



The Living Message of Prophecy Today

IT is important to know where you are going in life. Your future, and that of your family, depends upon it. If coming events can be determined with accuracy, how much easier it would be to make the right decisions for your life. Although we do not suggest that a crystal ball provides the answers to the future, we certainly do believe that the Holy Bible can help us understand the tremendous events that will yet occur — and this book is given to mankind by a loving Creator in order to prepare thinking people for what He proposes. God did not create this earth to always be the arena of war and bloodshed. He desires it to reflect to His glory so that He receives pleasure in the wholesome response of sincere people to the great benefits He provides. To help the reader appreciate some of these imminent future events, this booklet is placed into your hands.

HERALD OF THE COMING AGE

A Christadelphian Publication

**DECLARING THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES REVEALED FOR THE SALVATION OF
THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF GOD'S WORD;
AND PRESENTING THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS
CHRIST AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM ON EARTH.**

**Edited by G.E.Mansfield,
Logos Publications, Box 220, Findon, Sth Australia 5023**

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THE *Living* *Message* of **Prophecy** **Today**

UNCERTAINTY and deep concern trouble many thinking people today. They do not know what to make of the strange turn of events that has faced this civilisation in the last few decades or so. Mounting national problems, and increasing personal difficulties make life a complex bundle of stress. The voice of the super-optimist is almost silent. No longer is he confident that “they’ll sort it out alright.” People know that it is not in the power of world leaders to ensure the continuing prosperity of this earth, and to maintain a relative level of safety and satisfaction for its people. Where shall we look for some happiness and lasting achievement? Where is there the security in which families can be raised, and individuals find true and fulfilling enjoyment? There is an answer, even though most people ignore it. The answer is in the *Living Message of Prophecy*, and it is available to all who desire it. We invite you to consider the evidence.

A Question to be Answered

As a thinking person looks at the bewildering mixture of political unrest, racial hatred, industrial chaos, and social discontent that makes up today's world, he must ponder the question: "*Where will it all end? Is there a better way?*"

The answer is not found in the confusing array of well-meaning but impractical advice, impossible political solutions, or the plans and projects of a society that cannot solve its present dilemmas.

There is only one book which offers the true hope of a better future. Its compilation was commenced about 3,500 years ago, and it was almost 1,600 years later before the last chapter was completed. That book is called *The Holy Bible*. Even though it was completed nearly 2,000 years ago, it has remained throughout the centuries, and is still available today for everyone to read—despite the many endeavors by pagans, atheists and authorities to destroy it. No book has faced such challenges, nor been subjected to such criticism, as the Bible. Yet it testifies to its own reliability and trustworthiness; it declares itself to be "the Word of God."

Further than that, *it is the only book in the world with the answer to the problems of today.*

A Prophecy About Modern Times

Seldom used, and little respected, the Bible nevertheless is absolutely up-to-date. It describes the present world in very accurate terms. Consider what the apostle Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy in the first century AD. Speaking of a time called "the last days" (which clearly refers to the twentieth century), he says: "*This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...*" (2Timothy 3:1-4). Look carefully at every one of those characteristics. Although typical of the degeneration of society in every age, they are especially so of today's scene. In fact, if there could possibly be any other evil to add, it would be found in modern society.

What Will the Future Reveal?

The answer is found in Bible prophecy, a subject of tremendous and vital significance. More space is given in the Scriptures to this theme than to any other. The gospel itself is prophetic, for it speaks of a time when the blessings of Christ's administration will be manifested in all the earth. Galatians 3:8 states that "the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed." Prophecy, therefore, includes the revelation of God's purpose in the rise and fall of nations, as well as the latter-day signs that indicate the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the international crisis that will bring all nations to Jerusalem to battle.

Is Bible Prophecy Important?

Bible prophecy very clearly pinpoints the danger spots facing civilisation. Therefore, the solutions God's Word offers show that it can be absolutely relied upon, and its prophecies will certainly come to pass.

The Bible declares that God has set a certain time in which He allows mankind to follow its own life-styles, but will not permit society to go beyond what His purpose requires.

At the end of that period, known as "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24), a day of judgment will occur when His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ,

What is Prophecy?

Many people consider that a prophet only foretells the future. However, the original Hebrew word, "nabi," has the basic idea of forth-telling, rather than fore-telling.

This is indicated by the words of the apostle Paul who says: "He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort" (1 Corinthians 14:3). Thus, a prophet is appointed to present a message boldly, confidently, and with a purpose in view. All the prophecies of God's Word are to this end. They are not simple curiosities, indulging people's whims or fancies, merely indicating what events are to happen — but for the purpose of instructing and teaching what people should do because of what will happen.

returns from heaven as has been promised (v. 27). The apostle Paul told the community at Athens, that God *"hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised him from the dead"* (Acts 17:31). This is an amazing testimony. We cannot disprove the resurrection of Jesus Christ — in fact, a consideration of the evidence will show that it really happened. Even the date we place on documents and letters is related to his birth. Many have tried to ignore the evidence, but it remains to challenge the doubters and to confirm the believers. The important thing to remember is that this prophecy requires that an amazing event is soon to occur.

Jesus Christ Must Return to Fulfil Prophecy and Restore Well-being to the Earth

The Lord Jesus is to return to complete the salvation of man and the restoration of the earth. The apostle Peter foretold of this great event, in a living prophecy that is about to be realised. He declared that God *"shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people"* (Acts 3:20-23). These words are perfectly clear, and yet few people believe them. And often, even those who profess to accept them, do not live as though they expect them to occur!

Yet they will come to pass, and that very soon!

The wise reader will seek out the details of the "restitution" mentioned. The word means "restoration," and teaches that God intends to bring the world back to the ideal condition that existed at the time of creation, when mankind was in harmony with His laws, and accepted His ways (Genesis 1:31).

A Day of Hope is Imminent

In many Bible prophecies, the return of Jews is predicted as a prelude to Christ's return. Such passages as Psalm 102:13-16

clearly identify the land and the people as vital prophetic signposts that thinking people might ponder their importance.

About three thousand years ago, the Psalmist declared: *“Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For Thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth Thy glory. When the LORD shall build up Zion, He shall appear in his glory.”*

Jewish Return: Evidence of the Accuracy of Bible Prophecy

A token fulfilment of this remarkable prophecy occurred in 1948. After many traumatic events and notwithstanding apparent impossible odds, the Jewish people gathered in their ancient homeland in the Middle East, and were constituted a nation. Economically, politically and militarily, Israel should not have existed — but the nation has continued for nearly fifty years, *because God prophesied that it would!*

Most importantly, the present State of Israel is clear evidence of fulfilling Bible prophecy. The prophet Ezekiel stated God’s purpose: *“I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for Mine holy name’s sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. And I will sanctify My great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land”* (Ezekiel 36:21-24).

In 1849 a Christadelphian expositor, Dr. John Thomas, published his book *Elpis Israel* (which means “The Hope of Israel”) making the following comments: *“There is then a partial and primary restoration of Jews [to the Holy Land] before the manifestation [of Christ in the earth], which is to serve as the nucleus, or basis, of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom. The pre-adventual colonisation of Palestine will be on purely*

political principles; and the Jewish colonists will return in unbelief of the Messiahship of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate thither as agriculturalists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth, but more immediately of getting rich in silver and gold, and cattle and goods by their industry at home and abroad under the efficient protection of the British power... I know not whether the men, who at present [i.e., in 1849] contrive the foreign policy of Britain, entertain the idea of assuming the sovereignty of the Holy Land, and of promoting its colonization by the Jews; their present intentions, however, are of no importance one way or the other, because they will be compelled, by events soon to happen, to do what, under existing conditions, heaven and earth combined could not move them to attempt" (pp. 441-442).

Remember, this remarkable explanation of current events was written over one hundred and forty years ago — when the world situation was much different from today! Yet the events he anticipated were fulfilled to the very letter. This was not because the author had any special divine revelation, but because he carefully studied Bible prophecy. Dr. Thomas' conviction that Britain would ultimately have a hand in Israel's affairs, arose from such Bible passages as Isaiah 60, spoken concerning the latter-day return of the Jews: "Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far" (v. 9). "Tarshish" is a Bible name for the mercantile power of Britain and its allies (for further information on this subject, please apply for the booklet on *Britain in Prophecy* advertised on the inside back cover). In the days of the prophet, the sea-power of Tarshish was controlled by the Phoenicians who traded in tin and identified the British isles as *Baratanac*, "the land of tin."

An Epoch of Civilisation in Distress

Jesus declared that his second coming would occur at a time of general world conflict — such as is evident today. In a prophecy describing the two thousand years of Jewish history that would follow his ascension to heaven, he included a dramatic description of the social scene that would be seen at the end. He said that there would be "*upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things*

which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken" (Luke 21:25-26).

These words depict the traumatic circumstances of life today — people facing an unknown global future; nations in political, social and economical upheavals, acting like "the sea and waves roaring," smashing themselves without lasting effect against the immovable rocks of God's declared purpose with the earth; people's hearts fainting, unable to control the floods swirling about them. Are not these the events reported in today's newspapers—and people fear what they might read about tomorrow!

If Jesus Christ could foresee such coming troubles, did he not also foresee a way out? Did he not provide his disciples with some message of hope?

Indeed he did! He continued: "*then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory*" (v. 27). Then he gave a special message to faithful disciples, which can provide us with a hope that looks beyond present despair. "*When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh*" (v. 28).

This is the solution that God will institute to cure this world of its seeming unsolvable problems. It requires divine intervention by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will return to earth, in order to establish his Father's worldwide kingdom. This was the clear statement of the angels given at the moment when the Lord left the earth. They told the assembled disciples: "*Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:11). There is no doubting the meaning of these words. He will come again as they saw him then: personally, literally, powerfully, and with his accompanying "clouds" of angels (see v. 9).

Prophecy has a Living Hope for a Dying World

If Christ did not return, then mankind would certainly corrupt and destroy the earth. In fact, one of the last prophecies of the Bible concerning the present age, asserts this very thing. Revelation 11:18 declares: "*the nations were angry, and Thy [God's] wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants*

UNFULFILLED OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

Every Prophet Prophesied the Same Message

Psalms 72:8-11 — “He shall *have dominion* also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth... Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall *serve him*.”

Isaiah 2:2 — “It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.”

Jeremiah 23:5 — “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”

Ezekiel 37:22 — “I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all.”

Daniel 7:14 — “His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

Hosea 3:5 — “Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.”

Joel 3:16-17 — “The LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy.”

Amos 9:11 — “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old.”

Obadiah 1:21 — “Saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD’s.”

Micah 4:7-8 — “The LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever... the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.”

Nahum 1:15 — “Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace.”

Habakkuk 2:14 — “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

Zephaniah 3:9 — “Then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.”

Haggai 2:7 — “I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come (the Lord Jesus Christ); and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Zechariah 6:12-13 — “Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne.”

Malachi 4:2 — “Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings.”

PROMISED NEW TESTAMENT ASSURANCES

Every New Testament Writer Recorded the Same Message

Matthew 25:31 — "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory."

Mark 8:38 — "Son of man... *cometh*... with the holy angels."

Luke 19:12-15 — "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, *and to return*... And it came to pass, that when he was *returned*, having received the kingdom."

John 14:3 — "I *will come again*, and receive you unto myself; that where I am (*when he comes in his kingdom*), there ye may be also."

Acts 1:11 — "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come in like manner* as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Romans 8:19 — "The earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the *manifestation* of the sons of God."

1Corinthians 1:7 — "Waiting for the *coming* of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2Corinthians 5:10 — "We must all *appear* before the judgment seat of Christ."

Galatians 3:14 — "That the blessing of Abraham *might come* on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 2:7 — "That in the ages to come *he might shew* the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:20 — "For our conversation is in heaven; *from whence also we look for the Saviour*, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Colossians 3:4 — "When Christ, who is our life, *shall appear*, then shall ye also *appear with him* in glory."

1Thessalonians 1:10 — "To wait for his Son *from heaven*, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus."

2Thessalonians 1:7 — "To you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus *shall be revealed* from heaven with his mighty angels."

1Timothy 6:14 — "Keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, *until the appearing* of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2Timothy 4:8 — "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that *love his appearing*."

Titus 2:13 — "Looking for that blessed hope, and the *glorious appearing* of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6 — "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until *the day of Jesus Christ*."

Hebrews 9:28 — "Unto them that look for him *shall he appear* the second time without sin unto salvation."

James 5:8 — "The coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

1Peter 1:7 — "The trial of your faith... might be found unto praise and honour and glory at *the appearing* of Jesus Christ."

2Peter 3:10 — "The day of the Lord *will come*."

1John 3:2 — "When he *shall appear*, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Jude 1:14 — "Behold, the Lord *cometh* with ten thousands of his saints."

Revelation 1:7 — "Behold, *he cometh* with clouds."

the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."

Notice the last phrase. It indicates that a time in history would arise when mankind would act in such a way as might destroy the very life on this earth. Ecologists, sociologists, and leading scientists, assert that this is possible within the next thirty years. They report that danger threatens our environment; that unless something drastic occurs, the ozone layer protecting the atmosphere will be destroyed, letting in killer UV rays; the mercury levels of the oceans are rising in some areas, destroying fish life; that the food and mineral resources of the earth are being dangerously exploited by man and rapidly vanishing; and the social deterioration and breakdown of morals portends an age of abandonment threatening the tenuous fabric of society. This is an age facing complete destruction, and the only solution is that designed by the Creator of life Himself.

The return of Jesus Christ, and the establishment of a divine theocracy, with a worldwide government emanating from Jerusalem, is the Bible's answer to these global problems. This is what the prophet Isaiah declared will occur: *"It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"* (ch. 2:2-4). What could be more delightful than this?

Other prophecies declare that a great temple will be constructed in Jerusalem (see Ezekiel 40-48), to which groups of worshippers will periodically attend (Zechariah 14:16), whilst the associates of the Lord Jesus Christ — his faithful followers, who will then have been made immortal and glorious — will care for society, teaching and helping men and women find true

happiness and peace, in harmony with Almighty God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life.

A fantasy, you say? A figment of the imagination, or “wishful thinking”?

But what alternative can anyone offer!

The Bible declares that the original and ultimate purpose of God is to allow His glory and wisdom to be manifested in the earth He created. He pronounced: *“Thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else”* (Isaiah 45:18). Further: *“Truly I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD”* (Numbers 14:21).

This is the avowed intention of God, as revealed in many passages in the Bible. He has allowed mankind six thousand years of history to work out its own intentions, but this has been mostly foolish and destructive. Man’s endeavors have not been to the development of godly characteristics, but rather, to those of native aggressiveness, and mutual destruction.

On the other hand, God seeks a community of faithful believers, who desire to honor His characteristics, and seek to develop goodness and mercy in their lives. This is best done under the pressure of wickedness and evil, and therefore God has permitted such a situation to continue, so that He can select a community with whom He is pleased to dwell. He chooses to ultimately call together through His Son, Jesus Christ, those who have been prepared to accept divine precepts, following ways of truth, and obeying them to the best of their ability. This is what is meant by the following statement: *“God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name”* (Acts 15:14). In the next verse, the apostle acknowledges that this purpose to select faithful believers is part of the prophetic program of the Bible: *“To this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things”* (vv. 15-17).

This is a remarkable statement. It shows that the purpose of

God is not to save people who do not respond to His message. This means that the teaching of immortal souls is false. We do not possess inherent immortality, but are corruptible, dying creatures — who, without a correct understanding of God's way and purpose, will remain in the grave forever. Psalm 49:20 states: "*Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.*" It does not matter what honour or riches or influence an individual possesses amongst his contemporaries; without "understanding" God's way, he "perishes" (see the same word in 1Corinthians 15:18, which asserts that *all* must perish unless Christ was raised.

What Will Occur in the Near Future?

This question is often asked. However, the Bible is not a book of curiosities, nor of sensational speculations. It is not for idle enquiry. Its living message is for people prepared to change their lives for the better; to read the Bible to discover what God wants of them; to serve Him because they seek to be part of His great purpose. For such sincere people, there is a great thrill of discovery ahead. They will find the Bible to be extremely practical, absolutely harmonious, particularly logical, for its prophecy holds the key to current events.

There are Bible prophecies that tell of what is shortly to occur on the political, social and religious world scene.

Middle East conflict is inevitable. We have already directed attention to the return of Israel to its homeland, as a vital sign of Christ's approaching return, and God's solution to world problems. Other Bible statements indicate that the continuing confusion in the Middle East, and the emergence of Russia as a great world power, must surely be next in significance. Some have felt that since the collapse of Communism, Russia has been reduced in world influence. Not so. Appearances are often deceptive. Who would have thought, a century or so ago, that a few homeless Jews would begin a movement which would result in the establishment of a Jewish State, and achieve world importance well beyond the size of their country? But it happened. And the name of Israel makes headlines in daily newspapers and world magazines with consistent regularity.

So it is in regard to Russia. Be not deceived by suggestions that Russia's power-politics and aspirations to supremacy have

been abandoned. The "Bear" sometimes slumbers, but will ultimately stir itself to achieve its aims and objectives.

Russia fits into the final scenes of world destiny in accordance with Bible prophecy. In fact, Russia is directly identified in the Bible by its ancient name of *Rosh* and even the cities of Moscow and Tobolski appear by their most ancient names, *Meshech* and *Tubal* (Ezekiel 38:2, see Revised Version). Russia's latter-day allies are also specifically named. There is Germany, called *Magog* in that verse; Iran, known by its earlier name *Persia*; Ethiopia; Libya; France (called *Gomer*), and Turkey (*Togarmah*) in verse 6.

Verses 8-9, and other prophetic passages of Scripture (such as Daniel 11:40-45), teach that the Russian confederacy of nations will ultimately sweep down through Turkey (having taken control of that country), and enter Egypt, in order to strengthen Russian dominance in the Middle East.

We are not left in any doubt as to the outcome of this conflict, for Ezekiel 38:13 informs us that, as we would expect, an allied force under the banner of Britain (known as the "merchants of Tarshish"), will confront Russia in the Middle East.

But it will require divine intervention to destroy the northern army (vv. 21, 22; ch. 39).

This is not some new interpretation of Bible prophecy that Christadelphians have developed to fit the current world scene. In fact, for over a century Christadelphian Bible students have anticipated the rise of Russian power from a nation of peasants to a world force. Dr. J. Thomas, mentioned earlier, also wrote in **1849**: "*From these premises, then, I think there cannot be a shadow of a doubt that the Autocrat of Russia, when he shall have attained to the plenitude of his power and dominion, is the subject of the prophecy contained in the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth of Ezekiel. (Thus) at some time hereafter, and that not far off, a Czar of Russia will be both Emperor of Germany and Autocrat of all the Russias... The future movements of Russia are notable signs of the times, because they are predicted in the Scriptures of Truth. The Russian Autocracy in its plenitude, and on the verge of dissolution, is the image of Nebuchadnezzar standing upon the mountains of Israel, ready to be smitten by the stone*" (*Elpis Israel*, p. 432 and Preface).

The *Living Message of Prophecy* testifies that the present distress amongst the nations, and the uprise of the dominating power of Russia, will not forever plague civilisation. The prophetic Word that has so clearly and accurately set before the Bible reader that which will transpire, leaves us in no doubt as to the outcome of the impending crisis.

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth will introduce a series of events that will restore the earth to its divinely designed purpose. It will ultimately manifest the glory of its Creator, and provide for the happiness and benefit of all its inhabitants.

A Change in Government is Coming

But first, existing governments, which have demonstrated their inability to govern for the benefit of mankind, will be abolished. This is forecast by the prophet Daniel: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (ch. 2:44).

The "days of these kings" refer to our times. In Daniel 2, a remarkable vision of a huge metallic image is presented. This figure represents four universal powers that appeared on the world scene from the time of the prophet (about BC550) to our times. The prophetic picture concludes with a description of the feet of this colossus, and depicts ten toes made of a mixture of iron and clay (v. 43). In prophetic terms, this indicates a division of nations (the mixture of clay and iron) yet all with a form of unity and bonding. The fulfilment is evident in a Europe of different governments, yet united by a common ideology, called today, *The European Community*.

This remarkable prophecy very clearly depicts the state of human government throughout the ages, and has been exactly fulfilled to this point. We can therefore expect the next event to similarly occur with accuracy.

The prophecy therefore forecasts that the present governmental structure of the world will soon be replaced by a unique power, not generally recognised by society. So Daniel continued: "Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the

iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure" (v. 45). The "stone cut from a mountain without hands" indicates a power developed without human origin or control, and points to the Lord Jesus Christ, described as "the stone" God provided, but who was spurned by the Jews to whom he was sent. He challenged them: "Have ye not read this scripture; *The stone* which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" (Mark 12:10-11). As "the stone" of God's providing, he was "cut from a mountain without hands," by which is meant that, though Jesus Christ came from the "mountain" of humanity, bearing the same mortal nature as all others, yet his birth was "without hands," inasmuch as it was a divine, not a human work. This was testified by the angel to his mother Mary: "The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

The World's Future Monarch

Jesus Christ was born to be a king (John 18:37), and he will fulfil that role when he returns, to establish his Father's authority throughout the earth. This means that all human governments will be abolished, and replaced by the kingdom of God.

Not only will universal government be set up in Jerusalem (Micah 4:1-8), but that city will become the centre of universal worship. Divine laws will emanate therefrom to all parts of the earth. No longer will there be a confusion of religions and ideologies, as is the case today, but one worldwide faith will be accepted and followed by every individual (Isaiah 2:2-4). People will enjoy travelling to Jerusalem for the great festivals of worship that will then be instituted (Zechariah 14:16-19).

The Final Picture

This is the *Living Voice of Prophecy*. It is the Creator's answer to six thousand years of man's misrule. Neither politics nor protests can save humanity from the morass of anarchy into which it is plunging headlong. God alone has the answer, and He has decreed that He will act at the appointed time.

In His concern for us, God has provided in the Bible,

prophetic signposts which herald the time of His judgments, and the way in which individuals can prepare themselves for that great event. The gospel message, clearly presented in the Scriptures, provides sincere and thoughtful men and women with the answer to their personal needs, and to their future destiny.

The Path to Personal Salvation

The Bible does not leave us without a solution. Jesus Christ invites every individual to accept his terms for eternal salvation. He told his disciples to "Go into all the world, and preach *the gospel* to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). *Belief* in the One True Gospel and *baptism* into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ are the two essentials for personal salvation.

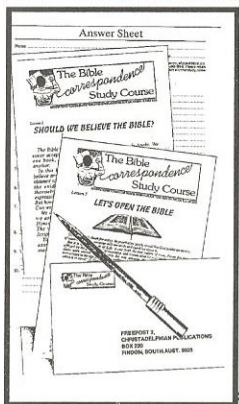
Notice carefully the Bible definition of "the gospel." Paul explains it in these terms: "The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached beforehand the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed" (Gal. 3:8). Therefore the gospel of salvation involves the restoration of all nations of the earth to a state of harmony with God, and to grant mankind the great blessings promised. That is why it is recorded that Philip, one of the Lord's disciples, went about "preaching the things concerning *the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ*" resulting in many of his listeners being "baptised, both men and women" (Acts 8:12).

God offers eternal life and an inheritance in His kingdom to those who believe and obey the gospel. An understanding of Bible Truth, baptism into the sin-covering name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and a consistent life of dedication and obedience to the principles laid down in the Scriptures, are essential for salvation in the day of Christ's coming.

We urge the reader to take up the challenge, and to investigate the evidence. *Bible prophecy* is not dull or archaic. It is a living, vibrant, urgent message that can excite and direct those prepared to experience its power. We hope that you will respond, and would be happy to answer any questions, or provide further free literature upon any of the matters raised in this article.



ALTHOUGH the Bible does not mention Great Britain by this name, it does accurately describe the remarkable role that Britain and its Western Allies have played in the past, and what is yet destined for them. This free booklet outlines the remarkable history of the British nation, and points to Bible prophecy to show what this confederacy of nations is destined to perform. You will enjoy reading the booklet, and learning of events yet to happen.



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THE CHRISTADELPHIANS

...or, as the name implies, the Brethren of Christ (Hebrews 2:11), are a body of people associated together by a belief in the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:12); and by immersion into Christ (Galatians 3:27) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and identification with his resurrection (Romans 6:5).

They do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are able to make a person wise unto salvation (2Timothy 3:15-17). Believing in the divine authorship of the Bible, they think it only reasonable to reject any interpretation which fails to harmonise all the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures; and, finding that the creeds of the various existing religious groups are, in a great variety of ways, opposed to the direct teaching of the Bible, they feel compelled to stand apart, making appeal in all such matters to the statements of Scripture, and testing all teachings thereby.

They believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to the earth, to establish his power and reign as king throughout the world, and they seek to share this saving knowledge with others.

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