

THE WEAPONS OF HIS INDIGNATION

By Rev. R. A. Kerby*

Moved by an invisible but almighty hand, the inner doors of God's armory are now opening wide. Secrets which have slumbered in obscurity since Creation's dawn are now being revealed to the probing minds of men. As these doors swing wide, awesome sources and applications of power, undreamed of in previous generations, come into view. As all "power belongeth unto God," the thinking mind can only conclude that the sole reason such unspeakable forces are now committed to mortal hands is that the God of destiny would have it so. He, who through past centuries kept these doors of power so securely closed that no man could open them, is now allowing them to swing wide.

The prophet Jeremiah understood and declared the overruling power of God in the affairs of men. Thus he looked behind all second causes and predicted that God was going to overthrow Babylon, the ruling power of his day. In this view, the Medes and Persians would be but the instruments of destruction in his hands. Accordingly this inspired prophet declared, "The Lord hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation; for this is the work of the Lord God of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans."

The fact of a holy God presiding over the rise and fall of nations and civilizations is the true principle of historical interpretation. When nations and civilizations serve his holy purposes, they arise in power and glory. When they refuse to serve these purposes, the God of power opens his armory and brings forth the weapons of his indignation. Sometimes these weapons are famine, pestilence, or earthquakes; at other times they are, as in Jeremiah's day, a hostile, invading army. God never calls for nor allows force to be used until a nation has fatally abused its native gift of free will. Then his edict of judgment goes forth and the fateful doors of his dreadful armoury swings wide and this doomed nation goes to join forgotten dynasties in the dust of oblivion. Thus it has been through the centuries past, and thus it will be to the very end of human history.

The doors of doom are now opening upon this twentieth century which has so largely forgotten God. One of the most evil portents of our time is that God is allowing man's wrath more and more scope. He has promised that this wrath would praise him and the remainder he would restrain. But the restrained remainder grows smaller with each passing year. Only the very blind can fail to see what this unrestrained wrath, armed with the weapons of this age, means to our civilization.

As the doors of God's armoury swing open, we see the supersonic bomber, the intercontinental guided missile with the atomic warhead, and the undersea boat which seeks and kills its prey. Had not the race ripened itself for judgment by rejecting God in his tender overtures of redeeming, love, this fearful weaponry still would be unknown. But the God, who was outraged by the sin of Babylon and therefore made bright the arrows of the Medes and Persians against her, still rules in the affairs of nations.

The race now has the weapons, on hand and ready, for its destruction. Only a true revival of world-wide proportions can hold back wrathful men from using them. Failing this spiritual regeneration, our civilization is as doomed as ancient Babylon. Just how soon the doors will fall and just what will be the alignment and condition of each nation at that time only God knows. And whether or not God will come in world-wide revival or in Person for his redeemed ones before the besom of destruction

sweeps this earth, is a question upon which there are different opinions. The corporate response of the race to the voice of the Holy Spirit in the next few critical years could well decide the issue.

The Lord hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation." Who can look at these yawning doors and these frightful weapons thus revealed without receiving a warning directly from God? The world today is living in that period of time, the length of which is known only to God, between the opening of the armoury and the bringing forth, for dreadful usage, of the weapons of His indignation. Without doubt, Babylon had intimations of coming trouble but plunged ahead into deeper sin.

In the light of these world-shaking facts, is it not time that the professed people of God engage in an "agonizing reappraisal" of all standards of conduct and service? Is it not possible that the powerful undertow of our time has swept many of us from our original moorings? How about the fervent spirituality of early Christian experience, the thrill of service, the glory of secret prayer, and the illumination which attended the reading of God's Word? What about the great love for prayer meeting and the surge of joy in attending red-hot revivals where the truth came keen and unsparing? Does the early passion for souls still continue to possess us? Do we love as Jesus loved? What about the mode of dress and permitted amusements? Do we have the same jealousy for God's honor and house as in earlier times?

HEAVEN-GIVEN REVIVALS

Always turn things in God's direction

"If My people, which are called by My name, shall . . . turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven . . . and heal their land" (Chron. 7:14).

God, in His Word, is calling you to turn from your wicked ways.

Turn from your lethargy—to active service. Turn from your carelessness—to strict obedience. Turn from your selfishness—to sincere concentration and fervent prayer. Turn from your disobedience to God's Word—to diligent faithfulness.

Turn from your formal experience—to a vital contact with God. Turn from your neglected Christian duties—to zealous, sacrificial service to your Lord.

Christian believers, turn to God. Examine your heart, all ye who are called by His Name.

—Fletcher Clarke Spruce

MULLEN FAMILIES IN TRAGIC ACCIDENT

Early Monday morning, June 24, Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Mullen, and Song Evangelist and Mrs. Paul Mullen and four of their children, were in a car accident which resulted in the death of Mrs. H. S. Mullen, and the serious injury of all the others. Paul and his father are in a critical condition.

We are sure that much prayer is being offered for these much valued servants of God and their families in this time of suffering and sorrow. Let us pray on, unceasingly, for their recovery and comfort. Let us also assist with financial help.

All the injured are in The Royal Victoria Hospital, Fredericton, N. B.

The King's Highway