

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

OUT OF THE BELLY OF HELL CRIED I

"I cried by reason of mine affliction into the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I" (Jonah ii, 2.)

On the Mediterranean Sea, April 17.—We are not far from the place where poor Jonah long ago had his sad experience in his attempt to run away from the Divine commission to the Ninevites. We are nearing Jaffa, the port from which he sailed, then called Joppa. Some, intent on disproving as much as possible of the Bible, have attempted to make light of Jonah's experiences, claiming that there was no fish in the world of such capacity as could swallow a man entirely. We are to remember, however, that the Scriptures do not say that it was an ordinary whale that swallowed Jonah, but rather they specifically declare that God "specially prepared" a great fish for the occasion. Nor is this all. We have our Lord's own testimony to the truthfulness of the matter, and whoever denies either his truthfulness or his intelligence is thereby denying also his Messiahship and repudiating himself as a Savior, because neither a falsifier nor a dupe could possibly be recognized as the great Redeemer and Savior, the Sent of God, the Messiah.

Additionally our Lord informs us that the Jonah incident was in the nature of a type, especially designed of God to foreshadow the fact that Jesus himself would be dead for parts of three days and arise from the dead on the third day, even as Jonah was buried alive for parts of three days and on the third day the great fish vomited him upon dry land. There is nothing difficult about the narrative to one who has proper faith in God. To those who have not faith, nothing connected with Divine revelation is reasonable, commendable or satisfactory. Let us maintain our stand with those who hold fast to, and hold forth for others, the Word of Life.

The Belly of Hell Described.

But what have "the belly of hell" and the poor soul "crying from it to do with the story of Jonah? And how does the story associate itself with our journey today over the Mediterranean Deep? Jonah was the man who was in the belly of hell and whose cry unto the Lord from there constitutes our text. When a boy I heard this text, and my imagination conjured up what hell would be like, and especially what the belly of hell, or what I supposed the middle part of it, would be like. I had the opportunity of looking into blast furnaces through what is called the glory-hole or peep-hole. There I noted that the center of the fire was at white heat. I tried to imagine people in such a condition in the very middle or belly of hell. I could not imagine how they could survive such an experience a single moment, let alone for all eternity. I sought theological expositions of the matter and learned that some theologians of the holy past, admitting the destructive effect of fire, claimed that God would specially vitalize all the poor creatures consigned to this torment, so that they would never die, but would keep on suffering forever and forever and forever, unrelenting tortures. I found that other theologians explained that those consigned to such a fiery ordeal would gradually become adapted to it and assume an asbestos-like shell which would measurably protect them from the fire. But these theologians went on to explain that, wishing them to suffer horrible tortures, God would scale off the asbestos shell, causing them to suffer still more excruciatingly every time the operation was performed. As a child I tried to imagine that this was the just desert of sinners, and that the Heavenly Father was really kind and loving—that he did not give them worse, though I could not think of anything worse than that they could suffer.

"When I was a child, I spake as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (I Corinthians xiii, 11). I asked for the proof that anybody could endure such sufferings and yet live. I asked for the proof that our God is as unsympathetic as any devil could be. My mind rejected as irrational the whole proposition. I said: The God whom I shall worship must be a greater being than myself—greater than any human being, not only in power to execute his will, but also in wisdom to make a wise arrangement for his creatures, and also perfect in justice to do to them as he would have them do to him, if he were the creature and they the God. He must also be perfect in love, the noblest feature of any character. I said to myself, Such must be the God who has produced in humanity certain degrees of these various qualities and he could not give to man what he does not himself possess, nor can we suppose that he would create man with more justice, wisdom, love and power than he himself possesses. To that great God I bowed my heart and mind and every power that I possess. To him I still

bow, and give thanks that by his grace I have come to see his character, his Plan and his Word more clearly than in the past. I thank him that now I can see in what way ultimately Jesus will be the "Light of the world"—not merely the Light of the Church (John viii, 12).

In abandoning the doctrine of eternal torment my disposition was to abandon the Bible also, because I believed that the Bible was the foundation of the irrational theory which had pictured God to my mind as a demon of the worst imaginable type. But, thank God, dear friends, the Lord heard my prayer for light, for knowledge respecting himself. After I had made a search of heathen creeds, as well as those of Christendom, and had found them all illogical, unreasonable, unsatisfactory, I turned to the Bible again, saying, Perhaps I have not done the Bible justice; perhaps I have unconsciously attributed to the Bible the teachings of the creeds. Perhaps I have read it through colored spectacles. Praying to God for guidance I took up Bible study in a very different way from previously. I began to study the Bible as I should have done at first—without reference to any of the creeds. I began to let God teach me. I ceased to say, "It reads, 'Thus,' but it must mean otherwise. It says, 'So and so,' but cannot mean that, but the reverse. In other words I ceased to try to teach God and endeavored to be taught of God through his Word, guided by his holy Spirit.

International Bible Studies.

That was thirty-eight years ago. Under the Lord's blessing I found the Key to the interpretation of the Scriptures—not because of ability, but, I believe, because it is now due time for the Bible to be understood—in the closing of this Gospel Age and in the dawning of the Millennial Day. Having found the Key and used it myself I have spent my best endeavors since to put the Key into the hands of God's consecrated people the world over. I have nothing to boast of, dear friends, but have much to be glad for. First, I am glad on my own account with a joy unspokeable, that now I know my Heavenly Father and can have confidence in him and can have love for him, as never before. I am thankful that, to some extent, I have been enabled to convey similar joys, similar blessings, to others of his dear people of all denominations in all parts of the world. The Lord has gradually enlarged my opportunities year by year. I am not building a sect—not making a new denomination—not founding a Church! We have had too much of that sort of thing already. Not only have we Wesley's Church and Calvin's Church, etc., etc., but it has become the custom for each minister to be spoken of as the proprietor of the Church; as, for instance, The Reverend Dr. A's Church. It has become a custom, too, for the preachers to speak of the people as "My people," "My Church." This is all wrong. I wish to have neither part nor lot in it. I have no Church, and wish for none. There is but the one Church—the Church of Christ—the Church of the Living God—"The Church of the First-Borns, whose names are written in heaven." That Church includes in its membership every true saint of God who trusts in the merit of Christ and seeks to walk in his footsteps. Whatever earthly systems such may be identified with are without Divine authorization. Their standing in God's sight is merely because of their identification with Christ as "members of his Body."

In God's providence I was led to publish six volumes of "Studies in the Scriptures," or Bible Keys. These were taken up by the Bible and Tract Society, and published at cost price, to enable all of God's people everywhere to procure them. They are now published in ten of the most prominent languages. The first volume, "The Plan of the Ages," has passed the three million mark. I have received not one cent of royalty. My life is a very simple one. My expenses are small. I accept no salary and take up no collections. Voluntary donations from those who have been blessed by my labors supply my needs and the surplus goes to the Bible and Tract Society for the general forwarding of its work—"The Promulgation of Christian Kingdom."

Each earnest Christian who obtains the assistance of these Bible Keys and enters into the treasures of God's Word and becomes rich himself in spiritual knowledge and in joy and peace of heart is glad to call the attention of others to these Bible Keys. Thus the International classes of Bible Students of all denominations in all parts of the world are springing up and a blessed light, we believe, is going forth from these, assisting to all who love righteousness and hate iniquity. Although I am the regular Pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle congregation, there are several assistants and I am privileged to speak to thinking Christians of various parts of the world, especially in the United States. Only the Lord knows how I thank him

for this privilege of service, and for the still larger opportunity afforded me through the columns of some of the principal newspapers of the United States.

My sermons are handled by a Syndicate, and I am advised that now they appear in nearly five hundred newspapers, aggregating a circulation of six million copies, or, according to newspaper count, thirty million readers. All of these dear people of every denomination who do any thinking at all, I am sure have had similar difficulties to those which I experienced—difficulties in appreciating how our Heavenly Father could be a good Father, a good God, a loving Creator and yet provide for his human creatures such terrible destinies as all the creeds of the "dark ages" set forth. There is not a thinking Christian in the world who does not need the correct understanding of the Bible in order to be able to stand in the evil day that is upon us. All need to give heed to St. Paul's words, "Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand" (Ephesians vi, 13). Our day is a blessed one in respect to its wonderful opportunities and privileges, but it is an evil one in the sense of being a time of great trial and testing of faith to Christendom.

"Thinking minds are rejecting the doctrine of eternal torment and generally at the same time rejecting the Bible and denying that it is the inspired Word of God. These dear friends are stumbling into infidelity and think that Higher Criticism and Darwin's Evolution theory are new light. What they need is to see that the true light is in the Bible and that, wearing our grandfathers' spectacles, we inherited the Word of God at, wrested it to our own injury and to the loss of our peace of mind and fellowship with the Father and with the Son and with the holy Spirit.

The Key to the Scriptures.

Whoever gets the proper understanding of our text has in his possession the Key to the Bible. If he will use it, passage after passage will open for him and the whole Word of God becomes a new and glorious revelation of Justice, Wisdom, Love and Power Divine. Jonah was in the fish's belly—he was buried alive. It is this that is referred to in our text. The words hell-belly signify grave-belly or belly-grave. The context shows all this, telling us additionally that sea-weeds were wrapped about the Prophet's head and that God heard his prayer and delivered him from the hell-belly, or belly-grave, on the third day by causing the fish to vomit him up. If you have a reference Bible note that in the margin there is a reference to the words of our text, saying, "Hebrew, the grave." Ah! says one, The translators merely made a mistake and translated it hell when they should have translated it grave. Yes, I answer, and they made the same mistake in every case in which they used the same word *sheol* throughout the Old Testament. As it is, *sheol* is translated *grave* more times than it is translated *hell* in our Common Version; and it should be translated *grave* every time. There we have the Key to the Bible. The hell of the Bible, the penalty for sin, is death, the grave, the tomb. It is not an everlasting hell, for special Scriptures declare that *sheol* (hell) shall be destroyed. "I will ransom them from the power of the grave (*sheol*); I will redeem them from death; O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave (*sheol*), I will be thy destruction!" (Hebrews xii, 14). St. Paul quotes this prophecy in conjunction with his great discourse on the resurrection, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave (*hadon*) where is thy victory?" (I Corinthians xv, 55).

We see, dear friends, what our dear Redeemer suffered on our behalf to release us from the penalty for sin. He did not go to eternal torment for our sins. He did go into *sheol*, into *hadon*, into the grave. "Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures" (I Corinthians xv, 3). Thus God has provided for the resurrection of the dead—all mankind, "both of the just and of the unjust." The just are the Church, the saints. The unjust include all others. The blood of Jesus will avail for the release of every member of the race from the great penalty of death. Now it operates under a special call to the saintly few who are invited to become joint-heirs with the Redeemer in his great Kingdom which shortly is to bless all the families of the earth—not only those then living, but also all who have gone down to the tomb. The general resurrection will not be an instantaneous one, as in the case of the saints. It will be a gradual one in two senses.

(1) All will not come forth at once, but, as the Apostle declares, "Every man in his own order," company or band (I Corinthians xv, 23).

(2) It will be gradual in the sense that the awakening from the tomb will be but the beginning of the resurrection of the world. During the thousand years of Christ's reign all who will give heed to his instructions and assistance may rise gradually, up, up—and by the close of the Millennium they will reach the full perfection and image of God lost by Father Adam through disobedience. The unwilling, those rebellious after the light has fully come upon them, will be destroyed in the Second Death, from which there will be no recovery. They will perish as the brute beasts.

So, then, let us learn a lesson from Jonah's words, not forgetting the other lesson mentioned by our Lord when he declares that Jonah's experiences in the grave—the belly of the fish, and his release therefrom—foreshadowed his own experiences in the tomb and his resurrection in power and great glory on the third day.

An increase in wheat production all over the world. The latest crop was nearly one-fifth larger than that of 1908; but the recent Russian crop is so greatest ever produced by any one country.

ARRESTED FOR BEING GALLANT

TURKISH LAZZARECHI ADMITS HIS WEAKNESS, AND IS VERY PROMPTLY AND PROPERLY ACQUITTED BY JURY OF MARRIED MEN.

San Francisco, April 22.—According to Judge Deasy, fair female sleuths are unfair generally, in securing evidence of crime. According to his idea, a woman detective has no right to be pretty or attractive. If they make an arrest, chances are ten to one that they have tempted their prisoner to commit some crime for the purpose of having him arrested afterward.

This was vividly illustrated yesterday in the trial of Turbis Lazzearechi, the owner of a fruit store. The man was arrested by one of San Francisco's female detectives, and charged with selling liquor without a license.

The woman said that she bought a drink of whiskey from him.

Lazzearechi made a clean breast of the affair. He said: "I am an unmarried man. I admire handsome women. This lady came into my store, and I completely lost my heart to her. She asked me for a drink of whiskey, and I gave it to her. What else could I do?"

The jury, which was composed of married men acquitted the defendant with joyful unanimity.

Call for Bid—14th St. Improvement

Notice is hereby given that the common council of the city of Salem, Oregon, at the council chambers at said city on and after Monday, the 25th day of April, 1910, at or about the hour of 7:30 o'clock p. m., will receive bids for the improvement of 14th street from the north line of Marion street to the south line of "D" street, in the city of Salem, Oregon, according to the plans and specifications adopted for such improvement and on file at the office of the city recorder.

The right to reject any or all bids for such improvement is hereby reserved by the said council.

Date of first publication, April 19, 1910. W. A. MOORES, City Recorder.

Assessment Saginaw Street.

Notice is hereby given that the common council of the city of Salem, Oregon, will at or about 7:30 o'clock p. m., on Monday the 25th day of April, 1910, at the common council chambers, at Salem, Oregon, proceed to assess upon each lot and parcel of land liable thereof its proportionate share of the cost of the improvement of Saginaw street from the south line of Mission street to the north line of Myers street, in the city of Salem, Oregon, according to the plans and specifications adopted for such improvement and on file at the office of the city recorder.

All persons interested in said assessment shall appear at said time before said common council, and present objections if any they have to said assessment, and apply to said common council within five days of said date for the privilege if they so desire to make said improvement in lieu of their assessment.

Done by order of the common council in the city of Salem, Oregon, this 18th day of April, 1910. Date of first publication, April 19, 1910. W. A. MOORES, City Recorder.

Forever to Leave Home.

Every year a large number of poor sufferers whose lungs are sore and racked with coughs are urged to go to another climate. But this is costly and not always sure. There's a better way. Let Dr. King's New Discovery cure you at home. "It cured me of lung trouble," writes W. R. Nelson, of Calamingo, Ark., "when all else failed and I gained 47 pounds in weight. Its surely the King or all cough and lung cures." Thousands owe their lives and health to it. Its positively guaranteed for Coughs, Colds, LaGrippe, Asthma, Croup—all Throat and Lung troubles. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free at J. C. Perry's.

No man can be dignified when he has the kind of a cold which taxes his handkerchief supply.

A KNOCKER.

is a man who can't see good in any person or thing. It's a habit caused by a disordered liver. If you find that you are beginning to see things through blue spectacles, treat your liver to a good cleaning out process with Ballard's Herbina. A sure cure for constipation, dyspepsia, indigestion, sick headache, biliousness, all liver, stomach and bowel troubles. Sold by all dealers.

Shoo Fly Screen Windows and Screen Doors Wood good grade prompt delivery Chas. K. Spaulding Log Co. Phone 88 Front & Ferry Sts.

THE KING OF CURES DR. KING'S NEW DISCOVERY FOR COUGHS AND COLDS AND ALL THROAT AND LUNG DISEASES PREVENTS PNEUMONIA AND CONSUMPTION. Price 50c AND \$1.00 SOLD AND GUARANTEED BY J. C. PERRY. "Two years ago a severe cold settled on my lungs and so completely prostrated me that I was unable to work and scarcely able to stand. I then was advised to try Dr. King's New Discovery, and after using one bottle I went back to work, as well as I ever was." W. J. ATKINS, Banner Springs, Tenn.

School Bonds. Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of School District No. 24, in Marion county, Oregon, are to issue popular loan notes, in sums not less than \$50 each, and amounting in the aggregate to \$25,000 to the bona fide resident citizens of said district. Said notes are to be issued and delivered on the 9th day of May, 1910, and made payable on or before ten years from date of issue, and are to bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually. The books for said loan are this day opened in the office of the district clerk of said district, at No. 288 State street, Salem, Oregon, and applications will be received until noon of the 7th day of May, 1910.

By order of the Board of Directors Dated this 6th day of April, 1910. H. A. JOHNSON, JR., District Clerk.

Best Treatment for Colds.

"Most ordinary colds will yield to the simplest treatment," says the Chicago Tribune, "moderate laxatives, hot foot baths, a free perspiration and an avoidance of exposure to cold and wet after treatment." While this treatment is simple, it requires considerable trouble, and the one adopting it must remain in doors for a day or two, or a fresh cold is almost sure to be contracted, and in many instances pneumonia follows. Is it not better to pin your faith to an old reliable preparation like Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, that is famous for its cures of colds and can always be depended upon? For sale by all good druggists.

Reaching the Top. In any calling of life, demands a vigorous body and a keen brain. Without health there is no success. But Electric Bitters is the greatest Health Builder the world has ever known. It compels perfect action of stomach, liver, kidneys, bowels,

purifies and enriches the blood, tones and invigorates the whole system and enables you to stand the wear and tear of your daily work. "After months of suffering from Kidney Trouble," writes W. M. Sherman, of Cushing, Me., "three bottles of Electric Bitters made me feel like a new man." 50c at J. C. Perry's.

George C. Will 121 Commercial Street Phone Main 159 Joyous and Clear and Fresh Tells you concisely what the "Edison" records always are. The latest and most popular always carried in stock. Many charming ones among the new arrivals. Come In and Hear Them Pianos and organs sold on installment plant and rented. A complete line of latest sheet music always on hand. Everything in musical instruments.

New Edison Records for MAY On Sale April 25th THIS month's Edison Record list is remarkable in that it introduces two new Grand Opera stars of the Manhattan Opera House, New York—Carmen Melis, prima donna; and Gustav Huberdeau, basso; besides records by Marguerita Sylva, Blanche Arral and Riccardo Martin. But not only from the standpoint of Grand Opera is this month's list remarkable. The biggest hit of the season, "Has anybody here seen Kelly?" is on the Amberol (four minute) list and Billy Murray's newest success "He's a College Boy" is a head-liner from the Standard (two minute) list. And these are just samples—your dealer will play anything on this list, you wish to hear, on the Edison Phonograph. Amberol Standard There are Edison dealers everywhere. Go to the nearest and hear the Edison Phonograph play both Edison Standard and Amberol Records. Get complete catalogs from your dealer or from us. Edison Phonographs \$12.50 to \$200.00 Edison Standard Records .35 Edison Amberol Records (play twice as long) .50 Edison Grand Opera Records .75 to \$2.00 Does your Phonograph play Amberol Records? If not, ask your dealer about our money saving combination offer on Amberol Records and the attachment to play them. NATIONAL PHONOGRAPH COMPANY, 75 Lakeside Avenue, Orange, N. J. The Edison Business Phonograph will cut the cost of your correspondence from eight cents a letter to at least four cents. In some cases it has reduced this cost to as low as two-and-one-half cents.

If some people would pay half as much attention to their own affairs as they do to affairs of others they would get along better in the world. It may surprise American read-

ers to know that this country in spite of its enormous production of wheat, has for the second time been surpassed by Russia, which last year raised 46,000,000 bushels more than the United States. There has been

an increase in wheat production all over the world. The latest crop was nearly one-fifth larger than that of 1908; but the recent Russian crop is so greatest ever produced by any one country.