

ARMAGEDDON OF THE SCRIPTURES

Startling Presentation of Coming Events.

PASTOR RUSSELL'S VIEWS.

Churches of All Denominations and the Civil Powers of Earth Are About to Unite in Common Cause—Powerful Influence Preparing For the Battle of Armageddon—A Reign of Anarchy Will Be the Result of the Warfare Until the Messiah Takes Control.



Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 3. — The Brooklyn Academy of Music was crowded to the limit today to hear Pastor Russell's discourse on the "Battle of Armageddon." His text was: "He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Revelation xvi, 16.) The speaker said: Armageddon in the Hebrew signifies the "Hill of Megiddo," or Mount of Destruction. It was famous as a battle-field in Old Testament times.

The Lord has seen fit to associate the name Armageddon, with the great controversy between Truth and Error, right and wrong, God and Mammon, with which this age will close, perish, and the New Age of Messiah's glory be ushered in. He has purposely used highly symbolical figures of speech in the last book of the Bible, evidently with a view to hiding certain important truths until the due time for their revelation. But even in the due time, the Bible assures us, "None of the wicked shall understand" (Daniel xii, 10)—none who are out of heart harmony with God—but only the wise of His people—the "wise virgin" class of the Master's parable.

I have long avoided presentation of my understanding of our text and its context. I take it up now by request and because I believe it is due time to be understood. I disclaim any special inspiration. In some particulars my views agree with those of other Bible students, and in other respects they disagree. Each hearer must use his own judgment, do his own Bible study, and reach his own conclusions.

Kindly remember that I am not responsible for the figures of speech used by the Lord. My interpretations do indeed constitute a terrible arraignment of institutions which we have all revered and which embrace good people, of good words and good works. God's saintly people in these various institutions, being comparatively few, are ignored when systems as a whole are dealt with in prophecy.

The Dragon, Beast, False Prophet.
Our context tells us that three impure spirits (teachings) will go forth from the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, and these three will be in accord, and symbolically the doctrines are represented by "frogs." These three doctrines are to have a mighty influence throughout the civilized earth. They are to gather the kings and their armies to the great Battle of Armageddon.

The ecclesiastical kings and princes, and their retainers of clergy and faithful adherents, will be gathered in solid phalanx—Protestant and Catholic. The kings and captains of industry, and as many as can be influenced by them, will be gathered to the same side. The political kings and princes, with all their henchmen and retainers, will follow in line on the same side. The financial kings and merchant princes, and all whom they can influence by the most gigantic power ever yet exercised in the world, will join the same side, according to this prophecy.

These "doctrines of demons," represented by the "frogs," will lead many noble people in this great army to assume an attitude quite contrary to their preference. For a time the wheels of liberty and progress will be turned backward and medieval restraints will be considered necessary for self-preservation—for the maintenance of the present order of things.

In giving this interpretation, it is necessary for us to indicate what is symbolized by the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Bible students of nearly all denominations agree with us that the "Dragon" of Revelation represents the purely Civil Power. Protestant interpreters generally agree that the "Beast like a leopard" (Revelation xiii, 2) represents the Papacy. But favor still, we fear, will be ready to support our view that Protestantism is the "Image of the Beast" (Revelation xiii, 15) in our context given another name, "the False Prophet." We urge no one to accept our interpretation, nor shall we think hard of any who refuse it. We will neither slander nor otherwise injure them now, nor threaten them with eternal torture. They have the same right to their views that I have, and the same right to make them known to others. And I, for one, will be very glad to consider anything which opponents may set forth as their interpretations of our text.

"Unclean Spirits Like Frogs."
The symbolism of Scripture, rightly understood, are always forceful. When the Holy Spirit used a "frog" to symbolically represent certain

doctrines or teachings, we may be sure the true application will fit well. A frog has a sage look, a wise look. It swells itself up in an apparent endeavor to impress the beholder. Its great mouth well represents its chief power, used to croak.

Applying these symbols, we learn that an evil spirit, influence, teaching, will come from the Protestant churches federated, from the Church of Rome, and from the Civil authorities, all in full agreement. The spirit of all will be boastful; an air of superior wisdom and knowledge will be proudly assumed—all will croak in harmony. All will tell of dire results that would follow, involving the interests of both the present and the future life. If their counsel be not followed, however conflicting the creeds, the differences will be ignored in the general proposition that nothing ancient must be disturbed, or looked into, or repudiated.

The Divine authority of the Church, and the Divine right of kings, aside from the Church, will not be allowed to conflict. Any persons or teachings in conflict with these boastful and unscriptural claims will be branded as everything vile, at the mouths of these "frogs" speaking from pulpits and platforms and through the religious and secular press. The nobler sentiments of some will be strangled by the philosophy of the same evil spirit which spoke through Calaphas, the high priest, respecting Jesus. As Calaphas declared it expedient to commit a crime in violation of justice, human and Divine, to be rid of Jesus and His teachings, so this "frog" spirit will approve of every violation of principle necessary to their self-protection.

The croaking of these "frog" spirits or doctrines will gather the kings and princes, financial, political, religious and industrial into one great army. The spirit of fear, inspired by the croakings of these "frogs," will scourge the passions of otherwise good and reasonable men to fury, desperation, in their blind following of these evil spirits, evil doctrines, they will be ready to sacrifice life and everything on the altar of what they mistakenly suppose is justice, truth and righteousness, under a Divine arrangement.

For a brief time, as we understand the Scriptures, these combined forces of Armageddon will triumph. Free speech, free mails, and other liberties which have come to be the very breath of the masses in our day, will be ruthlessly shut off under the plea of necessity, the glory of God, the commands of the Church, etc. All will seem to be serene, until the great social explosion in our context described as the "great Earthquake." An "earthquake," in symbolic language, signifies social revolution, and the declaration of the context is that none like unto it ever before occurred. (Revelation xvi, 18,

19.) Jesus described it as a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation—Matthew xxiv, 21.

The Lord Will Gather Them.
The false, frog-like teachings will gather together into one host the great, the rich, the wise, the learned and the kings of the earth, to battle. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward, and our text tells us that *HE* shall gather the marshaled hosts to Armageddon—to the Mountain of Destruction. The very thing which they sought to avert by their union, federation, etc., will be the very thing they will lusten. Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by the Great Messiah, and that He will be on the side of the masses. Thus we read in Daniel xii, 1: "At that time shall Michael [the Godlike One—Messiah] stand up"—assume authority. He will take possession of His Kingdom in a manner little looked for by many of those who erroneously have been claiming that they were His Kingdom, and authorized by Him to reign in His name and in His stead.

Jesus declared, "His servants ye are unto whom ye render service." Some may be rendering service to Satan and to error, who claim to be rendering service to God and to righteousness; and some of these may be serving ignorantly, as did Saul of Tarsus, who "swarily thought that he did God a service" in persecuting the Church. The same principle holds true reversely. As an earthly king does not hold himself responsible for the moral character of each soldier who fights in his battles, so the Lord does not couch for the moral character of all who will enlist and fight on His side of any question. "His servants they are to whom they render service," whatever the motive or object prompting them.

The same principles will apply in the coming Battle of Armageddon. God's side of that battle will be the people's side, and the very non-descript host, the people, will be pitted at the beginning of the battle. Anarchists, Socialists, and hot-headed radicals of every school of reason and unreason, will be in the forefront of that battle. The majority of the poor and the middle class prefer peace at almost any price. A comparatively small number, God's consecrated people, will at heart be longing for Messiah's Kingdom. These will bide the Lord's time and wait patiently for it; they will be of good courage, knowing the outcome outlined in the "more sure word of prophecy," to which they have done well to take heed, "as unto a light shining in a dark place until the Day dawn."—11 Peter I, 19.

The masses will be restless of their restraints, but will be conscious of their own weakness as compared to the

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SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Crook.

Nellie Wright, plaintiff, vs. Harry Joseph Wright, defendant.

To Harry Joseph Wright, above named defendant:

In the name of the State of Oregon you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, and if you fail to appear and answer for want thereof the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief prayed for in the complaint, to-wit:

For the dissolution of the bonds of matrimony now existing between you and the plaintiff, and for a further decree that the property now owned by the plaintiff shall be and remain hers, free from any right, title or interest on your part, either at law or in equity.

This summons is served upon you by publication by authority of an

order of the Honorable H. C. Ellis,

Judge of the County Court of the State of Oregon for Crook County.

Said order is dated the 30th day of October, 1912, and is duly recorded

and entered in said Court of action.

The date of first publication the 30th day of October, 1912.

VERNON A. FORBES, Attorney for plaintiff.

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