

'The times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He 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.'

Acts 3:19-21.

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**Theme for 2020 – By the Mouth of ALL His Holy Prophets
Spring Conference - April 24th, 4pm and 7pm**

Afternoon Subject: The Testimony of Moses

Evening Subject: The Testimony of David

Speaker: Brian McClung

May 22nd, 7pm

Subject: The Testimony of Nathan

Speaker: John Douglas

June 26th, 7pm

Subject: The Testimony of Elijah

Speaker: Gordon Dane

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Watching and Waiting

LIGHT FOR PERILOUS TIMES

SCRIPTURAL

Reformed, Protestant, Puritan, Prophetical, Expository, Doctrinal

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The objects are:

1. To teach the nearing approach of our Lord's return. James 5:8
2. To hold forth the Truth and to expose and resist error. Jude 3
3. To note passing events in the light of 'the Scripture of Truth.' 2 Peter 1:19
4. To unfold the Word of God by comparing Scripture with Scripture. Acts 17:11
5. To encourage missionary endeavour, and all service for Truth. Acts 1:8
6. To comfort and strengthen those who seek to stand with the Lord, apart from abounding lawlessness. 2 Timothy 2:19
7. To call for separation from false ecumenism. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

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Where is Europe Heading?

Part 2 - Financially

By David McMillan

One of the main arguments made for staying in the European Union is commercialism. This argument is made continually, and it highlights the fact that what most people are concerned about is not Scriptural values, but money and markets. Sadly, we live in a very materialistic society and most people are not influenced by what is right before God but what is financially profitable.

In Zechariah 5:6 we are told, 'And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, this is their resemblance through all the earth.' This is a very significant verse and it is found in a key prophetic passage of Scripture because it reveals to us where Europe is heading financially. The prophet here draws our attention to the Ephah; which is very interesting and instructive. The Ephah was the largest measure for dry goods and it reminds us of the marketplace. In the Bible the Ephah is the symbol of commerce, finance and trade (Leviticus 19:36; Ezekiel 45:10; and Amos 8:5). It speaks of the one who is the merchant and the trader. Why is it used here in this passage by the prophet Zechariah? So as to stress that the main focus, characteristic and priority of Europe in the future will be commercialism and trade. The lesson here is that a day is fast coming upon us (if it is not already here) when commerce will control the nations and especially the nations of the prophetic earth around the Mediterranean Sea. We are also shown that the main centre in all that trade will be Babylon because the final verse of the chapter teaches that the Ephah is going to be carried to 'the land of Shinar' (Zechariah 5:11). Therefore, when Babylon is rebuilt it will become the future commercial centre of the European Confederacy of nations.

Trade Agreements

It is very enlightening to learn from this passage that the European nations will not use the mitre or the sceptre or the sword as the Roman Empire did in the past; but they will gain control of the nations through the Ephah; in other words, through trade and trade agreements such as the U.K. is still to negotiate with the European Union. Today there are more trade agreements than ever and it does not matter with whom you make the agreement, or how the agreement is made, or how many laws of God are broken in the carrying out of the agreement. If it is done in the name of trade and it helps the economy, then it is seen to be good for the nation.

The Common Market

It is important to notice that the trade about which Zechariah is teaching us will have a great unity to it. In verse 9 of the chapter he tells us to consider the two women who are carrying the Ephah; here are two groups or two areas that are flying and working together. Think of the east and the west of the Mediterranean Sea; which were the two

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main divisions in the old Roman Empire, (the Latin in the west and the Greek in the east). We learn here that those regions are going to come together and have a united purpose and a united project in the rebuilding of Babylon for trade and commerce.

The prophet also says of the Ephah in verse 6, 'this is their resemblance through all the earth.' The earth of which the prophet spoke is primarily the Roman or the Prophetic earth and he is revealing to us that in that region the standard of trade is going to be the same for everyone. In fact, you could describe it as a 'common market.' Those two words form one of the old names of the European Union and it is what we have in the European Union today; and that policy will be developed more and more in the future.

It is very significant in this context to point out that the Ephah was measured in multiples of ten. Ezekiel tells us that an Ephah contains the tenth part of an homer and also that ten baths make up an homer (Ezekiel 45:11 and 14). It is important to note that an Ephah and a bath were the same quantity (Ezekiel 45:11). So here is a commercial system that is clearly based on a multiple of tens. How relevant that is in the light of what is happening in Europe today. Consider for a moment the decimal system that was introduced in Britain by European influence in February 1971. Think too of the metric system of weights and measurements that are now used across Europe which all follow the decimal system based on multiples of ten. Europe is seeking to control commerce and establish a common market in the nations under its control; as the prophet says, 'their resemblance is the same through all the earth.'

In addition to this, remember that in January 2002 the Euro zone was introduced because they wanted all nations in the EU to use the same currency, which is presently the case with nineteen of the twenty eight member states. They also want all the EU countries to trade with the same rules and the same prices. Then on top of all that, they want all member states to have economies which are on the same level; which is very difficult for some countries to achieve.

These things are unfolding before our eyes and they reveal that the European Union wants to have such control over commerce that it intends the same trade rules to apply throughout the whole of the European region.

Financial Controls

The Bible also reveals that there is a day coming when political powers, especially in the European Union of nations, will place major controls upon the finances of its citizens and their ability to trade. The central government of the future Union of nations will even go as far as controlling the ability of people to buy and sell. In the Book of the Revelation, the Apostle John speaks clearly of this fearful time when he says, 'And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name' (Revelation 13:16-17). These verses are referring to the time of the Antichrist during the last three and a half years of this age, and in those days all who live in the European Confederacy of Nations will not be able to trade without the mark of the beast. This will be the ultimate control that will be placed upon the finances of the people.

The Mark of the Beast

A very interesting question that is often asked in this context is, what is the mark of the beast? We suggest that it could be a type of electronic chip. If you think of the development in recent years of bank and credit cards that are called chip and pin and the chip contains all your financial details. Also, all new passports have a chip containing the holder's personal details. It will soon be the case that all your personal and financial details will be held on a chip which then, for security and to avoid identity theft, will be implanted either in a person's hand or forehead. This, of course, is nothing new. After the tragedy of 9/11 in the USA chips were developed and parents had them implanted in their children so that they would always know their location. There are also nations like Sweden that have developed chips to replace the use of cash and for people to use in their regular financial transactions. This new project was publicised in the news in early 2018. So we expect something of this nature to be developed so that the Antichrist will place such a control on trade that you will not be able to perform even one purchase or sale without it.

How Will People Live?

That raises the relevant question, how will those who are alive and living in the European Union at that time be able to live and get food, if they do not take the mark of the Beast? We get some help in answering that question by thinking of the drought that came upon Israel in the days of Elijah. The drought then lasted for three and a half years. The story is a picture of the final period of this age, the three and a half years of the great tribulation period when the Antichrist will exercise his rule of terror (Ahab is a picture of the Antichrist). During the drought in Israel Elijah was so hunted and persecuted by Ahab that he had to go into hiding; and so too will the Christians in the days of the Antichrist. This meant that Elijah could not buy or sell but the Lord provided for him in a miraculous way both at Cherith and at Zarephath; and the Lord will do the same for His people who will be alive during that awful end-time period.

We are told that during the years of famine in Egypt money failed. That was the first cashless society and because they had no money they could not trade to buy food. However, the Lord met their needs and He will do the same for His people in the days of the Antichrist.

Financial Genius

Let me point out that one of the characteristics of the Antichrist is that he will be a genius. In Daniel 8:23 the Antichrist is described as, 'understanding dark sentences.' The meaning of those words is, that which baffles others will be simple to him. The Hebrew word that is here translated 'dark sentences' is the same one that is translated 'hard questions' in 1 Kings 10:1; where we are told of the Queen of Sheba coming to Solomon to test his wisdom with her hard questions. It is also the word that is used for Samson's riddle in Judges 14. The word indicates that the Antichrist will have great intellectual ability. Keep in mind how he is described by Ezekiel, 'Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee' (Ezekiel 28:3). His genius will be one of his outstanding characteristics. His brilliant mind is what will

attract others to him and one area in which that brilliance will stand out will be commerce. The Antichrist will be a financial genius. Daniel reveals this aspect of his reign when he says, 'And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand' (Daniel 8:25). Antichrist will sort out the entire financial crisis in the nations around the Mediterranean Sea. All commerce will be under his personal control; no one will be able to trade without his say so (Revelation 13:17). Great riches will be under his control as we are plainly told by Daniel, 'But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt' (Daniel 11:43). He will also have great personal wealth because Daniel makes mention of his 'palace' (Daniel 11:45). He is one who will live like a king.

The reality is that all the current events in Europe and all the financial turmoil in European countries, the great prominence given to business deals and trade talks, is all preparing the way for the emergence of the Antichrist, because one thing that he will do when he arises will be to take total control of and sort out the finances of the nations of the European confederacy of nations.

(In the next issue of Watching and Waiting we intend to look at where Europe is heading Militarily).

Redemption

By Thomas Houghton

This great subject may be approached in various ways. I propose, the Lord helping me, to approach it from the point of view of the Redeemer. It will, however, be impossible to speak of the Redeemer without speaking of His redeeming work. The Redeemer of God's people is the Lord Jesus Christ. Of Him it is written, 'In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins' (Colossians 1:14).

He is the Divine Redeemer of His People

His Divinity is fully set forth in the Epistle to the Colossians. He is 'the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature (*all creation*). 'By (*In*) Him were all things created.' 'He is before all things, and by (*in*) Him all things consist (*hold together*)' (Colossians 1:15-17).

These passages teach His eternal existence and His creative and upholding power, and thus 'His eternal power and Godhead' are 'understood by the things that are made' (Romans 1:20). He is therefore our 'great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity' (Titus 2:13-14). Hence, the atoning blood which He shed is called 'the blood of God.' Faithful ministers are 'to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood' (Acts 20:28). This great fact gives infinite value to His redeeming work. Because He is Divine, He was qualified to pay a ransom price for 'a great multitude which no man could number.'

He is the Covenant Redeemer of His People

The price of redemption is His precious blood, but the blood which He shed was the blood of the new and eternal covenant. Just before He died He said, 'This is My blood of the new testament (*covenant*), which is shed for many for the remission of sins' (Matthew 26:28). His blood is also called 'the blood of the everlasting covenant' (Hebrews 13:20). Evidently, then, there was a covenant or arrangement made in eternity for the redemption of God's people in the fullness of time. In accordance with this covenant the Redeemer was to shed His blood to secure forgiveness and eternal redemption for His people. To this end He became the Surety of the new covenant (Hebrews 7:22). That is, He became responsible to secure all its blessings, by His atoning death, for the members of His mystical body. On the ground of His redemptive work eternal life was promised to Him for His people before the world began (Titus 1:2). Many talk loudly of human responsibility, but how seldom we hear the blessed and comforting truth that the great Surety of the eternal covenant has undertaken the responsibility to redeem, call, save and glorify all those whom the Father hath given Him. It is as the result of the eternal covenant that God's people are eventually saved. He saves and calls them with an holy calling not according to their works but 'according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began' (2 Timothy 1:9).

He is the Incarnate Redeemer of His People

In order that He might pay the price of redemption He must needs become Man. 'Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage ... In all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people' (Hebrews 2:14,15,17). Hence, He became flesh and dwelt among us. Though He was rich, yet for the sake of His people He became poor, that they through His poverty might be rich. 'The Son of man came ... to give His life a ransom for many' (Matthew 20:28). He knew all about the sorrows, the bondage, the wretchedness, the ruin and the peril of His people, and with infinite compassion He came down to redeem them from the wrath to come.

'Plunged in a gulf of dark despair we wretched sinners lay, without one cheerful gleam of hope or spark of glimmering day. With pitying eyes the Prince of grace beheld our helpless grief; He saw, and – O amazing love! He came to our relief. Down from the shining seats above with joyful haste He fled, entered the grave in mortal flesh and dwelt among the dead. He spoiled the powers of darkness thus and brake our iron chains; Jesus hath freed our captive souls from everlasting pains. Oh! For this love let rocks and hills their lasting silence break, and all harmonious human tongues the Saviour's praises speak' (*Isaac Watts*).

He is the Anointed Redeemer of His People

It is Christ, the anointed One, who hath redeemed His people from the curse of the law.

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Not with corruptible things as silver and gold, but 'with the precious blood of Christ' were they redeemed from their vain conversation received by tradition from their fathers (1 Peter 1:18-19). Having become incarnate, God anointed Him with the Holy Ghost, and thus set Him apart, appointed Him, and qualified Him for His work. He had the right to redeem because He was Divinely appointed for this work. The office of Redeemer appertains only to the Lord's Anointed.

He is the Substitutionary and Definite Redeemer of His People

He took their place and definitely and specially died for them on the cross. It is those who are 'chosen in Him before the foundation of the world' who are permitted to say, 'In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace' (Ephesians 1:4-7). He gave His life a ransom **instead** of many (see Greek of Matthew 20:28).

He suffered in the room and in the place of His people. He was wounded for their transgressions and bruised for their iniquities (Isaiah 53:5-6). 'Christ hath redeemed us (*His people*) from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us' (Galatians 3:13). He suffered for sins the Just for the unjust that He might bring them to God (1 Peter 3:18). It follows that the redeemed are really and certainly delivered from the curse of the law. On the ground that He died *instead* of them His people are taught to say, 'Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died' (Romans 8:33-34). In other words, if the Holy Ghost has enabled me to say 'Christ died for my sins,' then I can also add, 'There is therefore no condemnation for me' (see also Ephesians 5:25-27 where His death for the Church is specially emphasised).

'If my discharge Thou has procured, and freely in my room endured the whole of wrath Divine: payment God cannot twice demand, first at my bleeding Surety's hand and then again at mine' (*Augustus Toplady*).

He is the Shepherd Redeemer of His people

All the sheep were given to Him by the Father. In reference to them He says, 'I lay down My life for the sheep.' He knew who they were, for He says, 'I know My sheep, and am known of Mine.' Knowing them all by name He laid down His life definitely and specially for them. As the result He says of all of them, 'I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand.' He has thus undertaken as the Shepherd of His Father's flock to redeem, call, preserve and glorify all whom the Father hath given Him (see John 10:14-16, 27-29).

He is the Priestly Redeemer of His People

The high priest under the old covenant made an atonement for the chosen nation. He bore their names on his shoulders and on his heart. For them he made an atonement that they might be clean from all their sins (see Leviticus 16:30,34; Exodus 28:9-12, 21, 29; Hebrews 9:7, 9). 'But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by

a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us' (Hebrews 9:11-12).

What shall we say then to these things? If we have tasted of the Lord's redeeming mercy shall we not say, 'Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen' (Revelation 1:5-6)? Moreover, if we are assured that we have been bought with the price of His precious blood, shall we not seek to glorify God with our whole being, and live not unto ourselves, but unto Him who died for us and rose again (1 Corinthians 6:20; 2 Corinthians 5:15)?

Ye are Bought With a Price

(1 Corinthians 6:20)

By Joseph Swain

Great was the price to justice due
When Jesus would redeem His bride;
Nothing but precious blood would do,
And that must flow from His own side.

How glorious was the work He wrought
While dwelling on this earthly globe,
When each good deed, and each pure thought,
Conspired to weave our spotless robe.

Dressed in this robe, washed in His blood,
And ransomed from the power of hell,
We now have free access to God,
And justice likes the payment well.

Thus Jesus wrought our righteousness,
Our guilt sustained, our sorrows bore;
Secured our everlasting peace,
And triumphed o'er the serpent's power.

And now in heaven He lives to plead
Before His holy Father's throne,
What He has suffered in our stead,
And sends us gifts and graces down.

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And soon will this dear Saviour come,
In majesty and glory dressed,
And take His ransomed children home
To seats of everlasting rest.

Millenarians

By F J Kirby

(We have included in this issue of 'Watching and Waiting' a few articles from the 'Christian's Pathway,' a monthly magazine which was edited by Mr F J Kirby, a pastor at Ramsgate. He wrote this article which is taken from the Christian's Pathway, May, 1923. There was a series of papers printed at that time and each contributor was asked to limit his treatise to 600 words!).

Millenarians do not compose a sect, but exist in the professing Christian Church and are to be found in all Evangelical denominations, for it is generally held that a time will come when for a thousand years righteousness will prevail over this sin-stained earth, and that there will be a 'second coming' of the Lord Jesus. Some believe that the 'second coming' will precede the millennium, and so are styled 'Pre-millennialists.' Others maintain that it will not occur till the thousand years have expired, and are called 'Post-millennialists.'

Right down to the close of the third, and perhaps well into the fourth century, Pre-millennial views were universally believed. A long succession of early Christian writers down to Lactantius in the fourth century taught pre-millennial views: but Origen, in the third century, opposed them. Probably no early Christian writer injured the Church of Christ more than Origen did. From his fanciful allegorising interpretation of the Scriptures arose a vitiated method of commenting on the sacred Word, and a thick mist for ages pervaded the Church, supported and strengthened by his absurd allegorical manner of interpretation (see Milner's Church History, page 165). The first prominent denier of Pre-millennialism fell into various very serious errors, into which we need not now enter, but it is well to remember the religious character and doctrinal standing of those who were the first professedly Christian opposers of the universal belief in the Church of Christ that the second coming of the Lord would precede the Millennium.

During the dark Mediaeval period, or Middle Ages, Pre-millennialism was not only omitted from Christian teaching but was testified against as a heresy by the Roman Catholic Church. After the Reformation it again came into notice and was opposed by Socinus (one of the founders of Socinianism), who denied the Deity of Jesus Christ and the doctrine of the Trinity.

It is worthy of note that a large number of those who formed the Westminster

Assembly were in sympathy with Pre-millennial views. These views seem to have sunk in public estimation in this country through the extravagancies of a sect of enthusiasts holding Pre-millennial views, who raised an insurrection and proclaimed the 'Fifth Monarchy,' filling London with alarm. The majority of this sect died either by the sword or on the scaffold. The fact that a number of Pre-millennarians and Post-millennarians have not been, and are not sound in the faith, cannot discount truth.

The grand and important question is, What saith the Scriptures? Yet it may be helpful to know what leading teachers of recognised grace, experience, and judgment in previous generations taught upon the subject. While we, with the old Puritan Father, believe that there is yet more light to break forth from God's Word, and with William Huntington, that the nearer the fulfilment the clearer will the vision be.

Divine Prophecy – How Readest Thou?

By George H Fromow

(This article was written by the first secretary of the Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony and is taken from 'The Christian's Pathway,' January, 1923).

You take the Word of God as your sole, supreme, and all-sufficient guide and rule of faith; very well, then there follows the great principle that God has said exactly what He means and means exactly what He says, therefore be supremely anxious not to handle, but be handled by the Divine Word.

Some may charge you with 'literalising the figurative language of Divine poetry.' When language is obviously figurative, or declared to be symbolic, take it thus, but otherwise receive it in its plain ordinary and common usage, or you will reject the words which the Holy Ghost teacheth and substitute fictions, miscalled interpretations.

Some speak of 'Divine poetry,' inferring that there is poetic exaggeration, or the use of heightened language giving an effect other than the usual usage the words convey. We deny that there is such 'poetry' in Scripture. Profane poets may embellish facts in unreality by colouring of expression, but we feel it would be irreverent to attribute such use of words to the Holy Spirit; Divine poetry is the perfect rhythm of expression and symmetry of construction, which intensely and vividly conveys exact teaching.

Some say, 'Literalising robs living souls of the food provided for them by the Spirit of God.' Can they produce any instance where the reading of the Scriptures in their ordinary sense robs anyone? On the other hand we can supply abundant evidence that spiritualizing the Word (often amounting to mysticising) detracts from its force, blunts the edge of replies to 'higher criticism,' and robs the children of God of important instruction, which is intended to bring them into fellowship with the Father's will and

purpose; the more exactly the actual words of inspiration are followed, the more clearly, richly, and abundantly their deep spiritual teachings are wrought by the Holy Ghost in the souls of God's living people, and the food provided for them is by Him supplied more blessedly.

Inasmuch as the 'Church of the Firstborn' enters into the fullness and fatness of Israel's stock of spiritual blessing, she is warranted to take all the food given in the prophetic Scriptures of the Old Testament. All their spiritual teaching may be rightly applied to the saints of today, while the primary force of the literal predictions, re Israel, Zion, and Jerusalem, will not be overlooked, modified, or denied. E.g. Isaiah 35:6. Some do not believe that this refers to the removal or amelioration of human, physical evil, we answer this by reference to Matthew 11:5, 15:30, 21:14, Acts 3:7-8, and many similar passages in the New Testament, which show that in the primary manifestation of the Kingdom of God there was a partial fulfillment of that and other predictions.

Why then, should they question their complete realisation when the King returns in power and glory? Granted that the physical cures and relief wrought had, and will have in future, a symbolical reference to their spiritual counterpart, but that only emphasises the point of their primary meaning.

Take another illustration – Isaiah 11:6-9. This presents no difficulty as showing the transformation of the animal creation. How it will be done or what its effects we cannot tell, we just receive it as written. Our difficulty would be to read the words in any but their proper sense, not daring to exercise the presumption of modifying the inspired announcements in any way whatever; at the same time we can see in them a lovely picture of the transformations of Divine grace.

We write with the sincere desire to promote the interests of truth, and to exercise the utmost charity to those who differ.

Babylon

By James Payne

(This article was written by an early convener of the Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony and is taken from 'The Christian's Pathway,' March, 1924).

Much of the misapprehension regarding future events as predicted in Holy Scripture appears to me to arise from the assumption that the 'Babylon' of the Apocalypse is something other than Babylon.

Now what **internal evidence** is there that 'Babylon' was intended to mean Rome, or anything other than its own name signifies? I can find none. There is, however, abundant internal evidence that when the Lord speaks, in the Revelation, of Babylon,

He means what He says.

The description of the destruction of Babylon given in Isaiah 13, Jeremiah 50, 51, and Revelation 18 are so similar in language that it seems difficult to suppose that they do not refer to the same time and to the same event. The language used in each case indicates that the destruction will be **absolute**. 'It shall never be inhabited; ... neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there' (Isaiah 13:20). 'Her cities are a desolation ... a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby' (Jeremiah 51:43). In Revelation 18 we find seven times the expression 'no more at all,' indicating the **complete** overthrow of the city. These prophecies have not yet had their fulfilment.

In concluding his first epistle, the apostle Peter says, 'The Church that is at Babylon ... saluteth you.' In the days of the apostles, therefore, Babylon, far from being 'everlasting desolations,' was still a town, wherein a Church of Christ was established.

When Babylon was well past its meridian glory, the prophet Zechariah, in his prophecy of the ephah (Zechariah 5), predicted the re-establishment of Babylon, in the land of Shinar, as the home and centre of commercial greatness. This prophecy also is yet to be fulfilled, for since Babylon fell to Cyrus the Persian, it has never been the leading commercial city of the world. The woman of Babylon, whom Zechariah saw **hidden** in the ephah, John has depicted (Revelation 17) enthroned upon the Beast, as witness the name upon her forehead, 'Mystery (*hidden or secret*), Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.' The Papacy is **one** of the harlots brought forth by her, and when her house – the city of Babylon – is again established as the metropolis of the world, then she will gather the whole evil brood of her household to herself, and the prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and John will together have their fulfilment in the complete and final overthrow of 'the glory of kingdoms' (Isaiah 13:19).

The former conquests of Babylon have been premonitory fore-shadowments of this. Isaiah tells us (chapter 13:10) that the destruction of Babylon will happen concurrently with the signs in the heavens foretold by our Lord in Matthew 24 and elsewhere. Compare also Isaiah 13:13 with Hebrews 12:26.

There is also much **external evidence** to show that the final overthrow of Babylon is yet future, but space forbids me to enlarge upon this. It must suffice to say that the town of Hillah, which travellers tell us is on the site of ancient Babylon, flourishes, and is rapidly increasing in importance. Many explorers have entered the ruins of Babylon, as witness the exhibits in the British Museum. But the Lord says that when Babylon falls the last time **no** man shall dwell there, neither shall **any** son of man pass thereby.

According to the international agreement Mesopotamia is to have its independence in a few years. This will give opportunity for Babylon again to exalt herself. (*Readers will appreciate that this article was written nearly 100 years ago and although things have changed the truth of Scripture remains unshaken. – Ed.*)

Developments of Antichrist

By George H Fromow

(This article is taken from 'The Christian's Pathway,' October, 1924).

The Definition: 'The adversary of the Messiah, a most pestilent being, to appear just before the Messiah's advent, concerning whom the Jews had conceived diverse opinions, derived partly from Daniel 11:36; 7:25; 8:25' – *Grimm's Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*.

The Description: John's epistles mention antichrist five times (1 John 2:18-22; 4:3; 2 John 7) as already working; a sign of the last time; in the end of this age, to be more fully manifested; his spirit is, to deny the Father and the Son, not confessing that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, or that He 'is coming' in the flesh. John refuted Antichristianism by declaring the Deity, Eternal Sonship, and perfect, sinless humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Dawnings: Antichristian spirits attacked the faith in the early days of Christianity so severely that most of the 'Fathers' were contaminated. In the fourth century Constantine hastened apostasy by making Paganised Christianity a State Establishment.

This paved the path for the Papacy, which system became more antichristian than anything previously. The authority of 'Councils' superseded the authority of the Scriptures and our Lord Jesus Christ. Corruption rapidly permeated all organised Christendom, accelerating the movement.

The Divine Check: By the grace of God the Great Reformation revived the testimony of truth, through the circulation and exposition of the Bible, revealing the Triune God and Saviour, covenant truth, and the faith in Him which justifies. But what a relapse has taken place since! The spirit of Antichrist has entered into the 'Reformed' Churches sevenfold.

The Downgrade: Today there is falling away in all quarters. While the Papacy sets the authority of tradition above the Scriptures, Modernism and Religious Rationalism denies the inspiration and inerrancy thereof, exalting human reason as the authoritative voice of truth. An uninspired, fallible revelation could be no basis for faith; and a merely human, fallible, ignorant Christ, a Christ of less than transcendent Deity, would be entirely unreliable. A fallible Bible would mean all this – the Christ Who authenticated it, Himself fallible! This superhuman authority being dismissed, all that remains is the choice between a human 'Church' and the human 'Mind!' Modern downgrade teaching directly attacks God, His Christ and His Truth; in fact, it is Antichristianity.

Developments to Date: Professing Christians are associating together, apart from any basis of truth, even joining Romanists, Unitarians, Jews and Infidels, in increasing numbers of leagues, alliances, fellowships, brotherhoods, unions, federations, etc., where truth is denied, travestied, or slighted. They tell us that the crying need of humanity and the awful state of the nations calls for the concerted action of 'all men of goodwill' for every humane cause, even though truth lacks eminence. Such is natural

reasoning, but Scriptural Truth must with all Christians stand before any aim, however laudable, for the alleviation of human misery, or prevention of bloodshed by 'Universal Peace' propaganda.

The Dragon's Masterpiece: All this is preparing the way of 'The Beast,' of whom we read, 'The Dragon gave him his power and his seat, and great authority' (Revelation 13:2). This the personal Antichrist, 'the Man of Sin' (2 Thessalonians 2:3), 'the Little Horn' (Daniel 7 and 8) shall lead the apostate nations against the Lamb, but 'The Lamb shall overcome them' (Revelation 17:13-14). Believers should take a definite stand against all false teaching; have no complicity with it; refuse to support its advocates; and seek fellowship only with those who seek to walk in the light of prophetic truth, and who are loyal to the Bible and to our Lord.

S.G.A.T. Publications

Among the publications available from the Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony, which we would heartily recommend, are the following:

By **Thomas Houghton** (1858/9-1951)

Beware of False Prophets. 15p
The Faith and The Hope of the Future £5.00

By **George H Fromow** (1888-1974)

Christ and Antichrist Contrasted 20p
New Testament Millennial Teaching 10p
Teachers of the Faith and the Future – Hardback. £5.50
Paperback £3.50

By **James Payne** (1892-1982)

The Christian, The Word of God and Freemasonry £2.75
Messiah's Kingdom Coming on Earth. 40p
The Millennial Temple of Ezekiel's Prophecy. 40p
The Science of Prayer £4.25
'Sovereign Grace' and 'Arminianism Refuted' 40p
What is This 'Free Offer' of Salvation? £1.50

Letter Received from a Friend in Dorset

I came on your website for the first time this afternoon and it was through receiving a copy of George Mueller writing a booklet, 'The Second Coming of Christ.' I have read his life story a long while ago and also written a shortened version of his life and have learned much concerning his gift of faith exercised with his Homes for homeless

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children; but it was not till this morning on reading it, I was thrilled to learn of his stand for pre-millennialism. I was an a-millennialist for a number of years, ignorantly, and even serving our Lord for over fifty years in evangelism and evangelism training and three pastorates but it was probably less than a year ago, through God's Providence, I came to the same position of George Mueller and yourselves no doubt. Indeed your organisation also. Still preaching and teaching at 82, I now preach with passion concerning the last times especially in the present shocking climate of Evangelicalism declining in many places and false prophets coming in, as prophesied. So I was thrilled to receive the George Mueller Booklet, courtesy of Roger Carswell, whom I have met and prayed for regularly. Our own pastor does not preach of the last times because he says it is controversial. So is the gospel! but we pray on for him to change. So, I have placed an order with you and although many of your present writers are strangers to me at the moment I intend to both listen to MP3s and have ordered books and have asked for the three-monthly magazine. So I am looking forward to doing business with you and sharing your booklets around and MP3s. May God continue to bless your valuable work and ministries. Grace and Peace *Jim Allis.*

(Editor's note: The booklet mentioned – 'The Second Coming of Christ' by George Muller – is obtainable from ourselves, price 20p).

S.G.A.T. Meetings: God willing, meetings of the Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony will be held during 2020. The apostle Peter said 'God hath spoken by the mouth of all His Holy Prophets since the world began.' Consequently, for this year it has been arranged that our meetings should emphasise the fact that ALL the prophets spoke of Christ's Second Coming and the theme given is **'By the Mouth of All His Holy Prophets.'** We trust that friends will be interested in this chosen theme, and we would like to see others come to our meetings, which we expect to hold on the fourth Friday of each month except August and December. The Spring Conference is in April and the Autumn Conference in September, when we have afternoon meetings at 4.p.m. in addition to the usual evening meetings. All evening meetings are at 7.p.m. Details of the meetings for this Quarter are given on the back page but so that you can insert the dates for the remainder of the meetings in your diary and arrange to be present, we give particulars which are as follows:

July 24.....	The Testimony of Isaiah	<i>Ian Shaw</i>
September 25 (Aft).....	The Testimony of Daniel	<i>Stephen A Toms</i>
	(Even)....The Testimony of Jeremiah.....	<i>Paul Toms</i>
October 23	The Testimony of Joel	<i>David McMillan</i>
November 27	The Testimony of Micah	<i>Richard Monteith</i>

Correction: The date on our previous magazine (Volume 29, No. 13) was incorrectly given as 2019, whereas, of course, it should have been January-March, 2020.