

## The Sea and the Waves Roaring

*“So likewise, when these things begin to come to pass, know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand” — Luke 21:31*

This stirring address by bro. Dowling at the 1920 Worcester Fraternal Gathering fits in strikingly, as a halfway milestone, with the concluding article by bro. Roberts on "God's Purpose With the Jews" (pg1. 105).

The words of these 2 brethren of previous generations, viewed in the light of present events, mightily confirm our faith and manifest that our hopes, based on the Divine Word, are certain and steadfast.

WITH REGARD to the subject upon which I am to speak every thoughtful person possessing even a small acquaintance with the writings of the Prophets and Apostles, must be fully persuaded that there is an abundance of evidence in the world today to prove that there are many important changes impending among the nations of our time.

Indeed there is a multiplicity of signs abroad in the earth today all of which indicate the near approach of that promised Divine interference in the affairs of the nations that will culminate in changing the kingdoms of this world into the kingdoms of our Anointed Lord in the rulership of which the saints of the Most High will participate being heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

It is the revealed purpose of our God that peace and righteousness shall yet prevail in all the earth, extending themselves in ever-widening circles from Jerusalem, the Holy City, unto earth's remotest bounds, when the residue of the men of Israel shall seek after the Lord and all the Gentiles call upon His Name; the ultimate issue of which will be to cover this earth with the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Nm. 14:21; Is. 11:9; Hab. 2:14).

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ON ACCOUNT of its noise, restlessness and the confusion of its waves, the sea, which is composed of many waters, is used in the Scriptures and other ancient writings as well, as a symbol of peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues. It is so explained in Rev. 17:15; and in Jer. 47:2 "waters" signify an army, while in Is. 17:12, the noise of a multitude is compared to "the noise of the sea."

The Words of our Saviour in Luke 21:25, "the sea and the waves roaring" are familiar to all, as are also those of Rev. 14:1, 3, where the song of the 144,000 is compared to "the voice of many waters."

In the days of long ago the beloved Daniel had a remarkable vision that extended over many long years. He beheld and lo "the four winds of heaven strove upon the Great Sea," the name given to the *Mediterranean*, or the "Sea-in-the-midst-of-the-earth," around whose shores were born the mighty nations of the past.

As a result of storms upon this deep blue sea—the symbol of the sea of nations, Daniel beheld arising therefrom *four great and terrible beasts representing four great empires* that should successively bear rule over all the earth, and according to the angelic interpretation given to Daniel, these symbols embraced within their scope the modern empires and kingdoms of Europe, because in so far as their origin is concerned, they too, arose from this sea.

How impressively grand is this symbol of the sea, with its ever-changing moods, here employed to represent the ever-changing moods and conditions of mankind. As a prelude to the impending changes among the nations, let us for a few minutes in imagination take our stand with Daniel and briefly consider some of the past changes among the nations as shown forth prophetically and historically in the infinitely sad and murmuring waves of the great sea of nations as they break upon the darkened shores of the ages.

For a time their insistent monotony breaks upon our ears with bewildering self-sameness. Then louder notes are heard for Daniel says "the four winds strove upon the Great sea."

We hear the distant moan of the Assyrian north wind as it rises and with increasing velocity, sweeps with savage fury over the wide waste of waters. The waves rise mountains high, then plunge, tumble and break upon the troubled shores, and behold the ASSYRIAN LION comes up from the foaming waters of the vasty deep, the conqueror of a world.

Then for a season and a time, the tides of peace and war ebb and flow with varying fortunes, during which period the Jewish people are carried away captive to Babylon.

Soon again however the wild and wayward winds shriek and cry and rouse the wavering waters into madness and fury and from the vicious and tempestuous waves we see the PERSIAN BEAR arise and then the predicted Jewish return from Babylon takes place.

Then for a period of two centuries the tides of peace and petty wars ebb and flow with varying intensity until once more the troubled sea is lashed into fury by the dark, black winds of war. The foot-prints of many nations upon the sands of time are quickly effaced and from the foam-crested waves we see the GRECIAN LEOPARD swiftly rise and Alexander the Great lulls the sea of nations into slumber for a time promising universal and lasting peace.

But "there is no peace saith my God to the wicked," and so after a few more ebbing tides of strivings and finally despair, he for whose ambition a world-wide kingdom was too small, ingloriously dies and mingles his bones with six feet of earth's vile clay.

New rulers arise and the rude sea swells again with ambitious pride, stirred this time by a strong west wind. Its billows roll tempestuously for many days and then uprising from this sea the ROMAN BEAST appears, dreadful and strong exceedingly and then for many long centuries we hear echoed and re-echoed the groans of an aching world.

Judah's land lies desolate, her temple and her glory gone and the rude brute force of Gentile times, darkens the whole horizon, and ringing down through the centuries we hear the words of him who spoke to the City of the Great King—

"Behold your house is left unto you desolate. Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Matt. 23-38-39).

Thus we see, brethren and sisters, that all the way down the line of history the sea of nations not only sadly moans in ceaseless ebb and flow, but its tempest-tossed billows have risen and fallen continuously in ever-changing moods until the latter days having now arrived, we see, in harmony with our Saviour's words "the sea and the waves roaring" with an intensity never equalled in all history.

"The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will"

(Dan. 4:17).

And as— "The Ocean at the bidding of the Moon,

Forever changes with his restless tide,

So nations at the bidding of our God

Doth ebb and flow with ceaseless tide

Until they be no more."

—*Tides of kings, peoples and governments,*

—*Tides of justice and tides of injustice,*

—*Tides of sudden upheavals of idealism and tides of tyranny,*

—*Tides of nations rising and falling,*

—*Tides of Babylon, Greece and Rome,*

—*Tides of England, France and Germany,*

—*Tides of Russia, Czarism and Bolshevism,*  
—*Tides of America, Democracy and Republicanism,*  
—*Tides of Israel, Judah and Zionism.*

And what shall we say of this marvellous tide of national tragedy—this tide of the Hope of Israel—a tide that has ebbed and flowed for so many centuries, and is destined to flow with a continuous current through all time; a tide of which the Lord hath spoken, saying (Jer. 30:11)—

"Though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee."

O what time-lost memories can awaken anew in the hearts of both Jew and Gentile as we listen to this plaintive song of the sea of nations. The Assyrians, the Babylonians and other great conquering nations who troubled and oppressed Israel have utterly passed away from the earth. They have now no representatives to bear their name or to glory in their history. We see their greatness only in their ruins.

But the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are to be found on all the continents and in all the great cities of the earth and everywhere they are a people apart by themselves, a peculiar and inextinguishable race. During all the long dark night of Gentiles times, the Jews have lain—

"With patience dumb,  
Counting the slow sad centuries of their pain.  
But now the morn has come,  
And with the morn the punctual tide again."

After well nigh two thousand years of the most dreadful and harrowing persecutions, they have been lifted up again by the hand of God in the historic decision of San Remo. England is endeavouring to redeem the promise implied in the Balfour Declaration and has assumed the mandate over the land of Palestine and has appointed a loyal Jew as its first civil administrator under the grandiloquent title of "High Commissioner of Palestine."

Isaiah in the 43rd chapter of his prophecy eloquently exclaims in the name of the Lord—

"Let the nations be gathered together and let the people be assembled."  
—and verily they were as never before, in the Great War—

. . . "bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, for they are My witnesses, saith the Lord."

Brethren and sisters, Israel hath given her witness to the truth of God's Word at the bar of history, and they are now giving evidence for God before the audience of all nations.

*The Jews today are living witnesses of the truth of Bible prophecies. Their existence in the world today, and their return to their own homeland form eloquent proof indeed of the Divine foundation of Israel's hope upon which our faith is built.*

The action of the Prime Ministers of the Allied Powers at the Conference at San Remo, in giving England the mandate over Palestine, in its results, reminds us of a remarkable event that occurred two thousand five hundred years ago, when the Jews returned from Babylon. Cyrus, the Persian King, at that time appointed Zerubbabel, a Jew, as Governor over Palestine, and now King George V—a modern Cyrus— has appointed Sir Herbert Samuel, also a Jew, as Governor or High Commissioner over his own ancestral land. Such an event has not been duplicated in history. To use the words of the Psalmist—

"God has not dealt so with any other nation."

Sir Herbert Samuel's Hebrew name is *Eleizar Manahem* which means: "God helps and consoles."

"Though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee."

All the great nations of antiquity have passed away, but the Jewish nation has survived. Survived in defiance of the most gigantic efforts on the part of those nations to sweep them from the face of the earth. These efforts have been resisted with a stubbornness that in its source was divine. *The remarkable vitality of the Jews has no equal in all the annals of time.*

How our whole being thrills at the occurrence of these wonderful events, for in them our anticipations are being realized. Christadelphians have for many long years spoken of these things as sure to come, and now that so many of our expectations have actually been realized *let us shout aloud for joy*, and with grateful hearts waft the tidings to all lands.

Let the news of this latter day return of Israel penetrate into every nook and corner of this sorely beset world, and let all nations know that the salvation of our God is near, for which a cruel cross was carried up Calvary's hill.

Jesus said (Matt. 24:32)—

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree, when his branch is tender and putteth forth leaves, ye know summer is nigh."

What happens when summer is nigh? All nature is changed and there is a typical resurrection from the death of winter. Jesus continued and said—

"So likewise, when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh."

Brethren and sisters, "lift up your heads," and while you have them up look at these two pictures—Dr. Thomas on my right and Robert Roberts on my left. The things of which we have spoken are not new. *Those men wrote and spoke of these things many years ago.*

Our beloved brother the late Dr. Thomas bore testimony to these things with great power, seventy years ago, and in his own way testified before kings and emperors.

Our beloved brother Roberts spoke and wrote voluminously about our hope and expectations. These men are now sleeping, side by side, in the dust of the earth, and as we "behold the fig-tree and all the trees" of which they spoke and wrote, we feel like shouting with Isaiah, "Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust," for the earth shall soon "cast out the dead."

O David, thou sweet Psalmist of Israel, "awake" and strike thy dulcet harp once more!

O Amos, thou prophet of the living God, "awake" and sing thy pastoral song once more, "the mountains shall drop sweet wine and the hills melt" with fertility when the Lord bringeth "again the captivity of my people."

O thou eloquent Isaiah, "awake" and speak again thy matchless words, so melodious and great to saintly ears—

"The Lord of Hosts shall reign in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His ancients gloriously."

But if Jesus should say of these as he did of the souls sleeping under the altar of earth upon which they were slain, "Rest yet for a little season," patiently shall we wait for the salvation of our God which is sure to come.

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JESUS SAID: "Behold the fig-tree and all the trees." We have considered the fig-tree, the symbol of the Jewish nation, let us now briefly consider the other "trees," the symbol used by Jesus for the empires and nations of the latter day.

The same symbol is used by Daniel in his fourth chapter, by Isaiah in his tenth chapter and by Ezekiel in his thirty-first chapter to represent the ancient Assyrian Empire. Ezekiel in his thirty-eighth chapter speaks of the latter-day Assyrian of Micah 5:5, 6, as "Gog of the land of Magog" who invades the Holy Land in the latter day and is opposed by "Tarshish with all the young lions thereof."

In this latter-day phase of the nations we are greatly interested. In the passing years as we beheld "the sea and the waves roaring," especially those dreadful years which saw the world reeling in the death-grip of history's greatest war, our thoughts and conceptions of the greatness of earthly power and dominion have been profoundly modified. *The Great War has taught us the impotence of human governments as against the Divine Purpose of God in the earth.*

The last decade has been most disastrous to monarchy and governments. Crown after crown has rolled in the dust. Reigning families whose history goes back to the dim ages, have been swept aside like chaff. Traditions of sanctity and inviolability have vanished like the morning mist.

But out of the turmoil and upheaval the Tarshish power of the latter days—the Anglo-Saxon race—has emerged not only unshaken but more firmly welded and established than ever. Great Britain and the United States are now the two dominant powers of the world. These two great nations are emerging from the aftermath of conflict, supreme in political stability, material strength and reconstructive genius.

This has not come to pass by accident. At the beginning of the great world war many Christadelphians made bold to affirm on the authority of those holy men of God who spake as they were moved by His Holy Spirit, that such would be at the close of the Great War and verily it has come to pass.

There is a Divine Purpose at work in the earth, guiding and directing the affairs of men, some of the more prominent details of which purpose are revealed, but not all.

The League of Nations framed by the great statesmen who assembled for the purpose at the Palace of Versailles, while it has undoubtedly been instrumental in the development of certain political contingencies that will ultimately serve in the realization of the Divine program, does not harmonize with Ezekiel's alignment of the latter day nations of the earth. Therefore we believe that great changes are impending among the nations along these lines. The hand of God is now undoubtedly at work in this matter.

The President of this Great Republic was one of the most indefatigable workers in the framing of this League of Nations. Nevertheless, the Senate of the United States declined to stand by the word of the President and the obligations he had undertaken.

Governor Cox, the Democratic candidate for President of the United States, declares that the Senate Oligarchy at Washington is asleep and fails to realize the dangers that threaten civilization. Well, brethren and sisters, if the Senators are asleep, we need not worry for *it is the hand of God that, for a purpose, has caused them to slumber.*

The outlook is certainly not very bright and Lenin and Trotsky in Russia can sing an ode of triumph and praise to the men in Washington who killed the peace treaty, wrecked the League of Nations and made the world what it is today.

Germany dares to trifle with the Versailles Treaty—

*Because America refused to ratify.*

The League of Nations is practically impotent—

*Because America refused to ratify.*

Nothing can be done effectively with Russia it seems—

*Because America refused to ratify.*

France felt compelled to take the law into her own hands and send troops into the Ruhr valley—

*Because America refused to ratify.*

France astounded her Allies by recognizing the Wrangel government of Southern Russia, which she deemed necessary.

*Because America refused to ratify.*

France stands ready to cut the rope that binds her to the Allied ship—preferring to sail the sea of nations alone—

*Because America refused to ratify.*

British labor unions feel justified in aiding Lenin and Trotsky—

*Because America refused to ratify.*

The Frog power—France—has been a disturbing element in the councils of the world for many years and we believe she will be to the end. She is officious, independently active and meddlesome. She is one of the ten-toed kingdoms of Daniel's 2nd chapter, and belongs to the land of Magog; therefore *she cannot be a permanent ally of Great Britain, but must in the end be numbered with the Magog bands.*

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AS WE review the history of Russia for the past three years we see little chance for success for General Wrangel, although he may be supported by France. Britain supported Koltchak and Russia turned and crushed his force and Koltchak the warrior fell. Britain supported Denekin and for weeks there seemed strong hopes that Russian misrule would be overthrown. But "the Bear that walks like a man," roused himself and Denekin was no more. Yudenitch was within a stone's throw of Petrograd, and while the world waited for the news of his triumphal entry, his army was scattered like chaff before the wind.

*Russia's aims are clear and manifest today—to annihilate or Sovietize Poland, join hands with Germany upon either a Communistic, Republican or Monarchical basis, upset the Versailles Treaty and then proceed to subjugate the world to Bolshevism.*

Should Poland win the war the Bolshevik aims would be frustrated for the present at least and Lenin and Trotsky might be compelled to step down and Wrangel become the man of the hour.

The situation is most complex and we can be sure of but one thing, viz., that *SOONER OR LATER, RUSSIA, ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETIC WORD, WILL ON SOME BASIS EMERGE FROM THE PRESENT TURMOIL A GREAT AND MIGHTY POWER—A LEADER AMONG THE NATIONS OF EUROPE.*

As to German aims, Mr. Erzberger, one of the most farseeing politicians of that country, recently declared that the German policy must be to weaken Poland, discredit France, build up Russia and then resume the struggle for world dominion with the Anglo-Saxon race.

Mr. Morgenthau, the well-known writer, recently said that "a combination of nations must be prepared to deal with this issue some day," and this combination we believe will be the Anglo-Saxon Confederacy of which we have spoken, composed of Great Britain and her many far-flung dominions

and dependencies, together with these United States of America, all combining and forming the latter-day "*Tarshish with all the young lions thereof*."

These impending changes can not be brought about in a few weeks or a few months, but they may be accomplished in a comparatively few years and we believe the world can expect nothing but turmoil until *Ezekiel's* "League of Nations" is formed. Then shortly before the invasion of Palestine by

Russia and her company such will be the feeling of security among the nations that the people shall say, "Now the lion shall lie down with the lamb and the Hun and Bolshevist together," But "when they shall say peace and safety," "Then sudden destruction cometh upon them."

In closing let us note that France has secured a foothold in Syria by the mandate given her at San Remo, and the student of prophecy can readily see that when the time for her alliance with Russia arrives, the descent of the King of the north upon Palestine will be made comparatively easy.

"Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains," for the Lord "will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken—and her spoil shall be divided in the midst of her."

"Alas! for that day is great so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but HE SHALL BE SAVED OUT OF IT" (Jer. 30:7).

"The Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering and tempest and hailstones, for through the Voice of the Lord shall the Assyrian be beaten down"—Isa. 30:30-31.

During the past few years important events have followed each other in very rapid succession and many are now asking: "What next?"

We see the Holy Land delivered from the insecurities and desolations of Turkish misrule and fast becoming a place of "rest" and secure habitation where the Jews may "dwell safely all of them," under the banner of "the merchants of Tarshish with all the young lions thereof."

We see the nations rapidly getting into line for the great struggle upon "the mountains of Israel."

*Brethren and sisters it is an inspiring drama that is being enacted before our eyes. We are almost face to face with the realization of our hopes. Slowly but surely the morning light is breaking. The Jewish horizon is now beautifully coloured and suffused with the blush of coming dawn and soon "shall the Sun of Righteousness arise" and gild the Holy hill of Zion with glory and fill all the earth with His praise.*

—B.J.D., Sept. 1920—April 1960 Berean