

FROM BAPTIST TO ADVENTIST.

The Scriptures That Caused New Light to Shine into One Man's Heart.

BY E. J. HANSEN.

(Continued from last week.)

IV.

THE MILLENNIUM.—WHERE? WHEN?

The word "millennium" does not occur in the bible, but in the 20th chapter of Revelation a period of one thousand years is spoken of, as the time during which those who had not the mark of the beast, should live and reign with Christ.

What does the word of God teach as to where and when this shall be? It certainly is not in this "present evil world," for Jesus says, "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36. Jesus was tempted of the devil to bow down and worship him and receive in return for this homage, "all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them," but Jesus refused, saying, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matt. 4:8, 9, and 10.

Again, at the time of the miraculous feeding of the 5,000, there were men there, who, when they saw the miracle, wanted to take Jesus by force and make him a king, but he, knowing their desires, "departed again into a mountain himself alone." Thus again refusing worldly honors.

"Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that Prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, he departed again into a mountain himself alone." John 6:14, 15.

And now, in these last days of the world's history, there are those who expect Jesus to come to this world and reign as a TEMPORAL KING, but he never will, according to his own word.

Where, then, will Christ's Kingdom be set up, for he certainly is to have a Kingdom? In 2 Peter, 3:5, 6, 7, 13, there are three worlds spoken of.

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. \* \* \* Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Pet. 3:5, 6, 7, 13.

The first world, then, reached to the time of the flood; the second world, which now is, is "reserved unto fire," that is, it will reach down to the time of its destruction by fire; and the third world is the "new heavens and a new earth"—this world made pure and clean from all taint of sin, renovated, as it were, by fire, and every stain of sin burned out—"the world to come," that is where Christ's material Kingdom is to be, though His Spiritual Kingdom is now set up in the hearts of those who are now and will be then His willing and obedient subjects, and who will "be like him when he appears."

We think it is clearly proven, by the preceding and following

texts of scripture, that the thousand years reign of the saints with Christ will not be in this "present evil world," but in the "new heavens" and "new earth."

"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand, in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." Eph. 1:19, 20, 21.

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2, 3.

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their forehead, or in their hands; AND THEY LIVED AND REIGNED WITH CHRIST A THOUSAND YEARS." Rev. 20:4.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the HEAVEN MUST RECEIVE UNTIL THE TIMES OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:19, 20, 21.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from HEAVEN with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them IN THE CLOUDS, TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR: AND SO SHALL WE EVER BE WITH THE LORD." 1 Thes. 4:16, 17.

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" 1 Cor. 6:2, 3.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20:12.

The above quotations prove to my mind most conclusively, that the thousand years reign with Christ will not be in this "present evil world," with the Jews restored to old Jerusalem, but in the New Jerusalem in heaven, and constitutes a part of the inheritance of true Israel. For Jesus has prepared a place for the righteous, in heaven, where he has gone to remain until the "restitution of all things," when he will come again to "receive them unto himself" in heaven, where the righteous shall judge the wicked dead, for this judgment must be in heaven, where the books are kept, and where Christ is, according to the scripture texts above quoted, and not on this earth, which is in a state of desolation during this time. The following quotations from Isaiah and Jeremiah show the state of desolation in which the earth will be at this time, as they can refer to no time previous to the Millennium, as the earth will be inhabited when Jesus comes, the righteous dead will be raised at that time, and the living right-

eous will be changed and caught up with the righteous dead in the clouds with Jesus, and the living wicked destroyed by the brightness of his appearing, and they cannot refer to any time after the Millennium, as then the New Jerusalem comes down from God out of heaven, and the righteous, the "meek," inherit the earth for an everlasting possession.

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void, and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate: yet will I not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it." Jer. 4:23-28.

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the naughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold: even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger." Isa. 13:9-13.

"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it up side down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. \* \* \* The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word. \* \* \* The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isa. 24:1, 3, 19, 20.

We are forced, upon a consideration of the above quoted scripture texts, to the conclusion that, during the Millennium, the earth is "desolate," "utterly empty," and "utterly spoiled," for it can be at no other time in this world's history than between the time of Christ's coming for his saints and the time of His coming with his saints, as before stated. There is no man living on earth for Satan to tempt to sin, and this constitutes the "chain" (Rev. 20:1) of circumstances with which Satan is "bound a thousand years" (Rev. 20:2). The wicked are in their graves, and the righteous have gone home with Jesus to reign with him a thousand years. Satan is left alone on the earth to enjoy the ruin which he has wrought. Satan, the great anti-typical "scapegoat," has received the sins of the righteous—who have confessed them and sent them on before to judgment—placed on his head by Jesus, our High Priest, and has been let loose in the wilderness, a desolate place, "not inhabited," (Levit. 16:22) there to bear away the sins of the righteous into the land of everlasting forgetfulness. The righteous are in heaven, there, from the books in heaven con-

taining the record of their deeds done in the body, to judge the wicked dead, who, after the Millennium, are to come up in the second resurrection, to receive their sentence and punishment—everlasting banishment from the presence of God, and from the New Jerusalem—which they shall see but not be allowed to enter—where the righteous are to dwell forever with Jesus as to their King—this is the Kingdom of Christ. And the condition of this earth, during the thousand years, or the Millennium, is to be exactly the reverse to what some seem to think it will be. We can now see, in this view of the Millennium, why it is that Jesus did not accept from Satan the kingdoms of this world, because they were to be destroyed in the universal wreck and ruin which Satan would bring them to, and we must be careful that we do not emulate Satan, and the Jews, in striving to make Jesus a temporal King, or even make the seat of his Kingdom in this "present evil world," for he says, "My kingdom is not of this world."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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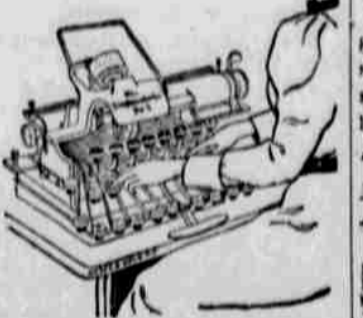
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AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES.

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of June, 1899, the terms of the incorporation of the Central Hotel Company was extended to February 15, 1901, and that said corporation will exist until that time. LOUIS D. HOLMES, President. WILLIAM B. ... Secretary. Omaha, June 6th, 1899. 6-15-4.



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