

## THE ISRAELITES; OR, THE HOLY PEOPLE IN PROPHECY AND HISTORY;

By B. S. Taylor.

No. 6, "The Sign of a Prophet."

The Scriptures themselves claim to be inspired of God.

The PROPHET had his commission from High Heaven. He spake as "moved by the Holy Ghost." He had no "opinions, or views" of his own.

He spake for God. His message came from God. To certify and prove this to the People to whom he was sent he claimed to have a "Sign from God," a seal of his Apostleship; a miraculous endorsement; heavenly credentials that could not be denied without eternal peril to the disbeliever! Though false prophets should arise, yet the true Prophet carried his supernatural certificates with him that gave him divine authority before the nation to whom he was "sent of God;" as was Moses, John Baptist, Ezekiel, Jesus, Paul,—yea all the Prophets showed their proofs, gave their "Signs." I will recall a few samples among many.

1. A Prophet is defined in Deut. 18: 9-22. "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their Brethren, and I will put My Words into his mouth and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass that whosoever will not hearken unto my words, which he shall speak in My Name, I will require it of him. But the Prophet shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die! And if thou say in thine heart "How shall we know the word that the Lord hath not spoken?" When a Prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the Prophet hath Spoken it presumptuously thou shalt not be afraid of Him!"

This test is applied to every false and true Prophet in the Old and New Testament. Time and again the Jews asked Jesus for a "Sign," and they put this well known test to his claims as "Messiah," and he frankly and fully accepted it and met it. He declared that his "SIGN" was the same as that of the Prophet Jonah; he would be raised from the dead on the third day. As Jonah was dead and buried in the belly of the whale in the Great Sea, so would Jesus be dead and buried in the heart of the earth three days, and raised again. Jonah at the Autumnal Equinox; Jesus at the Vernal Equinox! And each the same three days, Thursday to Sunday. "Destroy this Temple—my body" said Jesus, and in three days I will raise it again. Peter declares of him, that he was a true Prophet, who was filled with the Holy Ghost: who went about doing good; healing all who were possessed of the devil, and God was with him. Peter understood these signs of a Prophet, well and truly accepted this evidence, and at Pentecost himself received the Holy Ghost and prophesied; and in his epistles so testified to the Church, and claimed the same gift.

In Acts XIX Paul preached it to twelve disciples at Ephesus, and they "received the Holy Ghost and prophesied." This is God's order every time, first receive the Holy Ghost, then prophesy. Few today seem to understand it. Few preachers get filled with the Spirit and prophesy; show the "signs of an Apostle" by healing the sick, casting out devils, going about doing good! If they followed God's order and by the baptism with the Holy Ghost became true Prophets, these "Signs would follow" them always and everywhere. This is the cause of our modern apostate churches; their pulpits are filled with false pro-

phets; No signs follow them; they have no message from God; no burden for souls; no revivals nobody saved; their whole life is a spiritual failure.

II. When Elijah was tested he met the issue with Naaman and testified "wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me and he shall know that there is a Prophet in Israel." He knew his SIGN. His signs followed. The King obeyed, dipped seven times in the Jordan, and was healed. To deny the SIGNS of a Prophet in the Old and New Testaments is to deny the resurrection sign of JESUS. Paul argues on this in 1 Cor. 15, on the same line. "If Christ be not raised, then none of the dead are raised we are yet in our sins; we are of all men most miserable."

Peter quotes these signs of an Apostle in Acts III. Testifies that Jesus is "that prophet" foretold by Moses in his day.

"Every Prophet gave miracles, healing and signs as his credentials to the nation and people to whom God sent him."

To Ezekial—12:6—God "gave a sign" that King Zedekiah should be carried away to Babylon, and yet never see it, because his eyes were put out by Nebuchadnezzar when the city fell! This was proof that God was speaking by his true prophet. Ezekial over and over makes this a test and a sign between the true and false credentials of a Prophet. He pronounced ruin upon the apostates of his day. "Woe unto the foolish prophets that follow their own spirits and HAVE SEEN NOTHING!" Woe unto the preachers today who have resisted the Holy Ghost! Woe unto the pulpits today that follow their own spirit! that fill their sermons with secular topics! with foolish tales! romances, novels, stories, take the place of TRUTH! They have no "burden of soul" no holy vision! No message from the skies! false prophets! they have seen nothing! Woe to the pastors that spoil the flock! Woe to the preacher that has no revival, that wins no souls, that casts out no devils! Jesus says "these signs shall follow!" Woe to the false prophet, he has none of them! He shall surely die! God help and pity and awaken them before they wake up in hell with their flocks—their victims! Hear this, "Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad, and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked ways by promising him life; therefore ye shall see no more divine divinations, for I will deliver my people out of your hand, and ye shall know that I am the Lord!"

The mighty Prophet Isaiah; the (SEE-ER, one who sees) SEER OF THE MESSIAH, to whom was given to see the future glory of Jesus and Christianity as Anglo-Israel; testifies to his SIGN, saying, "Moreover the Lord spake unto Ahaz saying, 'Ask thee a Sign of the Lord thy God.' " And the sign promised was "a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" God with us; Ecce Homo; Behold the God-man! (Isa 7:10.) Notice the 65 years of prophesy in the 8 verse. They began with the Greek Calendar, the famous "Olympiads," B. C. 777; extend 65 years to 712 when the Assyrians led Israel away captive! This SIGN was given in the year A. M. 3263-B. C. 733-Olympiad 44. (As these are prominent and vital dates in our studies I call them up now.) From this point onward to Chapter 12 the "Burden" of Isaiah is Israel lost and found; the History of Messiah! The transfer of the Theocracy from Palestine to America occupied SEVEN TIMES-2520 years! Study these chapters and you will see how God carried his Republic of Israel away from that far eastern clime, TO THE WEST! Isa.

11-14. These six chapters cover this topic and the Prophet's vision sweeps this period of seven times 360, or 2520, years to come. From the falling of the Monarchy in the days of Ahab and Elijah in 900 B. C., is exactly 2520 years to The Landing of the Mayflower in 1620. Bancroft the Historian says, In the Cabin of the Mayflower. Humanity recovered its rights and instituted government on the basis of equal laws enacted by all the people for the general good." The Pilgrims were "Englishmen, Protestants, exiles for conscience, men disciplined by misfortune; cultivated by opportunities of wide observation and equal in rank as in rights." Had New England been colonized immediately on the discovery of America, "the old English institutions would have been planted with the Roman Catholic hierarchy, had the settlement been made under Elizabeth, it would have been before activity of the popular mind in religious, had awakened a corresponding activity in politics." Their doctrines and purposes are thus summed up.

1. They concurred in the creed of the Anglican church.

2. They desired spiritual communion with its members.

3. Toward the King obedience, if it were not against God's Word, and passive obedience if it be.

4. They denied all power to Ecclesiastical bodies, unless it were given by the civil magistrate.

5. They pledged themselves to honor their superiors, and to preserve unity of spirit in peace with all men.

"We are all weaned" said Robinson and Brewster, "from the delicate milk of our mother country, and inured to the difficulties of a strange land: the people are industrious and frugal. We are knit together as a body in a most sacred covenant of the Lord; of the violation of which we make great conscience, and by ~~virtue~~ <sup>virtue</sup> whereof we hold ourselves straitly tied to all care of each others good and of the whole. It is not with us as with men whom small things can discourage."

The birth of this Republic; a Theocracy; The Fifth and last great Kingdom of which Jesus is King; this Mayflower vision was in the vision of Isaiah! It is a striking and marvelous career, and wonderful to note, that from the "year that King Uzziah died," Isa. 6:1., which was A. M. 3254, it is exactly "seven times,"—a week of years in which each day in 360 years—to the year 3774 A. M. or A. D. 1776 the year of American independence. The rise of the American Republic is the fulfilment of prophecy. Lost Israel is Found; The Theocracy of Judea is restored in New England. This glorious topic is called "An Everlasting SIGN!" Isa. 55:13. These eight chapters 48-54, cover the wonderful history before hand of Israel cast off as Wanderers among the Nations; their gathering in the Isles of the West; their planting and building—Jer. 1—onward to their "glory in the latter days," when the seven times period has passed over Israel!

## Systematic Giving.

HOW?

(Continued from last issue.)

Let us recall these reasons, and at times dwell on them. And urged by these strong considerations to give, let us see what St. Paul teaches on the Method of Giving, or How to do it. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." That is to say: Whenever a sum of money (no matter whether small or great) comes into a believer's hands, he should look at it and say, or at least remember, Now I know very well that, strictly speaking, every cent of this money belongs to Him who enabled me to make it—who gave me health and strength

to make it; and He can take it all from me in a moment if He pleases. But, as I cannot give it all to God, of course, and am not asked, nor expected to, therefore I will first tax it. The Lord shall have this part. I will give Him the "first fruits."

So a man might do that.

When he gets in the proceeds of his business, every month or every year or every quarter as the case may be, or when he sells his crop for so much, before he begins to use it for his own many needs, or those of his family, for the first thing he should take out God's part, however little, and lay it aside, considering it no longer his own, but sacred. This practice will make it far easier to give. Keep a little bag or drawer, label it "The Lord's," and therefrom take out all your religious or charitable demands. St. Paul says, "Let him lay by." Separate from the rest a certain proportion as God hath prospered you that month, or that week, lay it aside as belonging to another. And after that, use the balance according to your requirements.

## GOD HONORS THOSE WHO HONOR HIM.

I know very well that this practice, for one thing, is far more honoring to our Maker than giving Him the scraps. And, for another thing, that if a person does not have some such plan, use some such method in his giving, the Devil will soon tempt him to say, "I have nothing to spare for God this year," and you will Believe what he says, "liar" from the beginning though he be.

Now, should a man or woman consistently act thus, and make it a rule of their life, they are absolutely beyond the touch or reach of poverty, according to the Bible. They might fear it, they might worry, but the fear would be groundless, and the worry would be needless, perfectly so. Just as you will notice that a family that has daily prayers somehow always prospers, the members turn out well, so also in this case, in regard to one's money, you "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." In other words, you put God and His claims, His honor and glory, first; and He most assuredly puts you first in His care. (Mark we say this of a believing Christian man. The wicked prosper under an entirely different rule. It sounds strange, but they prosper because God has left them, given them up, left them alone with their idols; and their prosperity, such as it is, is the surest sign of "thou hast had thy good things," uttered to them hereafter. If a rich man or a wicked man has trouble, there is hope for him.

## BACKSLIDING.

How often do we hear people, especially young Christians, testify that the cause of their backsliding or becoming lukewarm was neglecting Bible study. "I did not read my Bible anymore as I used to," is often given as the cause.

But let us examine the matter a little closer. Paul tells us in the first five verses of the fifth chapter of Romans of the operations of the different graces of the Lord Jesus Christ in the lives of those who are justified. These graces can develop and operate in our lives only in so far as "the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us." When Paul was accused, he told them that "the love of Christ constraineth us" as the cause for his enthusiasm.

Should we then not judge rather, that backsliding commences in a lack of, or an ebbing out of that constraining love of Christ which is the energizing element in the actions and movements manifested in our daily life?

Is it not a fact that the more fervent

our love to Christ, the more love and desire we have to read His word and associate with the purest and most spiritual company?

Is it not equally true that the less fervent our love for Christ is, the less desire we have for His word and the more we seek the company of the careless and worldly.

Is it not then evident that the more we are interested in the fashions and styles of the world, the unspiritual humorous pictures and comic sections of the newspapers and magazines, the reports of prize fights, all of which are brutal, inhuman, and degrading, reports of games, baseball, football, etc., murder trials and divorce scandals, love stories, etc., the less spiritual we are?

Don't a man's footprints determine which way he went? Don't we see by the actions, desires, preferences, which way a person's heart is inclined and his feet travel?

If then the measure of the love of Christ in us determines our tastes, actions, course of travel and our influence upon others, how very important it is that our hearts be filled with that love to the exclusion of everything else, and thus keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life? Jude 21.

## DONT'S FOR DOUBTERS.

D. O. Teasley.

DON'T waste precious time arguing with Satan.

DON'T make your emotions the standard by which to measure your experience.

DON'T say, "I can't;" that belongs to those who have no Christ.

DON'T measure your Salvation by some wonderful experience some one else has had; measure by New Testament.

DON'T depend on your conscience—live by the Bible.

DON'T get discouraged; it will be of no help to you.

DON'T be a baby all your life; learn to be strong.

DON'T make rash vows; trust in the Lord and He will bring it to pass.

DON'T shed tears to please the devil.

DON'T believe that God doesn't hear you; if you are seeking Him earnestly, His ears are open to your cry.

DON'T let Satan make a speaking trumpet of your ears.

DON'T testify for the devil; tell what God has done.

DON'T try to feel as you think somebody else feels.

DON'T follow every impression; use your common sense and follow the Bible.

DON'T let Satan make you believe that you have harder trials than any one else on earth.

DON'T look for trials and discouragements; let your expectations be from the Lord.

DON'T help the devil to make you miserable by bringing up the past.

DON'T pray for blessings and then refuse to endure temptations. Jas. 1:12.

DON'T accuse yourself; be as good to yourself as you are to others.

Comrades, let us seek to keep on the main line, preaching a mighty, sin destroying Gospel, preaching it in love and in the power of the Holy Ghost, refusing to be side-tracked onto any other topic, however alluring. Other truths have their place, but it is not the first place.

The main issue, that which attracts the attention and opposition of hell, is a salvation which saves men from sin here and now. Hearts are hungry for it, churches are languishing for lack of the proclamation of it. If we have the blessing let us preach it, and press it, and go on doing so. This is the kind of preaching which gets people into a really good spiritual experience.—Sel.