

PASTOR RUSSELL ON THE ATLANTIC

Discourses on Arabia, the Cradle
of Mankind.

ANCIENT GARDEN OF EDEN.

Land Where Our First Parents Had
Their Trial, Lost Divine Favor and
Were Condemned to Suffer Penalty of
Sin—Day Draws Near When the
Great Deliverer Shall Lift the Curse
and the World Be Blessed.



Mid-Ocean, March 24.—On the Atlantic, speeding homeward, the Foreign Missions Investigation Committee is in communication by wireless. It is understood that arrangements have been made for a public mass meeting in New York's largest auditorium, The Hippodrome, next Sunday afternoon, to hear the report of this Committee respecting its findings. A full report of the same will be given in these columns. Pastor Russell's discourse today was reminiscent of Arabia as the Cradle of our Race. His text was: "As all in Adam die, even so all in Christ shall be made alive; every man in his own order."—1 Corinthians xv. 22, 23.

The Land Where Man Lost Life.

Arabia is accredited with being the ancient Eden, eastward in which was the specially prepared Garden wherein our first parents had their trial—not for a reward of heaven or a punishment of eternal torment, but for a reward of everlasting life under perfect earthly conditions, or for a penalty of death. Here man, created very good, in the image of his Creator, sinned and became subject to the penalty of sin—"The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Here also is Mount Aararat, on which the ark rested after the flood, and from which came forth the family of Noah to people the earth afresh. Thus was Arabia twice the Cradle of mankind.

Here is the fertile Mesopotamia, which Father Abraham left at the Divine invitation, to sojourn in Palestine to the north, under promise to become the heir of Divine favor, the father of the faithful, whose now glorified Seed, the great Messiah, has already redeemed the world and is yet to take the Throne of earth and, during the thousand years, conquer sin and death and lift up from degradation and the grave Adam and his race.

This is the same Arabia made famous by the tales of the Arabian Nights, and where also is the tomb of Mohammed, whose followers rival in numbers the followers of Jesus and still trust in a promise made to Abraham, and, like the Jews, wait still for the glorious appearing of Messiah. Like the Israelites they are blind to the fact that, before Messiah could bless and heal and uplift the world, it was necessary that He redeem them with His own life, and select from amongst men a spiritual class to be His Bride and joint-heir in His glorious Kingdom.

And now as the day draws near that the curse shall be lifted from the world, when "the wilderness shall blossom as the rose" and "the solitary place shall be glad," we behold this land of the most ancient civilization awaking. The ruins of its ancient cities, Nineveh and Babylon, are yielding to modern research the records of thirty-five hundred years ago, while modern engineers and modern capital are at work upon vast irrigation schemes costing millions of money, which they tell us will make that land fruitful and fertile as the Garden of the Lord. Are we not thus witnesses of the beginning of the long-promised "times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all the holy Prophets since the world began?"—Acts iii. 19-21.

Redemption by His Blood.

When could we more appropriately consider the Divine provision for our race than when considering this land, the Cradle of our Race, where the fall took place, where the ruin began which has filled the earth with sin, selfishness, sorrow and dying? Ah, surely we greatly erred when we supposed that a greater penalty for sin was needed or intended by our Maker than the penalty we are experiencing. What more could man lose than our race as a whole has lost? Casured in relationship with God as a son and heir of the appropriate blessings of the Almighty Father, Adam and his race lost that precious relationship—lost Divine favor, Divine communion, Divine care, and were plunged into death condemnation as strangers, aliens, convicts, tarrying in life merely to fulfil the verdict, "Dying, thou shalt die."

How sternly Divine Justice held to that verdict! How relentlessly, how pitilessly the forces of nature were allowed to play havoc with man in earthquakes, droughts, famines, pestilences and hereditary diseases! For more than two thousand years the great Heavenly Parent showed mankind only His Justice and wrath of His Love. And then the first declaration of the Gospel—the first mention that Divine favor would yet rescue

mankind from the reign of sin and death was made, not publicly, not to all of the race, but merely to one man—the friend of God—Abraham. To him it was disclosed as a secret that the great Creator, although permitting Justice to hold full sway in a relentless exhibition of Divine wrath against the sinner, had a loving purpose in His heart which would yet find expression and include all the human family in the blessing it would bring. How astonished we are to learn of such

"A witness in God's mercy,
Like the witness of the sea!"

But God gave Abraham words only, "Wonderful words of life"—that in him and in his posterity eventually all the families of the earth shall be blessed. But there was not a sign of change so far as the Divine dealings were concerned. Sin and death were still allowed to reign, and their reign has continued century after century since Abraham's day. Doubtless it was because God foreknew that would intervene before the blessing of the world that He added His Oath in corroboration of His promise. Saint Paul tells us that He so did in order that by these two immutable, unchangeable things—the Word of God and the Oath of God—we, who by faith are become the spiritual Seed of Abraham, might have strong consolation—we "who have died for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us" in that Gospel Message which God gave to Abraham.

"Israel Hath Not Obtained."

Centuries passed. Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, to whom that promise was successively made, all died; and Jacob on his death bed handed down the gracious inheritance of the wonderful promise to his twelve sons, who there became the nation of Israel. The foundation of Israel's hopes as a nation is that promise made to Abraham, in which they still trust. The spectacle of a faith triumphing for four thousand years is a glorious one, and it will shortly have its reward.

In due time, at Mount Sinai God entered into a Covenant with the children of Israel, by which He agreed to bless them and to fulfill in them the Abrahamic promise that they, as Abraham's seed, should bless all the nations of the earth. The only condition connected with the promise was that they were to show their fitness to be the Divine channel of blessing to the world and their obedience to the Divine Law which was delivered to them on two tables of stone. Full of joy and faith the Israelites obligated themselves thus.

Ah! much they knew not. They did not realize their own weakness and imperfection through the fall and their inability to fulfill the Divine requirements, the spirit of the Law of their Covenant. They soon found that while the Law said, "He that doeth these things shall live," they were not able to do those things; and therefore they were all dying like other men. Had God deceived them and entrapped them? No. God's proposition was simple enough. He was merely teaching them a great lesson—that sin as a disease had taken hold upon humanity and that, however willing they might be, all were weak and perverse in the flesh and unable to fulfil their good intentions.

Israel's Promised Deliverer.

As a consolation God assured Israel that He would send the Deliverer, One still greater than Moses who had delivered them from the Egyptian bondage. This greater Deliverer would deliver them from the greater bondage of sin and death, so that they would be able to obey the Divine Law and be used of God in blessing and instructing other nations. This Greater than Moses they were assured would inaugurate a New Law Covenant, based upon better sacrifices than the blood of bulls and goats, and He was known to them as Messiah, the Messenger of the New Covenant. In Him, therefore, they came to hope; for Him they waited; in the prospect of His coming they delighted.

But although the Law Covenant made nothing perfect—although it did not accomplish the thing Israel had hoped, it did accomplish much. It served to lift that one nation, religiously, high above all the other nations of their day, so that when the time came for God to send His Son into the world to be man's Redeemer—to die, the Just for the unjust, for man's reconciliation, as the Atonement for his sin—at that time there were a few thousand saintly Jews who waited for the consolation, the comfort, the blessing which God had promised them through Messiah—release from the bondage of sin and death.

Thus the Law was a pedagogue, a servant, to lead the Israelites to the Great Teacher; and at Pentecost and subsequently several thousand of them thus led entered the School of Christ—to be His disciples, to walk in His steps, to suffer with Him and later on, in due time, to reign with Him.

Moreover, during the sixteen centuries between Moses and Jesus a saintly class was manifested, all of whose names are written in the book of God's remembrance. It is not theirs to be the Bride of Messiah; it is not theirs to be counted in as members of the Body of Christ, which is the Church, for those members will follow the Head, none of them precede Him.

These Ancient Worthies were not begotten of the Holy Spirit to a new nature, to be new creatures in Christ, but "they had this testimony that they pleased God." They have the Scriptural testimony, therefore, that they shall be accounted worthy of "a better resurrection" than the remainder of mankind, although their resurrection will not be with the Bride of

Christ—will not be the Chief Resurrection, to spirit nature, spirit bodies, etc. Those Ancient Worthies will come forth from the tomb after the completion of the Church, after her establishment in glory. They will come forth perfect men, of human nature, the image and likeness of God in the flesh, as was Adam. Great will be their degree of honor as they shall be used of Messiah as "princes in all the earth," for the blessing of Israel and all of every nation, people, kindred and tongue.

Abraham's Seed the Elect.

But Abraham was to have a still higher Seed, numerically less, for it is written, "Thy Seed shall be as the stars of heaven and as the sands of the seashore." That superior Abrahamic Seed, "as the stars of heaven," a spiritual Seed, must be developed and glorified first, before the blessing can come to his earthly seed.

Saint Paul, explaining the situation, says that the Law Covenant was added to fill up the time between Abraham and the proper time for the spiritual Seed, The Christ. It "was added because of transgression"—because sin had abounded in the world and so degraded humanity that it was necessary to lift up as a standard of righteousness the Law of the Ten Commandments, to take the place of the Divine Law which was originally written in Adam's character. When he was created in the image and likeness of God Adam needed no Tables of Law to teach him right from wrong, even as God needs none.

Saint Paul explains further, saying, "Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for, but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded." (Romans xi, 7.) Israel desired to be the Bride of Messiah—to have the very choicest blessings which God had to give. And Israel got that so far as its people were prepared therefor. The "elect" obtained it—a remnant of Israel, numerically small as compared to the whole, were found upon test to be "Israelites indeed in whom was no guile;" and these became the nucleus of Messiah's Bride class.

Gospel Preached First to Jews.

That every Israelite indeed might be found the Gospel Message at first was exclusively theirs, and the first Gentile convert, Cornelius, was not admitted to Divine favor in this respect until three and a half years after the cross. Yet, still later, when the Apostles preached the Gospel to every creature, to people of every country and nationality, as well as to the Jew to whom it was originally confined, they still gave the Jew the preference up to the year A. D. 70, when the Jewish polity perished. St. Paul declared this publicly to the Jews, saying, "It was necessary that the Gospel be preached first to you, but seeing ye count yourselves unworthy of the grace of God, so we turn unto the Gentiles, for thus it is written in the Prophets."

We see, then, that the nucleus of the elect Church which should become the Bride of Christ at His second coming was Jewish, and that God's favor to the Gentiles was His permitting of them to come in and fill up the foreordained number of the elect Church, though only after all worthy Jews had been called and accepted. And now, as Jesus foretold, the Gospel or good news of His coming Kingdom is being preached in all the world "for a witness," to gather from every nation, people, kindred and tongue the saintly ones to be sharers with the Jewish nucleus in the great honor of becoming Messiah's Bride and joint-heir. We are to clearly distinguish between the witnessing of these matters amongst all nations, for the gathering out of an "elect" few, and the blessing of all nations under the Kingdom which will come later on. A failure to see this has caused confusion in many minds.

Heirs of the Promise.

We must never lose sight of the kernel of this Gospel Message. The ultimate blessings of the Messianic Kingdom, through the Seed of Abraham, will be to all the families of the earth, but, previously, the Divine work is the calling of the Seed of Abraham, which is to do that work of blessing. The promise was not made to all the families of the earth but to Abraham and his Seed. Hence the heirs of the promise are not all the families of the earth, but the Seed of Abraham.

To the saints of Galatia, who had been Gentiles but had accepted Jesus and were trusting to become joint-heirs with God's dear Son in His Messianic Kingdom as members of His Bride Elect, Saint Paul writes, "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's Seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Galatians iii, 29.) How strange that we should have lost sight of this great inheritance! With our Lord, as Abraham's Seed, we shall inherit the earth; as it is written, "I will give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession."

No wonder the Apostles frequently reminded the brethren of this great inheritance which God has in reservation for the faithful. No wonder one of them writes, "All things are yours, for ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." Adam and his entire race are to be turned over to Christ Jesus the Redeemer—purchased by His precious blood. Then we, as His Bride Consort, are to share with Him that great inheritance, and to labor with Him in bringing order out of present confusion. Satan is to be bound; and the forces of darkness are to be overthrown and restrained. The light of the knowledge of God, as a glorious Sun of Righteousness, is to arise; and His healing beams are to flood the earth, carrying with them life, peace, joy, rest—to the Jew first, but eventually to every nation, people, kindred and tongue.

WEST FACES SERIOUS FLOOD

Railroad Men Hold Conferences
to Protect Property.

GRAVE CONDITIONS TO BE MET

Washington Reports Indicate Warm Weather is Coming—Dynamite is Sent Ahead to Break Up Ice Gorges at Points Along Railroads.

Omaha, March 25.—Grave conditions confront those who have destructible property in the west. Homes, farms and railroads are going to be seriously damaged by a seething rush from the headwaters.

Railroad officials in Omaha held hurried conferences to study the flood situation and every report from the west was eagerly consumed.

The roads have dispatched dynamite to points along their lines beyond the Missouri valley, and it is being used freely to break up the gorges. Practically every bridge in the west is in danger of destruction.

Fears are based primarily on the general supposition that the cold weather cannot much longer prevail, and this is backed up by confirming reports coming from Washington. In the forecast for the coming week, weather with temperatures slightly below normal are forecasted.

Colder weather is expected in the northwest about Thursday, but in the meantime it is expected that Old Sol will have a handicap that hardly can be overcome.

Colonel Welsh, director of the local weather bureau, believes that floods, or at least extremely high stages, are inevitable. "We are bound to have high water on account of the heavy snows and the great depth of ice," he declared. "The expected inundation will be greater or less according to the whims of the elements. If, by a natural condition, the temperatures go up gradually from the south, the damage will be lessened, but should a warm spell strike the headwaters in the north there is no telling what the destruction will be."

WOODMEN MEET IN HASTINGS

Executive Committee Perfecting Plan of Insurgency.

Hastings, Neb., March 25.—The executive committee elected to carry out the program formulated by the state insurgent convention of Modern Woodmen of America met in Hastings today. The details of the adopted plan of insurgency will be worked out at this meeting and probably another conference will be held in Omaha or Lincoln a week later preparatory to the making of formal demands on the head officials of the order.

The resolutions adopted by the convention commit the insurgent Woodmen to the following line of action:

1. To secure the submission of the rate question to the entire membership for a referendum vote.
2. Failing in the first, to endeavor to secure a meeting of a newly elected head camp for a reconsideration of the rate question.
3. Failing in the first and second, to institute legal proceedings to prevent the enforcement of the new rates pending consideration of the question by the next regular head camp.
4. Failing in all these, to call another convention to take such action as the circumstances may require.

La Follette Will Come on April 3.

Lincoln, March 25.—Senator La Follette will come to Nebraska April 3 and will remain in the state for several days, campaigning for votes at the Republican primary, April 19, when he will contest with Colonel Roosevelt and President Taft for the sixteen Nebraska votes in the Chicago convention. A telegram to F. A. Harrison of Lincoln announced the senator's positive determination to make April 3 the beginning of his Nebraska tour.

Cattle Break Through Ice.

Nebraska City, March 25.—Henry Holtgreve, a large stock raiser, lost thirteen head of fine cattle in a peculiar manner. The Little Nemaha river was nearly bank full and the cattle got out and attempted to cross the stream on the ice. They broke through and were drowned. Part of the remainder of the herd was following, but when the ice began to give way they retreated to the shore and escaped.

Urges Assessors to Use Care.

Lincoln, March 25.—Henry Seymour, secretary of the state board of equalization, is sending out a letter to each of the county assessors in the state, urging them to use the utmost care, as the assessment of property this year is an unusually important matter. There is to be a reassessment of all real estate and this will necessitate a readjustment of values of all classes of property.

McIninch Wins Suit Over Auto.

Auburn, Neb., March 25.—The case of McIninch against Evans resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff. The plaintiff reclaimed an automobile and the defendant claimed right of possession on the ground that he had a verbal chattel mortgage. This case was tried two years ago and went to the supreme court, where it was reversed.

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The Germans have a proverb, "Durch, und Durch Gewissenhaft," which translated is, "Through—Through and Through." Such is the motto of the Kirschbaum Clothes. Get them at

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V. ZUCKER, Manager

A MERRY TIME AT MORGAN HOME

Enjoyable Event at Home of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Morgan Saturday Evening.

One of the most enjoyable social events of the season was that which took place at the pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Morgan on Saturday evening, at which time the Melchisedecs were entertained by Misses Mildred Johnson, Esther Larson and Gertrude Morgan in a delightful manner.

Those in charge of the entertainment had planned some very interesting features, the first being a guessing contest, in which cartoon pictures were distributed and each had to guess the names of those represented. In this contest Miss Elsie Theirolf guessed the largest number and was awarded a pretty cup and saucer. This was followed by another contest, in which a list of questions, which were to be answered by the name of some article found in a kitchen, were distributed. Miss Edna Shopp succeeded in capturing the prize offered for this contest and was presented with a tin cup. The next was one which tested the artistic ability of the guests and was a source of interest and amusement, as each had to draw a cartoon picture of someone present. Mrs. Gade proved herself the greatest artist and won the prize, a picture. Delicious refreshments were served at this time.

The guests tarried for a few moments and participated in music, conversation and other stunts and then dispersed, pronouncing Misses Johnson, Larson and Morgan as most excellent entertainers, and extended their warmest thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Morgan for their kind hospitality.

For Representative.

We are requested to announce the name of George W. Olson as a candidate for state representative, subject to the choice of the democratic voters at the primaries on Friday, April 19th.

Surveyor Fred Patterson was a passenger to Omaha on the fast mail this afternoon, where he went to get a blue print of the new rifle range, which he recently surveyed.

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