

ON THE WAY TO AFRICA.

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conducted by the Commander. We enjoy the beautiful hymns and the orchestra plays nicely. We find the Word precious to our hearts and feel that we are in the world but not of it.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus, I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a desert land,
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
Forsaking all for His dear sake, who said
"Take up thy cross."

EXPOSITION.

Rev. Joseph H. Smith.

Question: What is the Wrath to Come?

Answer: As to God, it is the heat and fury of His displeasure at sin. This will vent itself in maximum vengeance at the last great day. It is now restrained and held in check by Mercy and will be so until the Day of Salvation is fully past; and the reprieve secured for man by the mediation of Christ is at an end.

Meanwhile there are scintillations of this displeasure in the Providential government of God, rumblings of the thunders of that coming storm are heard, and flashes of its lightning are seen and passing clouds in the woes and disasters and pestilences which are allowed to evidence His displeasure at sins of nations and wickedness in current events. But "the end is not yet." References to former manifestations of His wrath in the flood, in the fire upon the cities of the plain and the overthrow of the children of Israel in the wilderness are made to keep men in mind that our God is a consuming fire. His character never changes. And there is no respect of persons with Him either as to His wrath or His mercy. The universal and perpetual reign of Death over our race shows us that His laws are inexorable and His sentences are irrevocable. So that when in His fury He must utter the sentence of the Second Death this, will be as certain and as enduring as when at man's Fall in Eden He spoke the sentence of the first death. For as the sentence of the first death was for man's violation of the laws of his first probation, as, this Second Death is for man's violation of the laws of his second probation. Christianity is man's Second (and last) Probation. God's wrath to come will fall upon those who have rejected and those who have neglected the gospel of His Son.

His wrath vindicates His righteousness and goodness in that its subjects are those who not only despised and affronted Himself and trampled under foot the Blood of his Son, but who also persisted in that which was perversion of the good order of the universe and of the happiness of all other creatures.

His Mercy, too, is proven (1) in that He has first called all men to repentance and (2) He has offered them His Son who was able to save them from Perdition.

And His Truth is sustained in the Wrath to Come in that all other warnings He had given—like that of the original sentence

of Death, and that through the preaching of Noah concerning the Flood, and through the announcement to Abraham of the destruction of Sodom, and by Moses of the overthrow of the children of Israel in the wilderness and by Christ Himself of the desolation of the house of the Jews, have all come to pass to the letter.

As to the world, and to men that are wicked, ungodly, impenitent and unbelieving. The Wrath to Come means:—The cutting asunder of hypocrites, apostates, defaulting servants and all other sorts of tares from among the righteous and from the presence of God and their consignment to everlasting banishment, darkness and despair.

The dashing to pieces as of a potter's vessel with a rod of iron of all nations, and hierarchies, of all political and money powers, of all combinations of church and state, which, together with all idolatrous rulers and peoples and them which teach doctrines that emanate from devils who having withstood the gospel of Christ and loved the wages of unrighteousness have continued to live in sin.

The resurrection of the wicked to bodies capable of everlasting fire and shame and contempt.

Th utter dissolution of the present order of things even to the passing away of the heavens with a great noise, and the melting of the elements with fervent heat.

And with respect to Satan and his angels, The Wrath to Come means that day of final torment, when imprisoned forever he shall no longer tempt nor trouble but cast into the lake of fire, he shall with all the lost men he has drawn after him, suffer the terrible consequences and penalty of sin through endless ages.

Truly, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!" It is terrible to even think of "a sinner in the hands of an angry God."

Since all other sin sinks into insignificance and is lost sight of in comparison with rejecting God's mercy and grace in Christ Jesus, it is indeed awful to consider that the very gospel we preach is "the savor of death unto death" in them that perish. And to know the Wrath to Come, is then in a fine sense. The wrath of the Lamb!

And since God's wrath is only and altogether at sin, and that any and all sin will incur His hot displeasure, it follows that whosoever neglects so great salvation from all sin as is proffered in the gospel of His Son surely cannot escape, but is heaping up wrath against the Day of Wrath.

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men, "For His judgments are as righteous as His mercies and they are as sure."—Heart and Life.

"The years glide by; stand strong and true; the good thou canst do, quickly do! Let gentle words soothe woe and pain, we shall not pass this way again."

Don't be content with doing only your duty. Do more than your duty. It's the horse who finishes a neck ahead who wins the race.—Andrew Carnegie.

Our boldness for God before the world must always be the result of individual dealing with God in secret.—Whitfield.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Brother Baker:

Yours of April 29th came to hand; glad to hear from you. Time is passing very rapidly and soon the Alliance will be on hand. Years go very quickly and we will soon be to the end of them here. I feel my time is short, my strength is failing. One year makes a great change with me, failing physically. The apostle says though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. So my body is growing weaker, the inward man is growing stronger. As I am alone much of the time I have that much to read and pray. When the weather becomes warmer I may feel much better. Bless the Lord, he is with me and I do not feel lonesome. He is keeping me and keeps me in perfect peace. I have the blessed assurance that "when this my tabernacle is dissolved, I have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Hope to see you again soon.

Your brother in Christ,

E. COSMAN.

OUT OF WOUNDING.

"The best things in life come out of wounding. Wheat is bruised before it becomes bread. Incense must be cast upon the fire before its odors are set free. The ground must be broken with a sharp plow before it is ready to receive the seed. It is the broken heart that pleases God. The sweetest joys in life are the fruits of sorrow. Human nature seems to need suffering to fit it for being a blessing to the world."

Samuel W. Duffield has well said in a poem:

They tell me I must bruise
The rose's leaf,
'Ere I can keep and use
Its fragrance brief.

They tell me I must break
The skylark's heart,
'Ere her cage song will make
The silence start.

They tell me I must bleed,
And friendship weep,
'Ere in my deepest need
I touch that deep.

Must it be always so
With precious things?
Must they be bruised and go
With beaten wings?

Ah, yet! By crushing days,
By caging nights, by scar
Of thorn and stony ways,
These blessings are!

—Selected.

The man in our churches that quietly or openly withstands the preaching or pushing of holiness should be earnestly but privately and sincerely prayed much for. The chances are he has some secret reason for opposing holiness, and the next thing may be an exposure or a judgment. Our prayer may even yet spare him by tendering his heart to seek salvation from his secret sin.—Sel.