

THE STANDARD  
FOR THE PEOPLE

Peace  
Prosperity  
Life  
Liberty  
Health  
Happiness

MAN'S HEART DESIRE

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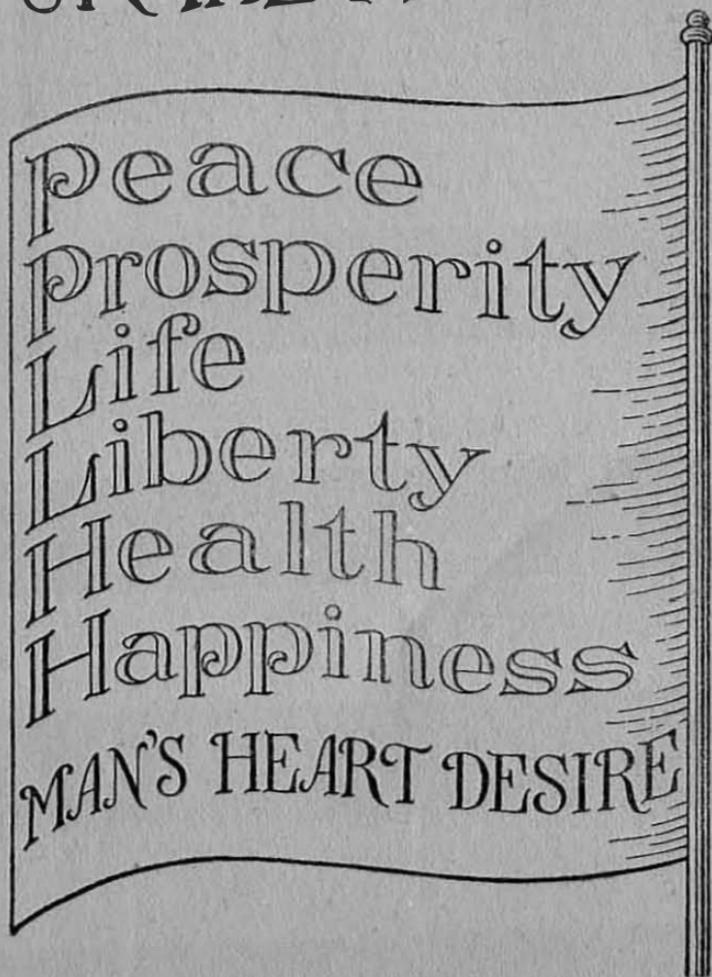
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LECTURE 1

# THE STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE



## THE STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE

A heart-cheering message from the Bible for all  
peoples of good will.

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*"The Harp of God"*

*"Comfort for the Jews"*

*"Millions Now Living Will Never Die!"*

*"A Desirable Government"*

*"World Distress—Why?"*

*"Comfort for the People"*

*etc., etc.*

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## The Standard for the People

**M**ILLIONS of people on earth honestly and sincerely desire to rally to that standard which will guarantee to them security from harm and bring to them lasting blessings. They are greatly perplexed because not knowing to which standard they should rally. My purpose is to direct the attention of the people to the divine standard. Knowing and following the truth will lead the people into freedom. I am convinced that the time has come for the people to understand the truth.

There is a common enemy who has for centuries blinded the people to the truth. The evidence at hand proves conclusively that the enemy shall soon be shorn of his power and shall not be permitted to further deceive mankind.

The great Creator made of one blood all the peoples that dwell upon the earth. The real interest of one is the interest of all. When the people come to know this and then learn to walk in the right way, there will be no more wars; and no longer will right be determined by might. The earth then will be a fit place upon which to live. The great God made the earth for man to dwell upon in happiness. The time must come when man will enjoy the full possession of these divine provisions. The fact that there is a way provided for man to receive that which he desires would do him no good, however, unless he knew about it. For this reason the first essential is knowledge.

All the peoples on earth may be divided into two general classes, to wit: the rulers and the ruled. The masses compose the latter class. Those composing the

ruling class are properly divided into three parts, to wit: commercial, political, and religious. The personnel of the ruling class changes from time to time by some of the ruled being transferred to the position of rulers. There is seldom a change, however, in the disposition of those who rule. When one is transferred from the ruled to the ruling class it is easy for his disposition to undergo a change. Selfishness and self-interest is the real cause for this change. But this selfishness is induced largely by the influence of the common enemy herein-after mentioned.

There is frequently a clash between the rulers and the ruled. Under right conditions this should not be so. Their interest should be mutual and identical. The masses of the people desire peace, prosperity, health, liberty, life and happiness. For centuries man has actually experienced war, poverty, sickness, restraint, sorrow and death. During all the centuries there has been a constant effort on the part of the people to overcome these difficulties to the end that they might have and enjoy their heart's desire.

A standard is that which marks a rallying place and directs the course of action the people should take. It serves as a guide to lead the people in the way they may go. The ruling class possess the desire to keep the people in subjection and under control. To accomplish the desired purpose there is held before the people certain standards or guides, and the people are called upon to rally to these; and it is represented to them that by so doing their best interests will be conserved and that ultimately they will reach their heart's desire. These standards have been different at different times.

The standard of the commercial element bears this inscription: "Give us greater wealth and power, and

we will improve conditions and make the earth a fit place to live on. We provide all the great labor-saving devices, the means of rapid transit, and means of education; and therefore we should guide the people."

The political element inscribes upon its standard this: "We possess superior qualifications for ruling. We organize and maintain governments. We enact and enforce wholesome laws. We safeguard the liberties and property and life of the people, and the people should follow our guidance and patriotically support us."

The religious element, for which the clergy act as spokesmen, upon its standard inscribes: "We interpret the divine will. Your life, liberty and eternal happiness depend upon your following the course that our standard points out. We will do your thinking for you concerning all spiritual matters. Hear nothing but what is orthodox, because that is what we teach. Commit your souls unto our keeping."

The wily superlord of the evil world saw the advantage in uniting these three elements into one to compose the ruling class. In the name and under the guise of democracy the commercial, political and ecclesiastical elements join interests and hold up to the people their joint standard, which says: "The present systems of government are of divine ordering, and all the people should conform thereto. We must have greater revenues from taxes that we may prepare for war and thereby insure peace. We must centralize all power in the government to insure our strength against our enemies. We must have an orthodox religion; and the commercial, political and ecclesiastical elements must stand together. The church must have within her portals the ultra-rich and the mighty politicians to lend power and dignity thereto, All the people must patriotically support us in

peace and in war, that we may maintain our present institutions and safeguard the interests and welfare of the people. Our standard points the way to peace, prosperity, life, liberty and happiness."

But the common people know from experience that these claims are not true. They see the rich becoming daily more avaricious, heaping up for themselves greater riches, and crushing out all competition that they may pursue their selfish course without interruption. They see that intrigue, duplicity and trickery are freely resorted to by the politicians. They know that the conflict in doctrines of the various denominational systems cannot be in harmony with the truth. They are not in harmony with each other nor with the well understood rules of righteousness. They see that these ecclesiastical systems, and particularly their leaders, are marked by arrogance, self-sufficiency, impiety and ungodliness. The masses of mankind have lost faith in the standards held up to them by the rulers. They know that the claims made by these standards are false, and by experience have learned that these can never lead to lasting peace, prosperity, health, strength, liberty, life and happiness.

### **The Desire of All People**

Among the people are many men and women of good will possessing an honest and sincere desire not only to see their own condition improved, but to see the people generally receiving benefits. Some of these are philanthropists who spend much money to build libraries and stock them with books that are never read, even though they are readable. They lift up a standard of higher education and invite the people to rally to that and say: "This will save you."

Others of like honest intent organize cooperative societies to carry on their work, holding up before the people a standard that claims that cooperation one with another will bring the desired relief; and they call upon the people to rally to that standard. Few respond. Results are negligible.

Others of equal integrity and good intent organize societies advancing a land finance scheme and single-tax proposition desiring to measure the value of all things by service or labor rendered; and these hold forth a standard for the people to follow, and earnestly yet vainly call upon them to follow.

Only a few think seriously of these various standards. All realize that the entire social, financial, political and ecclesiastical system or systems have completely failed to bring satisfaction to the people. Doubt and fear have taken hold upon all mankind. They are in perplexity and distress. They see threatening another great war far more terrible and destructive than any war ever known. Desiring peace and hating war, they are compelled to contribute their money to prepare the most devilish and deadly instruments of destruction. They continue to suffer under the oppressive weight of wicked profiteers, high taxes, faithless politicians, and false religious leaders. If these standards lifted up have, at some time in the past, given hope to some then the hopes of these are now dashed to the earth. The peoples and nations of the earth have reached their extremity. They are not only ready for but desire a change for something better. It is God's opportunity. The due time has come.

## False and True

There must be a reason why all the schemes of men have failed. If any of these various schemes or standards had the approval of the all-wise, just and all-powerful and loving God surely such would have succeeded in bringing relief to the people. Why have the standards held forth by the commercial, the political and religious leaders, separately or combined, failed? The answer is: Because all have been contrary to the plan of Jehovah. The authors of these schemes or standards have had their mind turned away from the true God, and the enemy has led them away into paths of darkness. All these standards, which have been held up before the people, have ignored God's way. They are the result of imperfect human reasoning and a complete failure to take into consideration the plain instructions given in the Word of God.

Call to mind the fact that only one people were ever organized into a government by Jehovah, which people was Israel. That government was not an arbitrary one; but God made with that people a covenant or contract for the purpose of enabling them to prove to themselves that man cannot realize his heart's sincere desire without the aid of the great Jehovah God. The Israelites failed. Why did they fail? Because they forgot God and violated their own covenant and were led away by the great enemy. The first commandment given to them was: "Thou shalt have no other God before me." That commandment was given for the sole benefit of the Israelites. Jehovah God was their true and only friend and for this reason he commanded them to obey him. They turned to other gods and lost all. This of itself should prove that no people can succeed or

realize an honest and sincere desire unless they follow God's appointed way. The standard of God is the only one for the people. But who is God?

### The True God

The English word "god" translates the Hebrew word *Elohim*, which means mighty one. It is sometimes applied to magistrates or mighty rulers, and it is also applied to the Supreme Being. The great Eternal One, the Creator of heaven and earth, has different names.

When Moses was sent by the Lord to deliver the Israelites from Egypt Moses inquired what he should say to them: "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (Exodus 3: 14) Not that he was or will be, but that he is now, ever was, and ever will be, without beginning and without ending, from everlasting to everlasting.—Psa. 90: 2.

When God made a covenant with Abraham he appeared unto Abraham under the name of Almighty God (Genesis 17: 1), meaning thereby that in him resides all power, that he is omnipotent and irresistible. His will is his law. He but wills a thing, and his power carries it into action. When Abraham was ministered unto by the great priest, Melchizedek, God was then made known to him under the name of "the most high God". This conveys the thought that he is the great Creator of heaven and earth, and indicates his relationship to the entire divine program. He is the one above all and besides whom there is none other.—Isaiah 42: 5; 40: 12, 23.

When Pharaoh, the mighty ruler of Egypt, refused to let the Israelites leave that land at Moses' request, God spoke unto Moses and said: "And I appeared unto

Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty; but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them." (Exodus 6:3) This is the first time he appeared under the name Jehovah, which signifies Self-existing One, Eternal One and the One Eternal, whose name alone is Jehovah and who is higher than all and above all. (Psalm 83:18) "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting."—1 Timothy 6:16.

Jehovah, the Almighty God, is the Creator of heaven and earth. (Isaiah 43:5) The Bible is his Word of Truth, written at his dictation and written by holy men as their minds were moved upon and directed by the power of the Almighty God. (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2; 2 Timothy 3:16) His Word is a statement of the truth. (John 17:17) [For a more complete discussion of this subject see the *HARI OF GOD*, pages 15-20.]

The earth is a wonderful planet. The diversified creation that appears upon it bespeaks the wisdom and power of the great Creator. It is the place where man has had his experiences. The Almighty God created it. Why did he create it? His Word answers: "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. . . . For 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 45:12,18) "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth for ever."—Ecclesiastes 1:4.

## Man Created

Man did not come into existence by his own efforts; nor is he the result of the process of evolution, as some self-constituted wise men think. Seeing that the Lord has declared that he created the earth for man to live upon, then it is reasonable that God would create man to live thereon. The record of his creation is plainly stated in the Scriptures; "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of lives; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. . . . And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."—Genesis 2: 7, 8, 15-17.

God made woman as a helpmate and companion for man. (Genesis 2: 18) "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."—Genesis 1: 27, 28.

These great fundamental truths, thus stated by Jehovah God, prove beyond a doubt that he intended man to live on earth for ever. But before he would grant to man the privilege of everlasting life, he put man to a test to see whether or not man possessed the stamina

to resist evil and follow good. He placed man and woman in Eden, a perfectly beautiful place, containing the food necessary for their sustenance and pleasure. Here the two were dwelling together in peace, prosperity, health, strength, life, liberty and happiness.

### **The False God**

Lucifer was a creature of great beauty and power. God placed him in Eden as overseer or overlord of man. "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so. . . . Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God." (Ezekiel 28: 14, 13) Furthermore the Lord says concerning Lucifer: "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." (Ezekiel 28: 15) While man was perfect in his organism his experience, of course, was limited. He must meet an experience that would determine whether or not he would be obedient to the law of God. To disobey that law would be evil. To obey would be righteous. It was the solemn and sacred duty of Lucifer to safeguard the interests of man and instruct him to be obedient to the great Eternal God. Lucifer occupied a fiduciary relationship toward God and toward man, and was duty-bound to be loyal and true to Jehovah. But iniquity was found in him and he fell.

Man was created with a desire to worship his superior. Of course he would worship Jehovah God, because he knew that God was his Creator and Benefactor. Lucifer became ambitious to have the worship of man which Jehovah would naturally receive. Lucifer saw that the perfect man was endowed with power to produce a race of people. He had a vision of a future day when the earth would be filled with great multitudes of peo-

ple who must worship some one. He had an ambitious desire to have that worship. He set about to obtain it. In order to carry out his scheme he was willing to become, and did become, a traitor to God. He knew the law of God provided death as a penalty for its violation. God made this law to test man before he would grant to man everlasting existence. To Lucifer had been granted the power of death. (Hebrews 2: 14) By that it is to be understood that it would become his duty to put man to death for a violation of God's law. Knowing this, Lucifer reasoned that he would induce man to violate God's law and would then refuse to put him to death, and thereby prove to man that God's law was merely a threat and that God was giving him this law to keep him in ignorance and to deprive him of the privileges to which he was justly entitled.

Lucifer reasoned that he would thus be enabled to induce man to believe that God is a liar and had lied to him when he said: "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Lucifer further reasoned that he then would appear in the eyes of man as his friend and benefactor and entitled to his worship and that he would thus alienate man's affection from God and that he, Lucifer, would have it himself. Thus was iniquity found in him.

The prophet records in the Bible concerning Lucifer: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds: I will be like the most High."—Isaiah 14: 12-14.

Lucifer carried into action his nefarious scheme. To

do this he employed the services of the serpent, a visible animal in Eden, and in his wily, fraudulent and deceptive way approached the woman Eve and said: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." To this Lucifer replied: "Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened; and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3: 1-5) The woman partook of the fruit in violation of the law. Her husband Adam joined her in the transgression. (1 Timothy 2: 14) Thus the mighty one Lucifer, the false god, deceived and misled the woman and caused both the man and the woman to violate God's law.

### **The Great Loss**

In keeping with his righteous law God sentenced man to death for his disobedience. By this judgment man was deprived of the right to live, and God caused him to gradually suffer the penalty, and at the end of a certain period he was dead. Therefore Adam's life and right to live were gone. All the children begotten by Adam were born between the time this judgment was entered and the time of its complete enforcement. It was the imperfect Adam who became the father of the human family, and for this reason all the race has been born imperfect and without the right to life. This is very reasonable and is the Scriptural conclusion. (Psalm 51: 5; Romans 5: 12) From then till now mankind has been in sorrow and suffering, and has been

vainly seeking peace, prosperity, life, liberty and happiness. These things man lost by a violation of God's law.

Because of the wickedness of Lucifer God changed his name; and from that time forward he has been known as the Dragon, Satan, Serpent, the Devil. All of these names have much significance. Lucifer means lightbearer. He was a creature of great beauty and the bearer of light. (Ezekiel 28:17) Satan means adversary or opposer; and from the time of Eden till now Satan has opposed everything that is righteous. Dragon means devourer; and during all that period of time he has sought to destroy everyone who tried to be righteous. Serpent means deceiver; and from the time of Eden until this day the evil one has tried to deceive mankind and to turn the mind of man away from the true and righteous God. Devil means slanderer; and throughout all the centuries the Devil has slandered God and caused his emissaries, posing as God's representatives, to slander him, and he and they have slandered all who have honestly tried to serve God. This explains why so much evil has been spoken against those who have humbly tried to serve and represent the Lord.

Understanding these facts we can see why Jehovah is called the only true God and why the Devil is the false or unrighteous god. The true and righteous God could have destroyed Satan the Devil at any time, but that was not his plan. He granted Satan the supervision over man in the beginning to test Adam. He did not take that supervision away when he sentenced Adam to death. It was God's purpose that all the human family should have an experience with the baneful effects of evil, and he has permitted in that he has not hindered Satan from pursuing his wicked course, and this has served as a test to mankind.

World, as used in the Scriptures, means an organization of the people into forms of government under the supervision of an overlord. The nation of Israel was the only people with whom God made a covenant, and who were organized into a government; and Jehovah God was therefore their overlord. All other nations have been under the influence of the false god or the Devil. In due time Israel fell under the wicked influence of Satan the Devil, and then Satan became the invisible ruler or god of the entire world. He has used all manner of schemes to keep the people under his influence and to turn their minds away from the true and loving God and to blind them to the truth of God's plan for their salvation and blessing. Concerning this it is written: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."—2 Corinthians 4: 3, 4.

### **Why World Standards Wrong**

The standards lifted up before the people by the commercial, political, and ecclesiastical elements have been and are wrong; because Satan the Devil has overreached this ruling class, corrupted their standards, and caused them to ignore therein the true and loving God and to utterly disregarded his plan. These standards, may be truly and properly called the standards of Satan the deceiver because they are deceptive and bring not what they claim to bring.

Israel fell because that nation ignored the true and living God. We have today what is called Christendom, meaning those nations of the earth that claim to be Christian but in fact are not. Instead of being Chris-

tian the dominating or governing factors are under the supervision of the god of this world. They have fallen because while claiming to follow the Lord God they have yielded to the influences of the false god Satan, have ignored the truth, and followed in the way of unrighteousness. Their plan or scheme put forth by men with the avowed purpose of benefiting the human race has minimized the importance of Jehovah. Governments and organizations manifest that they are ashamed of the name of Jehovah God. If his name is mentioned it is in a half-apologetic way. Neither the commercial nor the political nor ecclesiastical elements are willing to take an unequivocal stand for God and for his Word of Truth. At the present time the majority of the clergymen who claim to be the religious directors of the people deny God, and deny his Word, and substitute their own wisdom therefor.

Satan has not the power to give life to the human race. He never possessed such a power. Doubtless if he had possessed that power, he would have given the race eternal life and kept them under his control, that his dominion might continue for ever. Jehovah God is the only source of life. (John 17: 3) He created man and gave him life. God took away that life and right thereto because of a violation of his law. He alone can give man life. Then why waste time with other schemes? Why look to other standards? Why listen to the philosophy of world-wise men? Their wisdom is foolishness in the sight of God. It is foolishness to every one who understands and loves God.—1 Cor. 1: 20.

## Plan of Redemption

If God took away man's right to live because man had violated God's just law, then how could God thereafter grant life to man and be consistent? This is a pertinent question which has puzzled many men, and the Devil has succeeded in using the preachers to blind most men to the true answer.

God could not consistently reverse his judgment nor set it aside and let man go free. Justice and judgment are the habitation of Jehovah's throne. (Psa. 89:14) God having declared his judgment against Adam, Adam must die. God could, however, consistently make a provision that another perfect man equal to Adam could voluntarily go into death in Adam's place and stand and Adam thereby be released. Adam alone was sentenced to death because he alone was on trial. All of Adam's children, now composing the entire human family, were born without a right to live because born imperfect. For this reason it is stated: "In Adam all die."—1 Corinthians 15:22.

It was the plan of Jehovah God that redemption for Adam and his offspring be provided to the intent that all mankind shall have one fair opportunity for life. When this opportunity is given, then everyone who avails himself thereof and obeys God's righteous law shall be granted life everlasting in a state of happiness. God promised that he would redeem man from death and purchase him from the power of the grave. (Hosea 13:14) His law provided that this could be done by a perfect life being given for a perfect life. (Exodus 21:23) In all the earth there was no one who could meet this requirement of the law, because all were the offspring of Adam. (Psalm 49:7) But the power of the Almighty God was not limited. In heaven was the Logos, the beginning of God's creation, always in har-

mony with Jehovah and always obedient to his will.—John 1: 1-4.

In God's due time the Logos was transferred from heaven to earth. 'He was made flesh and dwelt amongst men.' (John 1: 14) When he stood upon this earth at the age of thirty years he was perfect in his organism, perfect in every manner. God proposed that he should be granted the greatest place in the universe, next to Jehovah himself, if he met the test now that was before him. And what was that test? Full and complete obedience unto the law of God under the most adverse circumstances.—Hebrews 5: 8, 9.

Why had he come to earth and why was he made a man? The scripture answers: 'To give his life a ransom, the purchase price for man. (Matthew 20: 28) He came that the people might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10: 10) 'To accomplish this purpose it was necessary for the perfect man Jesus to voluntarily die as a sinner; that is to say, in the place of the sinner in order that he might take the place of the sinner who was in death. Concerning this, Jesus said: "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." —John 10: 17, 18.

Jesus had the right to live as a man. When he died voluntarily, he surrendered his life as a man that the human race might benefit therefrom. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into

the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."—John 3: 16, 17.

Jesus met the test under the most adverse circumstances: "He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."—Philippians 2: 8-11.

For whom did Jesus die? And the apostle answers: He tasted death "for every man". (Hebrews 2: 9) He gave his life "a ransom for all, to be testified in due time".—1 Timothy 2: 6.

He arose from the dead the divine Christ Jesus and ascended into heaven. He presented the great ransom price in heaven itself.—Hebrews 9: 24.

Do not the clergy teach that Jesus is the Redeemer of man, and is not that a part of their standard that they hold up to the people? Some of them teach that he died for man, while some of them deny this entirely, but all of them nullify the great truth of the ransom by many other erroneous doctrines which they have included in their standard and which serve as stumbling stones over which the people have stumbled. There is a great conflict between Catholics and Protestants. No one can harmonize their teachings with each other or with themselves. There is such a jargon and confusion amongst the various denominations and such a misrepresentation of the divine program that none can understand the philosophy thereof. These stumbling stones have been put there by the enemy Satan the Devil to blind the minds of the people and turn them away from God.

## **Stones Removed**

The Lord speaking to mankind says: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1: 18) We must therefore know that God's plan is reasonable, but that anything that is unreasonable cannot be in harmony with his plan.

One of the great stumbling stones, one which is maintained by the clergy, is that all men have immortal souls and that there is in fact no death. Sensible men have reasoned: If a man's soul is immortal and he cannot die, then how could the death of Jesus constitute a ransom price? How could Jesus be the Redeemer of an immortal soul; that is to say, a soul not subject to death? Thereby the clergy nullify the ransom price.

The immortality of the soul is the first lie that the Devil ever told. Jesus says so. God had said: Man shall die. The Devil said: "Ye shall not surely die." The clergy say the same thing. Jesus said that the Devil is a liar. (John 8: 44) In what class do the clergy put themselves?

The scripture reads that God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of lives, and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2: 7) Man is the soul. He does not possess a soul. Man dies. A soul dies.

A distinguished clergyman in the city of New York a short time ago over the radio said: "I would like to know of some scripture that says that the soul dies." This is proof of the ignorance of the clergy. The scripture reads: "The soul that sinneth it shall die."—Ezekiel 18: 4; Psalm 89: 48.

The clergy teach in their standards that when a man dies he merely has a change; and that if he is good he goes to one place and if bad to another. They say that some are in purgatory, where they may be prayed out for a consideration, while others are in hell, which is represented to be a place of conscious torment, eternal in duration. The reasonable mind says, If the dead are in eternal torment they can never come out, because if they could come out that would prove that they are not there eternally; and if the dead are there conscious and being tormented, how could the redemptive price of Jesus do them any good? This stumbling stone also nullifies the ransom.

“The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. . . . Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” (Ecclesiastes 9: 5, 10) “The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.”—Psalm 115: 17.

Hell, as used in the Bible, means grave, the tomb, and not a place of conscious torment. Eternal torment is another stumbling stone which was placed by the Devil, and which has held before the people the thought that God is a fiend who will torture creatures for ever without any reason. This has had a tendency to turn the minds of the people away from the just and true God.

The clergy also teach the doctrine of the trinity; that is to say, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, one in person, equal in power. The reasonable mind says: If the Lord Jesus was God himself, how could a God be accepted as a ransom or exact corresponding price for a man? Again the unholy doc-

trine nullifies the plan of redemption. This has been another stumbling stone that has turned reasonable people away from the Scriptures.

Jehovah is the only true God, besides whom there is none; and his glory he will divide with no other. (Isaiah 42: 5, 8) 'The Lord Jesus is the Son of the living God. He said: "My Father is greater than I." (John 14: 23) And again he said: "I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (John 5: 30) He prayed to God on the night before his crucifixion. (John 17: 1) Would any reasonable person think that he was practising a fraud on others by praying to himself? The term holy ghost is not a proper translation in the Bible. The word translated "ghost" should be translated spirit. The holy spirit means the invisible power of God. The doctrine of the trinity is another false doctrine that belongs to the standard of this evil world.

Many of the modern clergy teach and include in their standard the doctrine of evolution; that is to say, that man emanated from protoplasm and is a creature of evolution. This of course denies the creation of man, denies his need of a redeemer, and denies the value of the redemptive price.

The clergy teach that the kingdoms of this world, of which they are a part, constitute the kingdom of God, and that these kingdoms are operating by divine right; and they call upon the people to support them. This is another stumbling stone. Jesus declared: "My kingdom is not of this world"; and he taught the people to prepare for the coming of his kingdom. He promised to return and set up his kingdom.

## Plan of Reconstruction

Even though all concede that Jesus died as the Redeemer of man, and that he arose from the dead, the question remains: How is man to benefit thereby? The answer of the clergy, which they make a part of their standard, is that if a man believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and then joins their church and follows their teachings, when he dies he can be saved.

The Catholics say that if a man is fairly good he will go to purgatory, where he remains for an indefinite time and is prayed out, and then he may go to heaven. The Protestants say that if he is a good member of their church until he dies, he will go straight to heaven. Both Catholics and Protestants say that if the man is bad, and does not belong to the church at all, he must go to eternal torment.

But what about the millions of heathen who never heard of the Catholic church or the Protestant church? What about the millions who died before either of these systems was ever organized? Furthermore, the reasonable mind asks: Catholic and Protestant systems, in their standards, claim that all men who are saved at all are saved in heaven and that all the others go to hell. What about the earth? The plain statement of God's Word is that God made the earth to be inhabited by man. Is it the intention of God that the earth is to be for ever merely a breeding place for the human race, a place of temporary abode; and that then they must pass on to some other realm?

Only the Scriptures can give a satisfactory answer to these questions. The people are thoroughly familiar with, and completely disgusted with, the inconsistent statements that the clergy have inserted in their standards in answer to these questions. The basic promise for the redemption and recovery of the men and nations

of the earth is that which God made to Abraham, in which he said: "In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." (Genesis 12:3) Later God said: "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." (Genesis 22:18-22) This divine promise being true, and it is true, it follows that the "seed", being the medium of blessing, must first be developed and manifested before the blessing of the people could come. What is the "seed according to the promise"? The Scriptures answer: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."—Galatians 3:16.

Christ Jesus is the Head of the Church, the Church being the body. (Colossians 1:18) Every true and faithful one baptized into Christ becomes a part of this "seed according to the promise".—Galatians 3:27, 29.

The word "church" means called-out class. It does not mean the Catholic system nor the Protestant system nor any other system of religion. It has reference to the body of Christ, made up of men and women who have unreservedly consecrated themselves to do God's will and who continue to do so even unto death. These are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, their Head and Redeemer. (1 Peter 2:21) Jesus did not ally himself with the preachers and politicians of this world, nor with the clergy who claimed to represent the Lord but who in truth and in fact represented the Devil. The true followers of Jesus cannot now have a part with such an unholy alliance.

The clergy of our time say that we must be a part of the world, that we must have the preachers and politicians in our churches, and that we must participate in politics and advocate war in time of war and to help run the affairs of this world. The Lord's Word says to

them: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4: 4) They are called adulterers, not because they are unchaste with the opposite sex, but because there is an illicit relationship between those who profess to be followers of Christ and those who are the avowed representatives of the Devil, the false god.

The true Christian who will be a part of the seed according to the promise is the one who faithfully represents the Lord and stands for him. To these certain specific promises are made, amongst which is the following: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2: 10) That does not say to be faithful unto war or some other wicked scheme, but it says to be faithful unto the Lord to the end. The reward is given to such in the resurrection; because, say the Scriptures, "they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Revelation 20: 6) These, together with their Head, Christ Jesus, constitute the royal family or kingdom class. To such Jesus said: "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12: 32) To such the Lord says: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."—Revelation 3: 21.

It is this true and faithful class constituting the seed of Abraham that participate in the first resurrection and find their eternal abiding place in heaven. It is only a small number.—Luke 12: 32.

But what is to become of all other peoples of earth, the heathen and the ignorant and the mass of those who have been turned away from God because of the misrepresentation made by the false standards?

## Judgment

God has appointed a day or time in which all of these shall have an opportunity for life; because, says the apostle, "this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the [accurate] knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2: 3, 4) The death of Jesus provided the salvation, and now each one must be brought to a knowledge of the truth. The day of this judgment is the Millennial reign of Christ, in which all shall have an opportunity to live. (Acts 17: 31) What shall be the reward or blessing of those who obey and who receive a favorable judgment? The answer is: Restoration to that condition of human perfection which Adam had in Eden before he violated God's law and lost it all. All the prophets from Samuel to Malachi have testified concerning this period of restoration of the human family. (Acts 3: 24) Restoration means to restore that which was lost. Adam, as we have seen, enjoyed peace, prosperity, health, life, liberty and happiness. All of these he lost; all of these Jesus bought; all of these the Lord Jesus Christ will restore to the obedient ones.

It is conceded by all reasonable people that the nations and peoples of the earth are in an unsatisfactory condition. Even the ruling classes are uneasy, in perplexity and distress. All have a longing for a change to a better condition. It must be conceded, after all of these centuries of effort, that man cannot accomplish these things for himself. Man has not been able to build a satisfactory government. Who then has the power and who can do it? The answer is: Jehovah God. He gave life to man, he took life away, and he has made provision for the redemption of man and restoration to life. These blessings he will grant to man by and through the kingdom of his beloved Son, Christ Jesus.

Does that mean that in the outworking of the divine plan God will give life everlasting to all men regardless of whether they want it or not? God never forces his favors on any one. It is written: "(... For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace, and of the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."—Romans 5:17-19.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) The apostle here answers the question. He emphasizes the fact that life is a gift from God. A gift is the result of a contract. There must be a giver and a receiver. The one must be willing to give; the other must be willing to receive. There must be a meeting of the minds. It is impossible to give to a man who refuses to receive the gift. Likewise it is impossible to give to one who knows nothing about the offer. These scriptures definitely settle the fact that the Lord Jehovah will offer life everlasting to mankind through Jesus Christ and that all those who accept the offer on the terms made, and render obedience, shall receive it.

The first thing essential to a gift is knowledge. After the complete establishment of the kingdom of God the people must be brought to a knowledge of the truth before their responsibility to accept or reject the truth arises. It will not do to say that men throughout the age have had an opportunity to receive the truth when the truth has not been told to them. False doctrines promulgated in the name of the Lord do not constitute

the truth, nor do such doctrines place responsibility upon men. The apostle in 1 Timothy 2:3, 4, says: "God, . . . who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the [accurate] knowledge of the truth." The death of Jesus Christ provides the salvation, and knowledge is now the next step.

Why should knowledge be given and a knowledge of what? The apostle answers: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Timothy 2:5, 6) His argument here is that there is one Jehovah God, the clergy teaching that there are three. He says there is one Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave his life a ransom for all; and that this fact must be testified in God's due time to all, that all may have the opportunity to either accept or reject the offer.

Why have not the people been receiving the truth throughout the entire Gospel Age? For two separate and distinct reasons: (1) Because the Devil has blinded their minds lest the truth should shine unto them and they would believe (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4); and (2) because it was not God's due time to let the truth generally be known. God does everything timely and in order.

The clergy have been telling us for a long time that God has been trying to convert the world, and that their business is to convert the world and bring people into the church. This is also an erroneous statement. God does not try to do anything. He does things, according to his will. Surely we should attribute to the great Jehovah more wisdom and ability than to believe for a moment that he would commit to imperfect men the tremendous job of converting the world and bringing them to him. Why then have men been trying to

preach the gospel? Jehovah has had the gospel preached that those who had the ear to hear might hear, that he might take out from the world a people for his name, to wit: those who would be the followers of Christ Jesus and who would prove faithful and be associated with him in his kingdom.—Acts 15: 14-17.

God has not forced any one to accept his message of truth. On the other hand the Scriptures declare: "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Matthew 13: 9, 43) Comparatively few have desired to hear; and these have had to war against the influence of the adversary and to walk in the light of the truth. The faithful Christians who thus continue faithful unto death, and who participate in the first resurrection, are thereby changed from human to spirit beings. They are made members of the royal family of heaven. They constitute, together with Christ Jesus, the "seed of promise", according to the promise which God made to Abraham. (Galatians 3: 16, 27, 29) It is written: "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."—2 Peter 3: 13.

What is this new heavens and new earth here spoken of? It is the kingdom of God mentioned in symbolic phrase; heavens referring to the invisible part, and earth referring to the visible part of God's kingdom.

What will be God's method, according to his Word, of bringing the knowledge of the truth to the people in order that they may accept or reject it as a gift? The Scriptures answer that by the establishment of his kingdom of righteousness, to wit, the new heavens and new earth above mentioned—that by and through this he will bring a knowledge of the truth to mankind in general.

The clergy have taught that the present kingdoms of earth constitute the kingdom of God; and they join

in a proclamation stating that the League of Nations is the political expression of God's kingdom. Is that true or not? It is not only untrue, but grossly false. The League of Nations is what is designated in the scriptures as the "Image of the Beast" (Revelation 13:14, 15), which is another product of the Devil by which he attempts to rule the nations and peoples of the earth and keep them in subjection to himself, and to turn away their minds from the true and living God and from his kingdom.

When Jesus stood before Pilate he declared: "My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36) By this he meant to be understood as saying, Satan the Devil is the god of this present world. He is the invisible ruler and he is evil. He rules in the earth by his visible representatives and they are evil. Jesus taught his disciples to pray to God and to say: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as in heaven." (Matt. 6:10) This of itself shows that his kingdom is not of the evil world nor during the time of the evil world. In fact, the kingdom of righteousness and the kingdom of unrighteousness could not exist at one and the same time and both be in control of the people of the earth.

When Jesus was on earth, the burden of his message was concerning the kingdom. Just before his crucifixion he told his disciples that he was going away and would prepare a place for them and that he would come again and receive them unto himself. (John 14:2, 3) All the prophets had taught concerning the coming of God's kingdom. The Jews looked forward to that time. The disciples of Jesus understood that the evil world must end before his kingdom would be put into operation. For this reason they asked him the question: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign

of thy presence, and of the end of the world?"—Matthew 24: 3.

The answer of Jesus may be summed up briefly in these words: That when the time came for the ending and passing away of the evil world a great world war would occur in which nation would rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; that famines and revolutions would follow; and that these things would mark the beginning of the sorrows upon the people; that during that period God's favor would begin to be expressed to the Jews in returning them to Palestine; that then the nations would be in distress and perplexity; and that then would follow the preparation for another great and terrible time of trouble such as the world has never known.—Matthew 24: 7-22.

These prophetic utterances began to have a fulfilment in 1914 and are still in course of fulfilment. The Scriptures show that in 1914 Jesus, at the command of Jehovah, began to exercise his power to oust Satan as the invisible ruler, for the reason that the time had come. (Psalm 110: 1-6) The Scriptures show that the Lord Jesus Christ, as Jehovah's executive officer, first expelled Satan from heaven, his place of invisible rule. This has already taken place. The next is the destruction of his empire in earth; and we are rapidly approaching that and in this conflict the Lord Jesus Christ will be victorious, as it is written: "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." (Revelation 17: 14) The beast here represents the Devil's earthly organization; the Lamb is a symbolic name for the Lord Jesus Christ; and they that are with him in the victory are the faithful overcomers.

What is God's method of operation through which he will bring the blessings to the people? The answer is: Through his kingdom, of which Christ Jesus is the king and head, who will establish the new heavens [invisible ruling power] and the new earth [visible ruling power]. Are there any scriptures to the effect that the Lord God will establish a kingdom? 'The Scriptures show that in the days of the ruling kings of earth the God of heaven will establish his kingdom. It is written: "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."—Daniel 2:44.

Be it noted that this kingdom of God will not be left to profiteers and politicians nor to preachers, nor to anyone else. The Lord himself will be the ruler. This kingdom will mark the fulfilment of the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples to pray for the doing of the will of God on earth.

Are there other scriptures warranting the conclusion that God intends to establish by and through Christ a kingdom of righteousness on earth different from what we now see? God's prophet Isaiah wrote long ago concerning that kingdom: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."—Isaiah 9:6, 7.

These things being true, then the clergy have not been giving the people the truth concerning God's standard? They have not. Everyone who is acquainted with the teachings of the clergy may compare their teachings with the divine standard and be able to answer the question for himself and that satisfactorily.

### **God's Standard**

The term "the standard for the people" refers to the only and true standard. Such a standard could not originate with man, because man is imperfect. It must be the standard of the Lord. The time must come when this standard is lifted up for the people in order that some might know the truth. When should we expect it to be lifted up? The answer is: At the end of the world, with the passing away of Satan's empire, at the time when the nations and peoples are preparing for the great and terrible conflict, which everyone sees about us now. Long ago the prophet of Jehovah wrote, concerning this time: "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." (Isaiah 62:10) What then is the standard that the Lord commands shall be lifted up?

(1) That Jehovah is the only true and living God, beside whom there is none. He is the Creator of heaven and earth. He gave life to man and took away life. He will provide the way for man to get life. He made the earth for man's habitation. Every act of his is prompted by unselfishness. He is the embodiment of love. He is the true and lasting friend of man. The people must learn that Jehovah is God and obey him.

(2) That Jesus is the beloved Son of God; that by

his death and resurrection he provided the great redemptive price for man; that to him is committed all power in heaven and in earth as the active agent of Jehovah; that he is the King of kings and Lord of lords; that the time has now come for him to begin his reign; and that the first work of his reign is to oust Satan, to destroy the evil systems and restrain Satan that he may deceive the nations no more (Revelation 20:1-3), and then to destroy all the works of Satan. —1 John 3:8.

(3) That the kingdom of heaven, God's kingdom, is here; that Christ Jesus, the great King, has begun his reign and now the time has come when the stumbling stones of error shall be cast out, the way made clear for the people, and the people given the truth in order that they might know the way that leads to life and happiness.

As the people come to realize that the standards long held before them by men are standards of unrighteousness they must forsake such. Seeing the standard of God, to it they can rally and find there the way that leads to a full realization of their heart's desire.

The psalmist declares: "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant." (Psalm 25:14) The margin of this text reads: "And his covenant to make them know it." The reverence of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. (Proverbs 1:7) The people must begin to know the truth concerning God's plan. Hence it is essential for every one to apply his mind to an understanding of the truth recorded in the Scriptures, which set forth God's way and the means of bringing blessings to all families of the earth according to his promise.

## Highway of Holiness

Jehovah through his prophet commands that the highway be cast up. This is symbolic phrase. A highway is a plain way to travel, and here the expression means that the way of the people to return to God must be made plain. The only means by which this can be done is to give them a knowledge of God and his gracious arrangement made for their benefit. This must be done at the beginning of the reign of Christ. During his reign and during the time of the judgment of the world it is written: "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, 'The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.'"—Isaiah 35: 8.

This is called the highway of holiness because it is the Lord's way; and with him all things are holy. It pictures the way from the beginning of the reign of Christ the Messiah until the end thereof. No unclean one shall pass the entire length of that way, but it shall be for the cleansing of those who attempt to pass. That is to say, the unclean shall start over it and, being obedient to the rules of God's righteous kingdom, they will be cleaned up and made right before they reach the end; but refusing to do this they will not be permitted to pass to the end. This we see so clearly marked out in the Word of God that a wayfaring man, though he belong to the ruling class of the evil world, ought to be able to see that way in due time.

## What God Requires

Before God, through Christ, will begin the work of restoring the human race Satan's empire must completely pass away. God, through Christ, will destroy

Satan and his wicked works. (Psalm 110: 5, 6) All the nations are now preparing for a terrible war. All the ruling factors in particular see it approaching. It will be that great battle described in the Bible as the battle of Armageddon, the battle of God Almighty against Satan and his forces, in which Satan will be completely defeated. It will be a time of trouble such as the world has never before known. Jesus declared that it will be the end of all trouble on earth.—Matthew 24: 21, 22.

God has remained silent and permitted Satan and his emissaries to come to a fulness in wickedness; and now, as the prophet says: "The Lord hath a controversy with the nations; . . . he will give them that are wicked to the sword." (Jeremiah 25: 31) Then the prophet proceeds to give a description of that terrible conflict in these words: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground."—Jeremiah 25: 32, 33.

At the present time, and for a long time past, the clergy have posed before the people as their shepherds to lead them and teach them; and the principal of their flocks are the profiteers and politicians. Concerning them in this time of trouble the Lord says: "Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves in the ashes, ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel. And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of

the flock to escape. A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, shall be heard; for the Lord hath spoiled their pasture."—Jeremiah 25: 34-36.

The Lord describes that terrible time of trouble in which he likens the peoples of the world to a drunken man who staggers to and fro and then comes to his wits' end.—Psalm 107: 22-29.

It is during the period of time between the World War and this final trouble that the Lord commands that the good news concerning his kingdom for the blessing of the people shall be preached as a witness to the nations. (Matthew 24: 14) This has been and is being done. And it is during that same period of time that Satan the Devil is diligently flooding the minds of the people with all manner of errors in an attempt to turn their minds away from the true God. It is at this same time that the Lord lifts up a standard against him and for the people.—Isaiah 59: 19; 62: 10.

God's standard of righteousness is lifted up that all peoples of good will who have an honest and sincere desire to know the truth and to become righteous may do so. Is there any special promise that such may claim at this time? And the Lord answers: "Before the decree come forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment: seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger."—Zephaniah 2: 2, 3.

This is the reason for calling the attention of the people to these truths at this time. There is neither a desire nor an effort to induce any one to join any

church system or organization. The sole desire is to lift up the standard for the people, calling their attention to the fact that Jehovah is the only true God, that Jesus Christ is the King, and that his kingdom is the method of relief for the people. Satan has induced many people to believe that God commands men to obey him because he is a selfish God. God never did anything nor commanded anything be done because of selfishness. He is wholly unselfish. Whatsoever he does toward man is for man's own good.

Profiteers do not regard their obligation to their fellow man as anything. They see the wrath of God approaching. They are in fear and trepidation, and they have to do something to protect themselves. Out of their ill-got gains they contribute a few millions to charity, or endow some institution, thinking that such will secure their protection.

Politicians misrepresent the people in order that they might carry out their own selfish purposes. They know they do wrong and they think to atone for their wrongdoing by going to some church building and participating with the clergymen in some formal service and making a reasonable contribution to the expenses of the institution.

The clergymen as a class are so impressed with their own piety and importance that they receive aid from the profiteers and politicians as of their own right and their part of the spoils of government, for which they render their share in keeping the people in subjection. Arrogantly they assume to be the spiritual advisers of the government and the people, and then unmercifully denounce and persecute humble Christians who dare tell the truth in the name of the Lord.

These three elements, composing the governing fac-

tors, hope to please the Lord with their contributions of money and wisdom. Long ago the Lord, having reference to them and to others like them, said: "Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"—Micah 6:7, 8.

Justice, mercy and obedience are the three primary things which God requires everyone to do before he will ever have divine approval.

To do justice means to do that which is right and righteous. It means to be honest, true and truthful. It means to deal fairly and impartially with all. Jehovah is "a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he".—Deuteronomy 32: 4.

Those who will receive the approval of the Lord will be required to learn to do right toward all. In the nineteenth chapter of Leviticus the Lord God enumerates some of the things that will be required of every man to do right according to his law. Amongst many of these things he says: "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, . . . shall ye have. I am the Lord your God."—Leviticus 19: 35, 36.

It is not right that profiteers obtain control of the food and fuel needed by the people and then compel them to pay exorbitant prices for it, greatly to their suffering and distress. It is not right to give false measures, to cheat and to defraud. It is not right and just to oppress the poor. All the contributions to charity that may be made will not compensate for dishonesty

practised on one's fellow man. Those who deal justly with the poor will receive a special favor. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies."—Psalm 41: 1, 2.

It is not just and right for profiteers and politicians to scheme and lay plans for war, and then passionately appeal to the patriotism of the people to carry on that war. It is not just and right for the clergy to claim to be followers of the Prince of Peace and at the same time join hands with profiteers and politicians in advocating war, as they did in 1914, and urge the people into the trenches. God will not excuse them for this, but says: "In thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these."—Jeremiah 2: 34.

Mercy means compassionate treatment of the unfortunate and helpless. It means loving kindness shown toward another. Justice alone exercised toward man would have sent Adam and all of his offspring into eternal destruction. God extended his mercy toward man and made provision for his recovery.—Psalm 86: 5.

A distinction must be made between wrong and wrong-doers. It is written concerning the beloved Son Jesus: "Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." (Psalm 45: 7) God hates sin, but he is merciful to the sinner. That is the disposition which all must cultivate who will have God's approval. Such is the standard of the Lord. The disposition to oppress is foreign to righteousness. The divine rule is thus stated: "Therefore if thine enemy

hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12: 20, 21) "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men." (1 Thessalonians 5: 15) How different is this from the standard held forth by the ruling factors during the present and past centuries!

Those who will receive God's approval must walk humbly before him. That means that one's course of action must be that of willing submission to the laws of God. The laws of God are righteous; and to walk humbly before God one must love righteousness and diligently strive to do that which is right. The chief commandment that God has given is: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God." Love means to be unselfishly devoted to his cause. No one can love and support the Devil's system and at the same time love the Lord God. Those who please the Lord must take a delight in doing that which he has pointed out because such is righteous.

To walk humbly before God is to ascertain from the Word of God what are his commandments and then diligently try to obey them. No one can obtain this knowledge without the study of the Bible, God's Word of Truth. Each one then who desires the blessings that God has in store for man should provide himself with a Bible and such helps as will enable him to understand the Bible, and should study these diligently.

The philanthropists, the cooperative workers, the social-uplift workers, and all like organizations are organized to carry on because some human minds have reasoned that this is the way to accomplish man's uplift. They have not consulted the Word of God to see

whether their way is in harmony with his way. (Isaiah 55: 9, 10) The clergy and worldly-wise men have attempted to convert the world and get the people into their organizations. This is the result of their human reasoning and not according to the Scriptures. God says to those who would have his approval: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."—Proverbs 3: 5, 6.

Why should we think that any man or company of men has sufficient wisdom to formulate a scheme that will bring peace, happiness, health and life to the people? For sixty centuries these schemes have been formulated and these human standards have been held up to the people, and all of them have failed. All of them have ignored God's way. Jehovah God is perfect in wisdom, justice, love and power. He makes no mistakes. He has let man go to his extremity. Now he will give man an opportunity to humbly heed and obey God's way, that man may receive his heart's desire. The schemes of men do not furnish a basis for any hope. Why not turn to the Word of God?

### **A Real Hope**

Hope means to have a desire for that which is beneficial and a good reason to expect to receive the same. A good reason for having such expectation is to be in possession of competent evidence coming from a truthful source, which evidence proves that the thing expected can be received. There can be no hope without faith. There can be no faith without knowledge and a confident reliance upon the evidence or proof furnishing that knowledge. A hope may be based upon a prom-

ise; but in order for that hope to be realized the one making the promise must have the ability or disposition to make good that promise, and then to make it good. Men, institutions, and governments composed of men have made many promises; but they have been without ability to make them good and for such reason, if for no other, their promises have failed.

God is all-powerful. He is unselfish. His Word is true. When God makes a promise, he has the disposition and the power to make it good. He has never failed in one of his promises. God does not change. (Malachi 3:6) The Lord God says: "I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." (Isaiah 46:11) "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it."—Isaiah 55:11.

Man can be absolutely certain that if God makes a promise he will make that promise good. Man therefore has a sure foundation for his hope when he relies upon the promises of God. Let us now examine some of the promises of God, and see what man can hope to have in God's due time.

Man's desire is for peace, plenty, health, strength, life, liberty and happiness. He has no hope of receiving any of these things by following the standards that men, governments and systems have heretofore held forth. If God has promised that man shall have these things, then by complying with the conditions attached to the promises, man may confidently hope to receive them. Such is a real hope. Such a hope God's standard holds for the people.

## His Kingdom and Blessings

Jehovah is God. Jesus Christ, his beloved Son, is the Redeemer of man, the anointed King. God has promised that with the end of Satan's rule he will establish a kingdom for the benefit of man, and that this kingdom shall not be left to others, and that it shall stand for ever. There will be no profiteers, no politicians, nor false preachers in that kingdom. Christ the invisible King will rule, with his visible representatives on the earth acting under his direct supervision and control. "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment." (Isaiah 32:1) The faithful men of old, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob resurrected as perfect human beings, will be the visible representatives or princes in the earth.—Psalm 45:16.

Then a man will be considered as worth something. In beautiful poetic phrase the prophet describes it: "And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place; as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim; and the ears of them that hear shall hearken."—Isaiah 32:2, 3.

The Prince of Peace will be in control of that government, and of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end. (Isaiah 9:6, 7) No more shall the people be ravaged by war; because, declares the Lord, when his kingdom is established the people "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". (Isaiah 2:2-4) Through Messiah's kingdom, and that alone, will the people realize their desire for an ever-

lasting peace where they may dwell together and have no fear of war or of assault from their enemies. "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever."—Micah 4: 4, 5.

### Plenty

If everybody on earth should now deal justly one with another there would be plenty for all. There is no just cause for a shortage of food and fuel. A few have great excess; the many have a scanty supply; while still others have none. God has promised that in his kingdom famines will be impossible. In the first place the profiteers will not be permitted to ply their business. Nothing shall hurt or destroy in all that holy kingdom. (Isaiah 11: 9) The Lord will rule in righteousness, and with righteousness shall he judge the poor. (Isaiah 11: 4) Then when the judgments of the Lord are in the earth the people will learn righteousness.—Isaiah 26: 9.

They will learn to minister one unto another and to help one another. The Lord will furnish the people with a means of eradicating the weeds and the thistles and thorns, that the earth may bring forth the things that they need. (Isaiah 55: 13) Then the earth shall yield her increase. (Psalm 67: 6) "And in this kingdom shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things." (Isaiah 25: 6) "He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. The kingdom shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He shall judge the

poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace as long as the moon endureth."—Psalm 72:2-7.

### **Health**

Health is one of the things that the people have long desired. All have suffered from lack of health. All the efforts that man has been able to put forth have not brought lasting health to the people. There is nothing in the standards held up by the various systems or governments that contain any basis for a hope of health. Look now to the standard of the Lord and see what it promises to those that walk humbly before him. The Lord says: "Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth." (Jeremiah 33: 6) "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick; the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity."—Isaiah 33: 24.

### **Life**

Life in a state of peace and happiness is the greatest desire of man. For sixty centuries the human family has been racked by disease, and billions have gone down in sorrow to the grave. All the schemes that men have ever put forth concerning eternal life, all the statements upon the standard of men or institutions promising life, have been and are false. Satan declared that there is no death; and his representatives on earth have been

preaching for centuries that man does not die. But human experience proves that this is entirely false. Why longer be deceived by the false standards of men? Turn now to the standard of the Lord and see what it holds as a hope for man.

Jesus Christ declared: "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3) Keep always in mind that originally *GOD* gave life to man and that *GOD* took away that right to life because of disobedience. Remember then that *GOD ALONE* provided for the redemption of man from death and the grave according to his promise; that these provisions for redemption are through the merit of the ransom sacrifice of the Lord Jesus; that *GOD* has appointed a day or period of time in which he will give all men an opportunity to reap the benefits of this ransom sacrifice and an opportunity to be restored to perfect human life. It is in the Messianic kingdom on earth that this opportunity shall be given to man; and this kingdom is now beginning. The apostle states that the second coming and reign of the Lord is for the purpose of giving an opportunity first to the living and then to those that are dead; and that this opportunity shall be given in his kingdom. (2 Timothy 4:1) The kingdom is now beginning, and that is why these truths are coming to the knowledge of the people.

The Prophet Job, in poetic phrase, describes the miserable condition in which man finds himself and shows how vain it is to follow the standards of men; and then he turns his words to the Messenger of the covenant, namely, the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings. He shows that this great Messenger is the one among a thousand and altogether lovely; and that if man hears

and obeys this great Messenger, who interprets and makes the Word of God plain, God then "is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit [grave]", and the response of man is: "I have found a ransom." Then what shall result to the one who is obedient and walks humbly before God? The prophet answers: "His flesh shall be fresher than a child's; he shall return to the days of his youth."—Job 33: 19-25.

The Apostle Peter stated that all the prophets have testified concerning the restoration blessings that are coming to man if man is obedient to God's law. (Acts 3: 19, 20) St. Paul, discussing the matter, says concerning Christ: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. . . . For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."—1 Corinthians 15: 20, 25, 26.

St. John, after giving a vivid description of the new heavens and earth, namely, the new invisible ruling power and the new government upon the earth, and pointing out God's arrangement for men, says: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."—Revelation 21: 4, 5.

Those now residing on earth first having had their opportunity, then will come from the tomb those who have long slept in the dust of the earth. The Prophet Daniel, speaking first of the time when Michael the Christ, who stands up for the people, shall take his power and reign, says that then those sleeping in the

dust of the earth shall awake. (Daniel 12: 1, 2) The Lord Jesus, referring to the same time, said: "All in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth." (John 5: 28, 29) Again Jesus, speaking of the same time, said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."—John 8: 51.

Here is the positive saying that the man who obeys the Lord, walking humbly before him, shall never die. But of course he must first come to a knowledge of the truth; and for this reason the truth is first testified to him. Then if he hears and obeys he shall never die. Again the Lord Jesus said, referring to the same time: "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."—John 11: 26.

The people have been wicked all through the centuries because of the wicked influence of Satan the Devil. But Satan is to be restrained that he may deceive them no more; and then the wicked man, turning to righteousness, shall live and shall not die. (Revelation 20: 1-3) "When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die."—Ezekiel 18: 27, 28.

Because the time has come for the fulfilment of these great truths, because the Lord's kingdom is at hand, and because a generation of people exists upon the earth in ordinary times for fifty years or more, we are now able to confidently say that there are millions of people residing on the earth who shall have an opportunity to accept the light of God and walk humbly before him and, so doing, shall live for ever, being restored to a perfect condition of body and mind.

## Liberty

Liberty is one of the things that man has desired. He has always been in bondage to some kind of oppression. He has been in bondage also to the great enemy sickness and death. The Lord Jesus Christ declares that he who accepts and obeys the truth shall be set free; and when the Lord sets him free he shall be free indeed. (John 8: 32) Here then is a basis for the liberty that the people have so long desired.

## Happiness

Happiness is another thing mankind has always desired. All the happiness that man has enjoyed on this earth has been temporary. There have no real joy and happiness resulted, nor can such ever result, from heeding and following standards of men. Why now should we longer hold to those withering standards? Let us turn our minds now to God's standard, which he had commanded to now be held up to the people, and see whether or not it furnishes a basis of hope for happiness.

What could produce happiness? The answer is: To enjoy everlasting peace, everlasting plenty, everlasting health, everlasting life. All these things are guaranteed by the scriptures above cited.

If all the blind eyes should be restored so that they could see; if all deafness should pass away, all lameness or crookedness of body should cease; if there should be nothing in the land to harm; if the governments always were righteous and the people righteous and love the motive directing their actions, would not that be a happy time? Is not this really what the people desire? God's Word furnishes an absolute and certain hope for the realization of this desire.

Referring to the blessed reign of Christ, God's prophet says: "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass, with reeds and rushes. . . . And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, *and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*"—Isaiah 35: 4-7, 10.

One of the early things to be accomplished in this kingdom will be to remove the ignorance and superstition from the minds of the people and to destroy in their minds that which is contained in the standards that earthly institutions are now holding forth. Concerning this God's prophet says: "And he will destroy in this mountain [kingdom] the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it."—Isa. 25: 7, 8.

Truly Jehovah is the only true and loving God. His justice, wisdom, love and power always operate together in harmony. He has made provision for the redemption and deliverance of man; and now after a long dark night of suffering and sorrow the light of truth is breaking forth. God's standard is unfurled be-

fore the people. That banner or standard over them is one of love. The people are called upon to rally to it, to say one to another: Come now, let us turn ourselves to the kingdom of the Lord; for he will teach us the right way and we shall walk in the paths of righteousness and we shall come to a full and complete realization of our heart's sincere desire.

(From the Press)

# World Reconstruction

## A Standard to Guide the People

UNANIMOUS adoption of resolution by multitude of Christians attended with great enthusiasm.

Judge Rutherford's Stirring Address in Support of Resolution.

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Indianapolis, Indiana, August 30.—Cadle Auditorium, with a capacity of 12,000, was packed out and great numbers turned away when Judge Rutherford spoke this afternoon in support of a resolution presented to the Convention of International Bible Students on the day previous. The resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote amidst great enthusiasm.

Mr. Robert J. Martju, of New York city, acting chairman of the mass meeting, read the resolution which is set forth herein in full and then introduced Judge Rutherford. The great multitude gave the keenest attention to every word of the speaker and when he had concluded arose en masse in support of his position.

The resolution, as its name implies, is truly a "message of hope". It is addressed to all peoples of good will throughout the earth, and emphasizes the imperative necessity for the peoples' informing themselves concerning the divine standard for the reconstruction of the world.

This "message of hope" bids fair to stand forth with marked distinction in the world as a guiding document unselfishly appealing to the peoples to look well to their own interests. In his address Judge Rutherford emphasizes the fact that the body of Christians presenting the message to the people of good will are seeking neither money nor men. This alone should commend it to the candid and favorable consideration of all.

# Message of Hope

TO ALL PEOPLES OF GOOD WILL:

The International Bible Students in General Convention assembled send greetings:

When in the course of human affairs the nations have reached a condition of extremity it is due time that the peoples give consideration to the inducing causes, to the proffered remedies and to the true remedy. We humbly invite consideration of this message to the end that the peoples might find consolation therein and hope for their future welfare.

For centuries man has been the victim of oppression, war, famine, sickness, sorrow and death. At all times he has desired peace, prosperity, health, life, liberty and happiness.

World powers, science and philosophy, commerce and religion, have each in turn offered their respective remedies for man's relief. In the name and under the guise of democracy, these combine in offering their joint and several powers to meet the requirements of man. Together they claim to be the sunlight of the world, holding forth all the light that shines to enlighten and guide the human race.

Intrigue, duplicity and trickery are freely resorted to by the political and commercial powers; science and philosophy are marked by vanity and self-sufficiency; while the religionists, both Catholic and Protestant, are conspicuous by their arrogance, self-conceit, impety and ungodliness. Therefore it is apparent that the remedies offered by any and all of these aforementioned elements are vain, impotent and powerless to satisfy man's desire.

Catholicism claims and assumes that which justly belongs exclusively to God. Modernists deny God, deny His Word and His Plan of redemption and offer blind force as a remedy for man's undone condition. Fundamentalists while professing to believe the Bible by their course of action

deny the same. They teach false and God dishonoring doctrines and together with Catholics and Modernists are allied with the political and commercial powers of the world in blasphemously claiming the ability to establish God's kingdom on earth. All of these have combined under Satan their superlord, to push God into a corner and to dishonor His name.

The results are that the peoples are smarting under the oppressive weight of commercial profiteers and their allies, have lost faith in their political leaders and no longer have respect for the religionists who have misled them. Being guided by the false light of such an ungodly and unboly alliance, the peoples have fallen into darkness. They are like lost sheep scattered upon the mountain tops without a shepherd and are without food and shelter and are made the prey of wild beasts.

The causes for this deplorable condition are that man by reason of original sin fell from perfection; and that Satan the enemy of God and all righteousness is the invisible ruler or god of this evil world and by his various agencies has turned the minds of many peoples away from God and from His truth.

The greatest crisis of the ages is impending and about to fall, because the old world has ended and Satan's lease of power is done. Knowing this, and that his time is short, the Devil is trying to overwhelm the peoples with a great flood of false and deceptive doctrines and to turn their minds completely away from Jehovah. The time has come for God to make for Himself a name in the earth and for the peoples to know the Truth concerning the Divine Plan, which is the only means of salvation for the world.

Therefore, in the name and in the spirit of the Lord, the Standard of God's Truth and Righteousness is here lifted up against the enemy and for the benefit of the peoples, which standard is, to wit:

That Jehovah is the only true God, the Most High, the Almighty, the author and finisher of His great plan for the salvation of man, and is the rewarder of all that diligently seek and obey Him; that the Bible is His revealed Word of Truth; that His beloved Son Christ Jesus is the Redeemer and Deliverer of mankind and, true to His promise, has come to rule and bless the peoples; that the present

turmoil, distress and perplexity of the nations is in fulfillment of prophecy, proving that Satan's empire is breaking down and that the Lord of Righteousness is taking possession; that the Lord Jesus is now establishing His righteous government and will sweep away Satan's stronghold of lies, lead the peoples into the true light and judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with His truth; and that His kingdom of righteousness is the only remedy for the ills of humankind.

We confidently appeal to the peoples to rally to the Divine Standard of Truth thus lifted up and thereby learn the way that leads to life and happiness. We call upon all the peoples of good will of every nation, kindred and tongue, to discard the errors invented by the enemy Satan and for many years taught by man, and to receive and believe the Divine Plan of salvation as set forth in the Scriptures.

God's kingdom for which the peoples have long prayed is at hand. It alone can and will establish and stabilize the world so that it cannot be moved. Its ensign of righteousness is the Standard now lifted up for the people. Christ Jesus, as glorified king and great executive officer of Jehovah God, has become the rightful ruler of the world. Let the peoples receive, believe and obey Him and His laws of righteousness. All who so do are certain to receive the blessings of peace, prosperity, health, life, liberty and eternal happiness.

*Dated Indianapolis, Aug. 29, 1925.*

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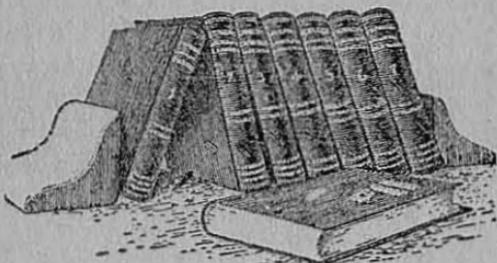
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