

## **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 25. The Way Back Home**

If you have sometimes wished that the vagueness of the future could be dispelled, read in this chapter what God has prepared for them that love Him.

GOING back home! What a thrill comes to our hearts when, after long absence, we come within sight of home! When, after crossing the Tasman, we see the long coastline of Australia and draw near to the rocky ramparts of the Heads; later as we sail into lovely Sydney Harbor, and pick out the dear familiar landmarks, the Harbor Bridge, Fort Denison, and many another.

Or when, crossing the Tasman the other way, we catch the first glimpse of the Three Kings, and know that New Zealand's coastline will loom out to southward any moment. And when, after sailing down two hundred miles of coast we enter Auckland Harbour and see Rangitoto Island, with its double crater, what a surge of emotion that is at once pride, and pain, and sheer happiness sweeps over us! Home!

This is why even heaven itself is not to be the permanent dwelling-place of the redeemed from earth. They will come back here again. At the end of the thousand years there are great preparations in heaven. The children of earth are going back home! [1] Back to earth. But what a glorified world it is to be!

The great, garden-city metropolis, the New Jerusalem, is going too. With its jasper walls, its pure gold buildings, its gates of pearl, and its jeweled foundations. With its tree of life that bears twelve manner of fruits. And God Himself is going with them. Henceforth His dwelling-place will be the earth. "They shall see His face." The tabernacle of God shall be with man. [2]

The earth, the great theatre of the universe, where has been enacted the Great Drama of Right and Wrong, where God's beloved Son died for mankind, this henceforth shall be the center of the universe, the habitation of the great King and Father of all. How eyes will strain as the glorious multitude of the redeemed, after a marvelous journey through space, catch sight again of this familiar planet-

home. Like a star in the distance it first appears, then waxing large as the moon, then stretching out wide below them, a gigantic circle.

In that glorious city, the New Jerusalem, with Christ their loved Leader at their head, they come nearer and nearer until a great plain opens before them—probably where the Mount of Olives once stood, [3] in sight of Calvary, the thrilling memorial of their Redeemer's love for mankind. Home, but here still roams the devil and his angels. Shall they remain?

### ***The End of Satan and His Subjects***

What a drama now takes place! Again is heard the thrilling voice of Christ calling:-

“Awake, you dead! Arise!”

“Awake, you dead! Awake! Awake!”

And behold! the wicked dead arise from their dusty beds. An innumerable multitude!

This, this is “the resurrection of the unjust.” [4] Here they are, mighty Pharaohs; cruel Assyrians, ambitious Babylonians, fiendish Herods, ruthless Romans, wicked priests, proud popes, diabolical torturers, deceiving witch-doctors, selfish men and vain women of all ages, idolaters, careless, frivolous, despisers and neglecters of God's Christ--there they rise, a mighty multitude.

They see the city of God in its glory. They see within its walls the transformed people of God with their glorious Leader. Will they change now? Will they seek purity of heart and a place with the redeemed?

No, no sign of change of heart is there. No, they listen as of old to the voice of the great deceiver. Even now, can it be possible? Satan is urging them to assault the Holy City! [5] And they actually consent!

Shall the earth once more be troubled by these scandalmongers, these thieves, these murderers, adulterers, and deceivers? Shall homes of the new earth be spoiled by ill-temper, selfishness, jealousy, vanity, and unfaithfulness? No, that could never be!

### ***Have Any a Desire for Better Things?***

See, there is no repentance in this multitude. Here they come to fight against God Himself. Can these be granted eternal life? “When the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the

nations which are in the four quarters of the earth to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city.” Incredible, that men should fight against God!

“And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” The earth becomes a vast sea of fierce-rising, roaring flame in which every evil thing is burned up. [6] Every evil man and woman; every evil spirit. Every thorn and thistle. Every trace of the curse.

Just retribution comes upon the wicked. God will mete out punishment (as He metes out rewards) to every man according as his work shall be. To some it is a swift-drawn breath of fire and the eternal loss of sweet life. But the cruel torturers and war-mongers of our own and every other age shall suffer a duration of pain as they have caused others to suffer.

“Vengeance is Mine: I will repay,” God warns the evil ruler as well as his evil followers. Let none think they shall escape the pain and penalty of their sins. The universe demands justice. But at last every evil thing has been consumed. Root and branch have burnt up. [7] Evil shall not rise a second time thank God!

### ***He Makes All Things New***

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth.” [8] The seething lake of fire cools, and, behold! a new and beautiful earth is created before the eyes of the redeemed. Perhaps they remember that in the past men had scoffed at the Scripture record of the creation of light on the earth before the sun. But here is the city, so radiant with the light of the glory of God that the sun's glory is eclipsed.

Men had scoffed at the story of “creation in six days.” But here the earth is swiftly created again in full view of God's children. Here come the flowers; here come the trees. The fish glide to and fro in the sea. Here are the animals of all kinds again. A glorious seven-day panorama once more, perchance.

What a stupendous drama! Instead of his convict prison on rocky Patmos, the Apostle John sees a new earth--a new planet. He looks up to the sky where he has so often watched the sun and the moon (and behold, the sun is seven times greater! The moon shines like the sun. [9] How different the stars seem! Why! this is a new heaven! And with God Himself dwelling with the redeemed, earth becomes the new heaven. Heaven henceforth is on the earth.

In this resplendent glory, how beautiful the new earth appears! How green the grass! How lovely the flowers! The veil of sin and darkness has gone for ever. [10]

### ***Wonders of a New World***

With what delight the redeemed explore the new earth! They wander by its peaceful streams, they gather its flowers. All is infinitely more beautiful than anything ever seen on the old earth of former days. With friends and dear ones of the long ago they walk by the rivers, through the flower-scented glades, and up the lovely hills of God where the invigorating breezes blow. The garden of Eden is restored, what a delight for the children of men! And over all the fair earth will be found many a beauty spot that will thrill the heart and mind. Many a lovely garden; many a leaf-scented lane, a bird-haunted grove.

There, eyes, shall behold shady woods traversed by musical flowing streams. There, perchance, will be babbling brooks reminding of those that sparkle and pour amid the heather of the Scottish moors. Here a spot like the coast of Devon; here a lovely scene like some beautiful valley amid the Australian hills or those near the Cape of Good Hope.

No longer shall the animals of earth hurt and destroy the weaker ones. No, "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid," says the voice of God. "The calf, and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

Again shall be heard the joyful, welcoming bark of the dog, and the eager whinny of the noble horse, animals made for the service and companionship of man. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says God. "For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." [11]  
We Shall Know Each Other Better When the Mists have Rolled Away .

Shall we know our friends then? Without the slightest doubt. He who gave Eve to Adam, and Adam to Eve, is the originator of human love. He will bring together again those who love one another. He who planned that little children should come to brighten our homes, will restore them to loving parents' arms. [12]

"We shall know as we are known." The individuality and the "recognizability" will be there for ever. "Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face." [13] Our powers of sight and hearing will be keener, not duller. There will be full scope for loving hearts, for only loving hearts will reach that fair land. Love "shall there find truest and sweetest exercise."

### ***New Life and Energy***

What a glorious morn will dawn as the new creation is completed! This is the Land of Eternal Youth, of buoyant young life again. Here is overflowing energy for all, in the soft exhilarating breezes of that delightful land.

“Behold, I make all things new,” says the voice of God. Here is the exuberance of youth, restored as men drink of the water of life, and eat of the fruit of the tree of life. Here God will reopen the fountains of life and health-for you-never to close them again.

Here is no deafness, no blindness, no deformity, no weakness, no pain. No, gone for ever are these evils! No infirmity or old age! Never again the air-raid siren! Never the sound of battle or war! Gone are the slums for ever. And death? No; death itself is gone for ever! For ever! [14] Gone!

“There shall be no more death!” This is the proclamation of God Himself!

“Neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” These are the words of God.

What active, happy occupations await the redeemed! “They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.” [15]

And what beautiful materials shall be available for their building, when over a thousand miles of city wall is built of jasper! [16] What scope for artistic planning! And what gardens these homes shall have! Gardens fragrant with roses and orange blossoms, and gracious with the perfumes of scores of other flowers. Gardens which never shall know withering drought, killing frost, or destroying blight. Music? What boundless opportunity will there be for music, when the teachers may be leaders of the angelic choir! What harmony there will be when every voice has the capacity of a prodigy or a super soprano-and more!

### ***Boundless Opportunities for Travel!***

Travel? What eager hearts there will be among those who “follow the Lamb whither so ever He goes.” [17] When Christ Jesus, Creator of the multitudinous suns and worlds of the mighty universe, [18] leads His followers out to visit the planets afar, what wonders will astonish their eyes! “Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar--worlds which thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul.” [19]

What an education it will be to talk with the dwellers on other worlds-beings with matchless minds, who have studied the marvels of the universe for millenniums. How wonderful it will be to talk with beings who can reveal the mysteries of the changing lines on Mars; who can show the secrets of the bands of Jupiter, who rejoice to accompany them to the rings of Saturn.

Then with what stories will the dwellers of the new earth return to their friends and kindred in their own beautiful home where freedom and happiness reign. Yes, then the barbarous days of old shall be gone for ever. Gone the days of war and bloodshed; of fear and terror. Gone the suspicion, the jealousy, and the envy of the past. Here is peace and gladness of heart for ever.

### ***Who Could Be King Over the Whole World?***

But who is he whose reign shall bring this happiness? Who is worthy to be the ruler of this fair new planet? Who will be the ruler over its nations--over the millions of the redeemed? Great must be his qualifications.

In that new earth there will be Christians from all the five continents of the old earth: the British, American, Russian, German, Scandinavian; French, Spanish, Italian, Brazilian, Argentine; Chinese, Japanese, men of all classes from India, dusky sons and daughters of all the nations of Africa and the islands of the Pacific. In the past, national prejudices have created suspicion and war, and never has it been possible to create a United Empire of the World with all the advantages that might accrue from such a union. To whom could all give loyal allegiance?

Could there be found a man of large heart, one who had shown a loving, unselfish interest in every nation. And who combined this love with infinite wisdom so that men of all nations loved and trusted him implicitly. And, if, further, he had succeeded in changing the hearts of all men, so that the strong helped the weak and the weak helped the strong. And all men became loving and loyal to one another. Ah, yes! Then there would be hope. But where could one find such a man? "We have found Him. It is Christ Jesus, our Lord."

### ***He Is Found Already***

"We know Him! We know Him! We have found Him!" comes a tumultuous shout from these redeemed. "It is Christ Jesus, our Lord!" "Christ Jesus" we ask.

"Yes! Yes! He left all the riches of heaven for our sake. He sought us, of all nations, and died for us! He showed us God's way out. He loved us and washed us from our sins in His blood!" "Christ Jesus?"

“Yes! Yes! He has filled our hearts with love for all men. He has been one of us as He walked in old Palestine. He understands every human thought and desire. He is our Man. The Lord Jesus!”

“Christ Jesus!”

“Yes! Yes! King of kings, Lord of lords, Man of Galilee, Friend of men and mothers and boys and girls. All-wise Creator of a thousand worlds; Designer and Maker of this new earth in all its beauty! Christ Jesus our Lord! Crown Him Lord of all!” Oh, listen! They are singing! They break forth in exquisite harmony. A great song of adoration of Him! An old, old song they used to sing in the long ago:-

“All hail the power of Jesus’ name;  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
And crown Him, crown Him,  
Crown Him Lord of all!”

“Let every kindred, every tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all!  
And crown Him, crown Him,  
Crown Him Lord of all!”

And our own hearts cry out the longing response:

“Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall!  
Join in the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all!”

#### REFERENCES:

1. Revelation 21:2.
2. Revelation 21:3.
3. Zechariah 14: 4;
4. John 5:29; Revelation 20:5.
5. Revelation 20:7-9.
6. 2 Peter 3:10.
7. Malachi 4:1.

8. Revelation 21:1.
9. Isaiah 30:26.
10. Isaiah 25:7.
11. Isaiah 11:6, 7, 9.
12. Jeremiah 31:15, 16.
13. 1 Corinthians 13:12.
14. Revelation 21:4, 5.
15. Isaiah 65:21-23.
16. Revelation 21:16-18.
17. Revelation 14:4.
18. Hebrews 1:2.
19. The Great Controversy, Page 677.

