

God's Way Out

"For Us and For Our Little Ones"

"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance."

Ezra 8:21.

Lesson 15. The Battle-The Roll-Call-Home

In these days of identification cards, PIN numbers, and registration books, you may have been curious to know if God keeps a register of His loyal subjects. This chapter gives clues.

THE jubilant day of eternal peace is fast approaching. The day when men shall live in harmony will soon be here, and nations shall war no more. This assurance gladdened the heart of many a noble Christian young man in the dark days of persecution. It inspired many a young Christian heroine to be loyal and true. "One day the Son of man will set up His kingdom; I will be true to Him. I will uphold His law whatever the cost," they resolved. After the battle comes the roll call, then the march home!

What a battle of right and wrong those 1260 years had seen! At times it must have appeared as though the "saints of God" had been stamped out and the great High Priest's work in heaven eclipsed. With what joy men heard the pure gospel again as the morn of the Reformation broke! How they rejoiced when the battle against persecution was over and the power of the Papacy was broken!

1798! Those were the days of Napoleon's victories and defeats. In that year Nelson won the Battle of the Nile against the French. It was just a little while before Trafalgar. It was the day of George Washington, and just after the time of Benjamin Franklin in the new United States. In England the hum of the new cotton machines of the north was increasing to a roar. It seemed the beginning of an amazing era of progress.

But after the long 1260 years of persecution ended in 1798, the next great divine event, shown in Daniel's vision, is foreshadowed by the words: "The judgment shall sit." Solemn yet joyful thought! "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." But when? When will the Court of Heaven open? Daniel himself may have asked this question, with the thought of the cleansing of the sanctuary on the Hebrew Day of Atonement still in his mind. To us who live after 1798 it is of vital interest.

When shall be the judgment? When shall the roll be called in heaven? What heroes will be found still written in the book as "loyal" when the God of heaven sets up His kingdom? Can we know? When shall the sanctuary in heaven be cleansed? When shall be the great antitypical Day of Atonement? How long shall be the vision? When shall the Eden-kingdom come again? The angel answered Daniel's questions when next he appeared. He explained that the prophecies leading up to the great day should continue "unto two thousand and three hundred days [prophetic years]; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." [1]

"Unto two thousand and three hundred days"! If, as we must, we take these days as symbols of years again, we have the most astonishing prophetic period of the whole Bible. It will point out the year when the judgment will begin in heaven!

After Twenty-three Centuries!

These two thousand three hundred years--when do they begin and when do they end? "None understood it," said Daniel. And so God commanded: "Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision." Gabriel began by explaining that wonderful prophecy of the coming and the death of the Messiah. Of this he said: "Seventy weeks are cut off [determined]." [2] Cut off to finish the work for the Jewish nation. Those seventy weeks (or 490 years) would see the appearance of the Messiah, His ministry and death, and three and a half years more for the special preaching of the gospel to the Jewish nation. For this the seventy weeks were "cut off." But "cut off" from what?

Obviously from the 2300 days of the previous chapter! The seventy weeks were "cut off" from the period of 2300 days. The angel explains the first seventy weeks of the 2300 years and--just what we are looking for--gives the year when they begin. "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks." The 2300 years begin with the year of "the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem." When was this? It was in 457 BC.

God's commandment to restore and build Jerusalem was given in a train of three decrees through three different Persian kings, Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes. The whole of the triple divine decree finally went into effect in the year 457 BC. As the Bible says: The people "built, and finished it, according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia." Thus wrote the leader Ezra, who was one of the workers. [3] This date marks also the beginning of the 2300 years.

But if there were 457 years before Christ, there would be 1843 years left of the 2300 after Christ: 2300 minus 457 equals 1843. Further, if the beginning should be half-way through 457 BC, leaving only 4561 years BC in reality, then the end would be in the middle of AD 1844. 1844! That is over a hundred years ago. Has the judgment then been in session a hundred years? If so, how near we must be to that time when the God of heaven will set up that kingdom which shall never be destroyed! Let us press forth our names with trustful prayer to be "written in the book" as sons and daughters of the living God.

That will be a solemn day, when the destiny of every man and women will be decided. If our names are not now "written in the books," shall we not at once ask of our Father in heaven, "Write down my name, O Lord, as Thy son or daughter, and Thy faithful servant." Choose His service today. And if we have once been "enrolled," but have grown negligent and ceased to confess the Lord Jesus, shall we not acknowledge our sin and return with all our hearts to Him? His heart of love yearns over His erring children with a love that is stronger than death. Let us return to Him.

The gospel message shows that even a child may have his name written in the book of life. If we say good-bye to sin, and invite the Lord Jesus to dwell in our hearts, we are to believe that He comes in by His Spirit. We are to trust Him to forgive our sins and to constantly cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We are to receive Him into our hearts. This is the "new birth." This simple act of receiving Jesus into the heart by faith makes us children of God. As John the apostle testifies: "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." [4]

Being born thus into the family of God, our names are registered in the book of life by the loving Father in heaven. What an honor! With the Apostle John, well may we exclaim: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." [5]

We can trust Him confiding then. At the close of the judgment Christ will stand up as King, "the great Prince which stands for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time. And at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." [6] They shall be delivered. Every loyal Christian man and woman, every boy and girl who has chosen Jesus as Savior and received Him into the heart as Director of their life, shall be delivered.

The loyal laborer, the loyal employer will be there. The loyal mother in the home who has faithfully taught the children, the loyal boy and girl at school. These shall be citizens of the new kingdom of God. Christ will deliver them in that time of tribulation when their loyalty is being tested to the uttermost. While the judgment was in session, said. Daniel, he stared with surprise as he heard the horn again speaking great words. We therefore, standing on the brink of the eternal world, may expect to see a revival of the power of the Papacy. But, says Daniel, "the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame." "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." [7]

"Write my name in Thy book, O Lord!" May our hearts say: "Enroll me as one of Thy loyal ones. Come into my heart. I will trust Thee, Lord Jesus. I will serve and obey Thee" let our hearts respond with courage and faith. What a blessed kingdom that will be! No more shall its people act like cruel lions, ravenous bears, stealthy leopards, or self exalting horns. No more shall cruel wars bring the grief of bereavement to mothers and wives and sweethearts. No more battles like Arbela, Pydna, or Rome. No more Stalingrads, no more Dunkirks. Love of man for man and loyalty to all shall be the ruling forces in that kingdom.

There science shall seek only to bless. It shall go forward in leaps and bounds, and naught but good shall follow. There education shall be without selfish ambition. It shall match that of the angels--and only bring loving service to others. There every human love shall have free exercise, and never shall a cruel deceiving foe spoil love's glad music. Come quickly, O great kingdom of love!

These Things All Came to Pass

This message is true! Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome--these nations appeared on the stage of life exactly as God had shown His servant. Rome fell, and was divided into ten kingdoms, a thousand years after the divine Voice had foretold it. The little horn rose, subdued three kings, changed times and laws, and wore out the saints--just as Daniel heard and portrayed it. The Papacy lost its power in 1798, in exactly the year indicated.

The 2300 years--of this the first events were fulfilled, just at the time pointed out half a millennium before. Christ the Messiah appeared, and after three and a half years was "cut off" for the sins of the people--fulfilling this wonderful prophecy. The rest of the prophecy must be just as true. Therefore we are assured that the

great judgment books were opened in 1844. Soon will the Son of man appear in the clouds to set up His kingdom and restore the Eden life again.

Then Can This Astounding Book Be True?

Yes, it is absolutely true. This Book of Daniel carries its proofs within its own covers. Father Time--the great expositor of false theories--has only demonstrated the exact truth of these marvelous predictions. Time has demonstrated that only God could have originated them. Attack after attack has been made on this Book of Daniel. Satan knows it will prepare a people to meet their God. He seeks to destroy faith in its inspired pages. But God Himself has set His seal to its truthfulness.

By the testimony of God Himself, Daniel ranks as an outstanding prophet. Ezekiel twice names him as a great man of God, both wise and righteous, but when the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of him, He said, "Daniel the prophet." And the Lord Jesus actually quoted Daniel's very words in His own longest prophecy, saying to His disciples. "When you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, then flee into the mountains." [8]

The Lord Jesus urged readers to study Daniel's prophecy. "Who so reads, let him understand," He admonished. So the Apostle Matthew put Christ's commendation down in black and white. So did Mark the Evangelist. And because of this, thousands of the early Christians studied it, remembered it, talked of it, fled to the mountains when Daniel's sign appeared, and saved their lives by it. They heeded Christ and "Daniel the prophet." Let us heed likewise!

REFERENCES:

1. Daniel 8:14 ;
2. Daniel 9:24;
3. Ezra 6:14.
4. John 1:12,13.
5. 1 John 3:1.
6. Daniel 12:1.
7. Daniel 7:11, 27.
8. Matthew 24:15, 16.

**"THE JUDGMENT WAS SET
AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED"
DANIEL 2:10**

