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We are probably in the darkest moment of the history of the world. There has been an opinion among the educated, and they have repeatedly told the world, that we are improving and that the world is getting better right along. They have told us that things are better. Every condition known to man, they say, has made some improvement and they tell us we are living on the verge of a "Golden Age". But the mind of the natural man works opposite to the mind of God. The mind of the natural man is out of kilter with the mind of God. Men cannot think in terms of God's thinking until they are born again and their nature is transformed by its contact with God. That new-born creature, under the anointing and the endowment of the power of God will reach its Christlike standard in due time.

When God gave Nebuchadnezzar that dream vision (Dan. Chapter 2) He started with the head of gold and then went on down through the thighs and the limbs and down to the ten toes. That image was a symbol of world powers and world governments and worldly things. God began with Nebuchadnezzar and said, "Thou art the head of gold." Gold is the most precious metal known in the world today and is used as a basis of the financial systems of the world. From Nebuchadnezzar on down, instead of an improvement, there was a deterioration.

First was the gold. It is hard to conceive that God would look on Nebuchadnezzar's day as a day superior to our own, but it was. Nebuchadnezzar was superior to the Dictators of today. Here the bible shows a deterioration from gold, the most precious of metals, to silver; then to brass, which we use for cooking utensils; and then to common, ordinary iron, one of the cheapest metals in the world today. I have seen mountains high of old-fashioned pig iron. That is the symbol God uses to show the deterioration that has been working in the human heart ever since Adam and Eve opened their hearts to the incoming of sin. The bible shows a steady deterioration. Most of the improvement that has seemed to be on mankind has been a counterfeit and humbug. It has not changed man's inner nature one bit. I am talking about the natural man. All the science applied to man in the centuries past has not improved him. He is still as much of a beast and cave man. Sometimes he has a polished-up exterior to make it look like something decent, but it is still the old body of the unregenerate nature of man; still the worn out garment so rotten it will not hold a patch. After all our refinement and education and knowledge -- BEMOLD -- today men have degenerated into the iron. It is the cruellest metal in the world; that metal that has been transformed into steel, into instruments of murder and engines of destruction and war.

Here we are to the end of that great world image empire that God allowed to Nebuchadnezzar. Isn't it just wonderful, though, that God would take that old heathen King and by the power of a series of visions transform that man's nature until old Nebuchadnezzar stood, after his restoration, in the halls of his palace and extolled and honored the God of Heaven and Earth. In that man was, evidently, the gold of God's goodness and after passing through his visions, he came out as pure gold. I believe Nebuchadnezzar maintained that condition until his dying day.

Why are the empires of today inferior to the empire of Nebuchadnezzar? Great events have transpired since Nebuchadnezzar lived. The events of the world meaning M N -- not the building or wonders of this world. God doesn't want us to get wrapped up in this world. It is not a fit place for God's people to live. God has designed a better world for us and He never intended us to live here. This world felt the tread of that fallen Arch Angel, Lucifer. When he fell he stepped upon this world of ours, always having in view the defacing of God's wonderful plan. When God passed through the various stages of creation, one by one, He brought them out until finally He made man in His own image and likeness. When God finished the making of man He stopped His creative work. As God looked He said everything He made was good and it was. He will get sin out of this world and for one thousand years we are going to have a wonderful place. For one thousand years God is going to show to you and to me just what the world will be like without sin.

In the meantime all the marvelous events from the time of Nebuchadnezzar have passed through the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. The cross of Christ held on it God's perfect man. The man that was nailed to the cross in the body of the Lord Jesus Christ was a perfect man. He was a sinless man. Jesus never did one speck of harm to any of His creation. From the time of His birth to the time of His nailing to the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ was man's best friend. When Jesus was nailed to the cross the world nailed to the cross of Calvary the perfect man. Thank God He was perfect! Thank God that throughout all the various processes of chastisement and victory, the sinlessness of Christ was never once marred. They spat on His

face. In the Roman order of crucifixion the feet of Jesus were only 18 inches from the ground. The people could walk by Him, and they said, "If Thou be the Christ come down and save yourself." As the Jews walked by everyone of them spat on the face of Jesus. From that day until now they have been spitting in the face of Christ. If a Jew inadvertently took the name of Jesus on their lips they were to go some place and spit three times. If they could not spit on a Gentile they would go and spit on the steps of his church. They began that when the perfect Christ hung on the cross. Now the Jews are coming into their final chastisement and at the same time Israel and the Gentile world are all going to pass through the Valley of Decision. Satan could pass by in that hellish multitude, and while he could spit on the Son of God, he could not find a flaw in Him. There was no taint on the Son of God but what vile humanity put on Him. It may not seem to be much in this atheistic, modernistic, and apostate world of ours that the powers of hell have never been able to pick a flaw in the Lord Jesus Christ. I wish we were as sinless as the Lord Jesus Christ. God can make us perfect and He is going to bring out a perfect people. This is no time to get discouraged. This is the time to throw up your sin. You will need to, because as sure as God is on the Throne you are going to get yours. The powers of hell are intent on destroying Jewry and Israel today. They are fighting the natural man, but they are fighting him filled with demoniac hatred.

The bolts of lightning are being thrown against God's natural people now; first the Jews, and then God's people all over the world. This mighty hatred against the Anglo-Saxon people is a hatred thrown against them by the powers of hell. These nations and peoples have been those nations and people that have sent out, with a spirit of sacrifice, the tens of thousands of missionaries that have gone out and sowed the good seed of the gospel in the hearts of the people. They have made their mistakes, but the time is coming when all this Satanic hatred is going to be thrust at the spiritual man. The nations have entered their beginning of sorrows, but Jesus said, "Be not troubled, but lift up your heads and know that your redemption is drawing nigh." This lightning blow is coming against the church of God. Don't think it is ever going to stop between mere nations. The Gentile, the unsaved of the nations is not the thing that Satan cares about. The thing Satan directs his wrath against is everything that will make mention of the name of Jesus Christ and those who try to live His life. Thank God for one thing -- the bible is full of last day revival. All through your bible the revelation of God's Word comes to you. It was the WORD made flesh that was everlasting to everlasting. The WORD MADE FLESH that was the ALPHA AND OMEGA.

Some folk are all wrapped up in the restoration of the Roman Empire. That is only one figment in this last day empire. This time God has the whole wide world in view. He has something to do with Rome, but men everywhere have been turning God down since that time. They will not listen to the spiritual reasoning of God's bible. They turn away from it as unworthy of their notice, but this BOOK is coming in to its own. The world makes lots of mistakes. The neutral attitude in this world war is the worst one you can take. When the war is over there will not be a neutral nation in the world. Neutrality is fatality. The world is involved in the things that are being enacted today. But this thrust has in it the elements of the final conflict against the church. Where is the church of God in the world today? I was never so ashamed of myself and my efforts of living the Christ life as I am tonight. I am ashamed of the carelessness and indifference that is on God's people, even those baptised with the Holy Ghost and Fire. They descend into things that should be too low for them to even touch. When you look for a perfect church in the world today you find nothing but one great big make-believe. We think we are Christians. Fundamentally we have grace enough to be saved. I have had grace enough to be swept into Heaven the moment I die, but God wants His church and His people to be something different from that. God wants a church, a people, filled with divine life. Do you know that in Christ there is power that can silence every gun and blunt every bayonet in the world. There is power in Christ to stem the tide of war as He stilled the sea. We are drinking milk instead of eating of that Tree of Life, the Bread of Life. We still take the Bread and Wine as a matter of form. The Denominations are a stench in the sight of God. They are playing at religion and Christianity. Unless men and women, who turn to God today, mean it with all their heart and are willing to die for it -- God help us. God wants men and women who will die and let their blood be poured out for the thing that Jesus died for on the cross. Are we better than the Lord Jesus Christ? His was a long, slow, painful dying of the flesh.

We are now under the opening of the 3rd seal. The reason there is a lapse of time between the opening of the 2nd and 3rd seals is because God has a different idea of the thing from what we have. The way we live in America we have not the faintest idea of the horrors of hell being poured out on the world today. You and I can be thankful that God has put a quarter of a century between the opening of the 2nd and 3rd seals. The opening of the 3rd seal will precipitate a great famine. The scope of the issues involved today is world wide. How many times have I tried to impress it on the heart of my congregation that since the power of God fell in 1906 in the Pentecostal way that everything is world wide. Nothing is local. Show me a corner of the world not affected by the war today. Other nations are sitting by, like wild beasts, trying to figure which way to light in order to get the biggest bite. Those nations that claimed to be the most proud of the past greatness and might and majesty of their empires. Tomorrow there may be another four million people involved in the war. The Balkans are all seething. Every man sleeping on his bayonet. We can be glad the 3rd seal has not yet opened.

The other night I had a vision from the Lord. I saw a beautiful garden; this garden was surrounded by a fence. In this garden were tables and chairs -- like a great big tea garden. In the midst was a great pile of glittering gold. The people in this garden had on their table every food the world could furnish -- roast beef, turkey, pigs, fowl, vegetables, and delicacies of every kind. Millions of people were eating and drinking and were so filled with food they threw it on the ground. As I lifted my eyes and looked at the fences around that people, on the outside were people with jaw bones sticking out. They were dying of hunger and looking at the people in that garden squandering the food. The look in the eyes of those people was horrifying. Inside were these people surfeited with plenty and a garden in the midst. The Lord said, "That is the United States. They sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We are boasting that we have gold and most of the food stuffs of the world. Let me tell you, there is somebody looking over the hedges. They are getting hungrier and hungrier every day. In the midst, in the grass, were rats of every kind; hidden Satanic forces ready to spring at the throat of the Government that feeds them. 18 billions in dollars of gold; think of bragging of that. Put a piece of gold on your plate when you are hungry and you will curse it. The very spirit of plenty of which we are boasting is going to be our damnation.

God is concerned with His church. He is concerned in making men and women Christlike Christians. I think God will pour upon us the spirit of repentance. The message of repentance comes to the church -- not to the sinner. If you and I will repent of the awful vanity of our Christian profession and the fact of how little we are ready to suffer for Christ who bore it all on the cross. What they did to His body when He lived, they will do now. We cannot flaunt our wealth in the face of God. What does that mean to Him! The people of this generation have degenerated into a filthy mess fit for nothing. The self-side of man is fit only for the scrap heap. It is the rottenest thing in existence, and yet you see our young people being taught today to "express themselves" -- "whatever you want to do, go ahead and do it." The world is in a corrupt state right now.

What the world needs is a Church that will stand true -- men and women that will ~~not~~ live their lives even unto death itself. But we have a very smug Christianity. We are, with our Christianity, something like America is with her wealth, the gold pile. God is looking for martyr stuff. It is time for you and for me to weep and moan and humble ourselves before Almighty God. The Church of Jesus needs to start that forward and upward march. It is immaterial where you begin, but God is calling for a mighty repentance in His Church and an importuning of Him. We have to demonstrate to God and God lets us do that in order that He may pour out His Spirit in the world.

In the book of Ezekiel you have a vision of dry bones. Little by little the Prophet received his instruction, until God said to Ezekiel, "Prophecy to the wind and say, O wind, breathe on these bones." When the Holy Ghost came, He came as a mighty, rushing wind and God was showing the Prophet Ezekiel the last days. Call for the wind; have the Holy Spirit of God to come and breathe on the dead, dried up Christianity of today. Thank God, the Prophet did call for that wind and said, "Come, O wind, and breathe on these slain." By and by there stood on its feet an exceeding great army. That is revival. In Ezekiel 47 you will find the period of time measured off exactly when this marvelous flood tide of God's Spirit power was to come. When God showed me that truth I said, "Lord, where did the angel begin to measure?" and God said, "Abraham believed God." Will the Son of man find faith when He returns? Of course He will but not in comparison to what it should be.

Every saint of God should have their eyes open to the promises of the power in the Holy Spirit. Your vessel should be filled with oil and your lamps burning brightly. Some times we adopt the fatalistic attitude -- they say the bible says so/ and so. Why try to live above the bible? The bible tells it to you to give you a warning instead of sitting down and becoming a part of the unwise virgin class. In the United States of America the Church of Christ is going to feel the heavy hand of hell. Your head is not so safe and mine is not so safe. I am telling you God's truth. When the 3rd seal opens and world-wide pestilence comes, as it will, it will be followed by world-wide death. At that time one-fourth of the people of the earth will die of these horrible things. The vision is so terrible that the Lord has to support you. It made Daniel sick as he received his visions.

In Revelation 12 you have the vision of a woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and crowned with a diadem of twelve stars. That is the victory -- a great revival. That is your standard. That is the height to which God wants of lift you and me. Thank God, it is a pre-tribulation picture. If you follow Jesus and are found worthy to go into the marriage, when the call comes you will never see the tribulation. To me that is the moment of the greatest triumph and victory. That woman is revealed in that condition exactly 1260 days before the time of the end. The invitation is so marvelous as it comes from God to us. We need not make a mistake.

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