a judicious and profitable use of them. I should be also very thankful for a few of the tracts, entitled "The Tabernacle and

Its Teachings." Wishing you abundant success in your efforts for the good of mankind, I beg to remain, with assurance of high esteem, yours very respectfully,

---

**Washington Co., Ark., May 28, 1884.**

DEAR BROTHER RUSSELL: – It is with pleasure I write you these lines, to let you know how much I appreciate the new (?) teaching. I have read several copies of the Z.W.T., the Tabernacle Teachings and the Food for Thinking Christians, and I am glad to say that they are the best expositions of the Teachings of the Spirit I ever met with. Surely, the Lord is with you, for this is the Lord's doings, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Thanks be to God for this unspeakable gift. I am a teacher in the Christian Church at present, but a sincere lover of Bible truth, and am willing to forsake all for it. And for this purpose I write you these few lines: I want to know the truth, and nothing but the truth. I am an invalid, and as for this world's goods is concerned may not be able to compensate you, but will endeavor to make the best use of myself for the Master. I am, your brother in the one hope,

---

A Brother writing from Kentucky, says:

Your sample copies of Z.W.T. have come to hand, and I like it well, so far. You will please find enclosed my subscription.

I have shown your paper; some like it and some don't; some say Infidel and some say Universalist, but I want to try it one year, if no more. I have been asked what denomination you belong to, and I tell them I can't tell by reading your paper; they must read and judge for themselves. I want you to send me your articles of



faith, so they can all see who you are. As for myself, I think the TOWER explains the Scriptures more fully than any thing I ever read before.

Yours very truly,

\_\_\_\_\_.

Such testimony as the above has brought joy and comfort many times, when other circumstances conspired to discourage our efforts. And we thank God that human imperfection can stand unseen behind his truth and hold it up for the comfort and blessing of his dear children.

These words of our brother remind us of the words of another under similar circumstances. "Whether this man be a sinner or no I know not, but one thing I know, that whereas once I was blind, now I see." Our articles of faith are found in the Word of God. If you would know them, we invite you to study it with us. Whatever we can find taught therein we believe.

ADVERSITY is the trial of principle. Without it a man can hardly know whether he is honest or not.

-----