

DIVINE JUSTICE IN THE DELUGE

Truly Understood, the Flood
Was an Act of Mercy.

FREED MAN FROM SLAVERY.

Pastor Russell's Interpretations Unlock
Mysteries of the Bible—Dark State-
ments Made Luminous—Lucifer Be-
cause of His Rebellion Became Satan.
How His Evil Example Was Per-
mitted to Test the Loyalty of All the
Holy Angels—Penalty of Sin Im-
posed by Divine Justice Is Death.



(PASTOR RUSSELL)

Dayton, Ohio, February 9.—Great crowds heard Pastor Russell today at Memorial Hall. He spoke twice. We report his discourse on the Deluge from the text, "The flood came, and took them all away." (Matthew 24:39.) Speaking without notes, he said:

I continue today my subject of a week ago at Brooklyn. I am confident that many of you keep in touch with my weekly discourses through the newspapers. Last Sunday we considered the physical causes which led up to the Deluge, and found them every way most reasonable and in full harmony with history and geology. Today we consider the Deluge from a different standpoint. We will attempt to show from the Bible why God permitted the Deluge at all, and that He was fully justified in the arrangement which blotted out the human family, except eight persons—righteous Noah and his family.—2 Peter 2:4-10.

To begin with, we should remember that God's Covenant with Adam, granting him everlasting life, was based upon the fact that he was perfect (an image of his Creator), and on condition that he would maintain this image and likeness by continued obedience to his Maker. When Satan obsessed the serpent and guided it to eat the very fruit of which our first parents were forbidden to eat, he produced thereby a temptation.

Mother Eve saw that so far from the serpent's being poisoned by that fruit, it was the wisest of animals. She reasoned that humanity was so far superior to the brute that the increased wisdom would make her husband and herself like gods. She thirsted for knowledge and power. Only the Divine command seemed to stand between her and the highest ideals. She partook of the fruit and recommended it to Adam—who was not so deceived, but who knew that death would surely follow disobedience. Nevertheless he disobeyed, thinking that he would rather perish with his wife than spend eternity without her.

The Deluge a Deliverance.

When the Bible account of the cause of the Deluge is properly comprehended, it is seen that it was indeed a blessing in disguise. The human family had gotten into slavery, and would shortly have been wiped out by a new race which most peculiarly had intruded upon humanity. The Bible tells us that this new race consisted exclusively of males, propagated through the human female. We read, "The same were mighty men * * * men of renown"—Genesis 6:4.

When the Race of Giants?

In the past we have not studied the Bible with sufficient care, and therefore have not appreciated properly its wonderful, harmonious story. The origin of the invading race of giants is clearly told, said Pastor Russell. Satan, a glorious angelic being of a high order, named Lucifer, the Morning Star, deflected to sin, because of ambi-

tion. He had said in his heart long before, "I will be as the Most High"—an independent sovereign. (Isaiah 14:12-14.) Satan thought that he saw his opportunity to establish a separate empire in the earth. He thought that if he could become master of the first pair, all of their children would be his subjects. Knowing of his own undying nature, and that man was created for everlasting existence, he counted not on death as the Divine penalty for sin.

When Satan perceived his human subjects growing gradually weaker under the curse, a new plan was formulated. To the angels who were given permission to help and to instruct humanity, a temptation was presented. They possessed the power of materialization, and could appear as human, to help and instruct humanity. The Satanic suggestion was that they could help humanity best by begetting a new race, using the human females as mothers for that race, to which they would impart their own virility. Although this was recognized as being contrary to Divine Law, it was perceived that Satan had not been punished for his rebellion. The inference was that God was unable to punish Satan for this rebellion. Thus by refraining from punishing Satan, God left open the door by which all the holy angels were exposed to temptations to disobedience and disloyalty.

Thus we may know that all the angels of Heaven in harmony with God are loyal to the core, because they withstood temptation—permitted for the very purpose of their testing. That this testing continued for centuries we know from the context, because the children of the illicit union were not babes, but men—giants—and renowned at a time when manhood was rarely reached earlier than one century. The simple record of Genesis is, "The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. * * * When the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children unto them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."—Genesis 6:4.

It was these bestial giants who filled the earth with violence, oppressing and enslaving Adam's posterity. As for them, they never had a right to existence, since they were born contrary to the Divine will, or Law. Nor can we suppose that in any sense of the word they would be included in the redemptive work of Jesus, who died only for Adam and his posterity. "As all in Adam die, even so all in Christ shall be made alive, every man in his own order"—the Church in the First Resurrection.—1 Corinthians 15:22.

Hope For the Antediluvians.

There is the same hope for the antediluvians as for all the remainder of the human family—the hope of the resurrection of the dead. This means not merely a hope of being awakened from the sleep of death, but a resurrection hope, a hope of Restitution, a hope of return, if they will, to the full measure of human perfection, the image of God in the flesh. This hope as we have seen on previous occasions, rests first of all on God's gracious promise that all the families of the earth shall be blessed in Abraham's Seed. Secondly, it rests in the Bible assurance that Jesus is the Head, and the Church the members of that Spiritual Seed of Abraham, which soon, as the Elect of God, will be completed and glorified.

The Fallen Angels Punished.

On next Lord's day we will inquire of God's wonderful Book, the Bible, just what penalty Divine Justice has imposed upon Satan and his associated angelic rebels. I will reach all who desire through the hundreds of newspapers which publish my sermons weekly. If you are not in touch with any of these, drop me a postcard, to Washington Temple or Brooklyn Tabernacle. I remind you now, however, that the Bible assures us that Noah and his family were of pure Adamic stock, in the words, "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations."

Divine Patience Manifested.

As we review the situation, we are amazed at the exhibition given us of Divine patience. We are reminded of St. Peter's words that God is not willing that any should perish. How easily He could have blotted out of existence our first parents and have created another pair! How easily He could have hindered Satan from presenting the temptation! How easily He could have warned the angels against a course of disobedience, and, if necessary, have shown them His Power at any time!

These incidents illustrate to us a general principle of Divine Character and dealings. God wishes not to have the heavens and the earth populated with evil beings. Creating angels and men in His own image and likeness, on different planes, He desires them to maintain their own station, and in loving loyalty to learn to trust His Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power. Moreover, He does not wish to have any children or servants in all His domain obedient merely because of fear, merely because of ignorance. Jesus' words give us the key to the Heavenly Father's Character in this respect. He says, "The Father seeketh such to worship Him as worship Him in spirit and in truth."—John 4:23.

God had indeed a glorious Dominion before sin entered the world. And He, before sin entered, have hindered any spread of the disloyal ambition of Satan by destroying him, or He could

have coerced him into obedience as slave. But such He desires not. God most evidently has the very highest ideals in respect to His Government and all of His subjects. All His work is perfect, and He will not allow it to get away from the perfection in which He created His intelligent creatures. Every variation from the perfection, therefore, must be the result of disobedience; and the unalterable Law is that the disobedient shall perish.

Man's Experiences a Lesson.

We may say, then, that God not only foreknew that the conditions under which man was created would result in temptation, in sin; but without causing the temptation, and without giving any excuse for the disloyalty, He determined to permit it. Some suppose that the permission is to be everlasting, but the Scriptures assure us to the contrary. The reign of sin and death He purposed to permit for six thousand years. Then by bringing in the Messianic Kingdom, He purposed to abolish sin and death, lifting to human perfection the willing and obedient and destroying in the Second Death all the unwilling and disobedient.

The sending of His Son was a part of God's Plan. He put the death penalty upon humanity, knowing at the time that it would require the death of an obedient sacrifice for human redemption, and purposing in advance that He would provide such a Redeemer as would willingly, gladly, become man's surety, man's Ransom-price. Thus the permission of evil has resulted in the manifestation of God's Love in a manner that otherwise would hardly have been revealed. The infliction of the death sentence for so long has, likewise, demonstrated the persistence of Divine Justice and its penalty.

The recovery of the dead by a resurrection will demonstrate, as nothing else could, the Power of God. And when the entire Plan of God shall have been worked out, and shall have been made known to angels and men, as a whole it will demonstrate the Wisdom of God as it never could have been known, had He not adopted the plan He did of temporarily permitting a reign of sin and death.

"Many Sons to Glory."

Another thing made possible by the permission of sin has been the special call of an Elect Church during this Gospel Age. The Bible declares that the Elect Church are begotten of the Spirit throughout this Age, and must be born of the Spirit in the Resurrection. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." The need of a Redeemer opened the way for the Logos to leave the Heavenly nature and become a man. This opened the way for Jesus to demonstrate His love and loyalty by obedience unto death, "even unto the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:8.) And this great sacrifice and the obedience constituted not only the Ransom-price for Adam and his race, but also the basis on which the Heavenly Father highly exalted His Son far above angels, principalities and powers, to His own right hand—to the Divine nature.

Similarly the exaltation of the Church to be the Bride of Christ, His joint-heir in the Kingdom, and partaker with Him of the Divine Nature, was made possible by the permission of sin. The Heavenly Father could justly permit members of the fallen race, of the same disposition as Jesus, and justified and sanctified through Him, to sacrificially lay down their lives as members of the Body of Christ, and by thus suffering with Him to be accounted worthy also of reigning with Him in glory, honor and immortality in His Kingdom.

"Hallelujah! What a Savior!"

"What a God. Infinite in Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power."

Is it any wonder, in view of this work that God has outlined for His Son and the Church, that He should consider it necessary to give us lessons and tests in faith, in loyalty, in obedience? Is it any wonder in view of the work which He has for us to do for mankind, that the Redeemer Himself was given experiences in suffering, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things of God in relation to humanity?

The better we understand the Bible, the more clearly we see that the redemption which God has provided through Jesus' sacrifice is to be world-wide in its effect. The race was not condemned individually, but as a whole in one man, Father Adam, on account of sin. Similarly, the race has been redeemed as a whole by the "Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a Ransom for all."—1 Timothy 2:5, 6.

The fact that God did not deal with any of the human family except the Hebrews for four thousand years does not mean that He loved the Hebrews only, nor that the Hebrews only will ultimately receive the Divine blessing and a share in the redemptive work. It means that during that time God dealt with the Hebrews in a special way to select from amongst them some especially loyal characters to be sharers in His future work, when He would deal with the world in general.

The fact that all this work—of selecting one class of servants from Hebrews, and another class from all mankind during the Gospel Age—has required a long time—six thousand years—is no argument against God's intention to bless all Adam's children ultimately. The fact that a long time has been consumed in getting ready the instruments of Divine Mercy shows, on the contrary, the greatness and the thoroughness of the Divine Plan in respect to the race as a whole.

Let us avail ourselves of our glorious opportunities for Bible study and for growth in knowledge, grace and love. Let us walk worthy of the light, and rejoice in Him who bought us with His own precious blood—Christ Jesus.

Our Store is Always Open!

We leave town for a few days to attend the Retail Hardware Convention, and on our return will be able to make manufacturers' prices on all Builders' Hardware.

All Mechanic's Tools I will give 10 per cent discount till March 15th
I will make a rate on Nails at \$2.60 per keg
Strap Hinges—4-inch 10c per pair; 6-inch 15c per pair; 8-inch 20c per pair—all with screws
And all other goods in proportion. Yours for a good, square deal

-G. P. EASTWOOD-

(Successor to John Bauer)

FUNERAL OF THE LATE J. C. EIKENBURY

Methodist Church Crowded With
Friends of Deceased to Pay
Last Tribute to Him.

The Methodist church was crowded to the doors yesterday afternoon by the host of sorrowing friends who gathered to pay their last tribute to James Crawford Eikenbury, who for so many years was a prominent resident of this county and was sheriff here from 1884 to 1890, and from 1892 to 1894. The death of Mr. Eikenbury came as a great shock to his friends here and the depot platform was crowded with friends of the deceased to await the arrival of the train that brought all that was mortal of their old friend back to his old home to his final rest.

The services at the church were in charge of Rev. W. L. Austin, pastor of the church, who spoke briefly but very feelingly from the text, "A Man of Sorrows and Acquainted With Grief." He spoke of the griefs that enter into life; how some receive more than the others in the sorrows of the world, but how the grief of death visits each one in turn, and the only comforter in the hour of bitterest grief is the man of sorrows, who will understand the grief and comfort of those left behind.

A quartet composed of Mrs. Mae Morgan, Mrs. E. H. Wescott,

E. J. Tney and D. C. York, sang two of the favorite hymns of the deceased—"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "Son of My Soul," following which the casket was borne to its final resting place in the Horning cemetery, south of this city, where it was laid away to await the final summons of the Master.

The pall-bearers were selected from the friends of Mr. Eikenbury and the A. O. U. W. lodge, of which he was a member, and consisted of J. P. Falter, H. N. Dovey, F. E. Schlater, Joseph Wampler, F. H. Steimker and A. B. Smith. The floral tributes were most lavish and testified to the deep regard in which Mr. Eikenbury was held by all who knew him, and as the vast concourse filed past the casket, bidding their friend a last farewell, there were many tear-dimmed eyes.

A large number of friends of the family accompanied the remains here, including Sheriff Gus Myers of Lancaster county, under whom Mr. Eikenbury was serving as deputy at the time of his death.

The beautiful ritual service of the Ancient Order of United Workmen was conducted at the grave by Ed Pariott of Peru, deputy Grand Master Workman, and D. C. Morgan of this city, Past Master Workman.

There is no better medicine made for colds than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It acts on nature's plan, relieves the lungs, opens the secretions, aids expectoration, and restores the system to a healthy condition. For sale by E. G. Fricke & Co.

PURCHASES FINE RED POLLED ANIMAL FOR HERD

A. F. Nickels of near Murray has just purchased a fine thoroughbred Red Polled bull of Mr. Dadie of Custer county and the animal was received at his home one day last week. The animal is a very fine specimen of this variety of stock and weighs 2,150 pounds, which is some weight for an animal of this kind, and Mr. Nickels is very proud of the new addition to his herd of Red Polls, which he has at his place, and the animal is quite valuable, as it cost \$131.40 delivered at Murray. Mr. Nickels has some fine young bulls of the Red Polled breed that he would like to dispose of, and anyone wanting an animal of this kind should call on him, as the stock is of the finest thoroughbred variety.

Seed Corn for Sale.
Extra good, hand-picked yellow seed corn for sale. F. L. Rhoden, Murray, Neb. Phone 8-7.

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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.
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A costumer from Omaha will be here, and may be found on the second floor of the Coates Block on February 15th, during the afternoon and evening.