The Plattsmouth Journal

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The price of meats are soaring skyward. By the time snow flies it will take a dollar to purchase a good sirloin steak.

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When crops are short and prices go up it takes a good calculator to state the financial side of the case. But the ultimate consumer catches it going and coming.

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The curbing and guttering proposition started a few months ago, seems to be hanging fire and should be pushed before the weather gets too cold to do the work, as it will add wonderfully to the appearance of the town.

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When a man even intimates that there is no corn in Cass county, don't call him a liar, but just intimate to him that he is badly mistaken. Take the county over there will be more than a half crop.

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Under a new law Arkansas will have this year $1,163,684 for the improvement of public roads and bridges. This sum ought to secure some important results and the people of the state would be remiss not to insist on getting them.

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The state railway commission will hear the complaint on the poor train service on the Missouri Pacific on Friday, September 19. Let everyone interested who can, appear before the commission and add their voice to the protest that comes from all over the county.

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Harry Thaw is still in the Canadian jail and will remain there indefinitely. Better let him join Jack Johnson in Europe and give us a rest from the vile tommyrot that has filled the papers for the last three years about this weak-minded young man and his degenerate operations.

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The attack on Premier Asquith of England by the suffragettes while he was engaged in playing golf with his daughter would never have been permitted in this country. The American women have advanced far greater along this line than in England and without any riots or violence.

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The republican papers, that is the stand-pat element, continue to berate Secretary Bryan. It is that element, however, who never did have a kind word to say for him, no matter how deserving. Mr. Bryan is used to this kind of work, and it never hurts a man who is doing his duty at every turn in the road.

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An Ohio judge suggests that women should furnish samples of their cooking when applying for marriage licenses. Good idea. And let the prospective groom present a bank book showing a substantial deposit or a certificate from a trustworthy source that he is industrious and has remunerative employment.

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A middle-aged Plattsmouth man was considerably shocked one day last week over what he saw. It was only a young woman, who got between him and the light, who did not wear enough clothes to hide her blue garters. "It's awful," he said. That depends upon who you are and what kind of an entertainment you are looking for. To say the least, we do not or cannot understand what mothers mean by letting their daughters go upon the streets in such garbs.

Senator Poindexter of Washington has grown quite wrathful over the statement in one of the Seattle papers that he had secured government positions for eleven of his relatives. This is certainly a hard world for the poor, down-trodden United States senators with the revelations and investigations that have been stirring the national capital.

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This country has the race problem, the social problem and many others but none are worse than the hobo problem. An army of idlers, men who absolutely will not work, is a canker on society that must soon be dealt with. It must be treated as a contagión. The strong arm of the government must find the remedy that cures.

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Governor Morehead will soon issue his road proclamation. Then we will see if the men of Nebraska are as much in favor of good roads as they are in Missouri. Then there must be less talk and more work if the good roads advocates mean business. The governor promises to take the lead, the same as Governor Major did in Missouri.

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The republican metropolitan papers of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat stripe are predicting all kinds of disaster to the democratic party in consequence of the tariff. Such scares are gotten up for a purpose, and these papers do not believe one half they say in this direction. We would suggest to these wiseacres to do a little missionary work in their own ranks before howling too loud about the troubles that are to overtake the democrats.

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Several farmers report that there is a very plainly marked letter "B" on the blades of oats. This they say is a singular occurrence which has not been noticed for 35 years. Those who have lived long enough to observe say that this is seen only in war times. Whether the letter "B" means bullets, ballots, bonds, battles or bone-yards, no one seems to know to a certainty, but all seem very positive as to the appearance of the sign. You know the old saying is, "all signs fail in dry weather." So there you are.

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Unless you see your way clear to cop a postoffice or some other sinecure of the state, don't expect much of the government. Primarily the province of a government is to govern, and business of making a living and other luxuries must continue to be a matter of individual effort for most of us, regardless of what party of the people is triumphant at the polls. Which is as it should be, and the patriot who takes that for granted and makes hay and other useful commodities while the sun shines, is apt to have little difficulty in excluding the wolf from his moated grange or other happy habitat. A lot of time is wasted in grumbling about conditions which should be devoted to sawing wood and other useful pursuits, and to spend your spare moments cussing the country is a sign of shiftlessness. A little thrift and industry for home consumption will get more than marching in the parade or joining the socialist party. Work at fair wages can usually be found by the man who isn't afraid of it, and those who are aren't entitled to much consideration.

Is it hot enough for you? Now don't shoot!

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Every day brings its full quota of fatal automobile accidents.

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September will have to go some to smash the August record.

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We will at least have two big days this fall—German celebration October 18 and 19.

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While honesty is the best policy, frequently you find a man who is from Missouri.

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Next Monday school begins and parents should see that their children are in attendance the very first day.

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Anyway, relief from the drouth may be expected about September 21. An equinoxical storm is slated for that date.

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Canadians are showing so much sympathy for Harry Thaw, perhaps it would be just as well to let them keep him.

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Blows never effectively adjudicate contention between men, and nations may be premature at it in the same way.

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It may be consoling to know that in five or six weeks we probably will be lighting up a fire in the furnace.

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The state fair is not as big a success as that of a year ago. The attendance will not be as large by over 40,000.

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A German scientist claims that a man can live to be one hundred years if he eats chalk. But most men are too busy walking it.

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When Teddy Roosevelt goes to South America, he should study the fauna of that tropic territory to see if it does not produce some hardier specimen of the Bull Moose tribe than found in our own land of the free.

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Friday, September 19 is the date of the big picnic at Nehawka. Plattsmouth should send a big delegation. Nehawka has been awful good to Plattsmouth, and now we have the opportunity to return the favor.

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There is a postoffice ruling which imposes a fine of $500 or a year's imprisonment on anyone who through carelessness or otherwise takes mail from the postoffice not belonging to him and fails to return it immediately. This applies to newspapers as well as letters.

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The moral atmosphere has been made a little clearer by the conviction of one of the two men in California indicted for violating the Mann act. When two men of education and of good social position abandon their wives and children and run away with girls, it is far more demoralizing of social morality than when an ignorant negro like Jack Johnson outrages the moral sense of the nation. To whom more has been given by society, of them more is demanded.

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Illinois is about to follow the example of Colorado and employ its convicts in making good roads. Forty men are to be sent out at once to work ninety days. It is not a fad. Rome practiced it 2,500 years ago and some of the roads made by convict labor under her direction exist to this day. LaFayette Young of the Des Moines Capital, who is now traveling in England, says that the old Roman roads in that island need only a top dressing and they are as good today as they ever were. Every convict who works on the roads in that state will have his sentence shortened ten days in every thirty.

New York state has two governors, and it is yet very doubtful which one is going to win out.

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Will the diaphanous skirt last? asks a fashion paper. Not if it is sent to the laundry very many times.

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So great is the competition among automobile manufacturers for feature machines, that without doubt, the 1915 model will be a rig that can automatically determine the age of a chicken before killing it by the chauffeur.

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A town on the border of Virginia and Tennessee has built an imposing monument commemorating the patriotism of American soldiers in all wars from the time of the revolution. The men of '76 deserve the highest tribute and all the volunteers of later date have been chips off the old block.

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When about seven millions of dollars' worth of claims are filed by the farmers along the Platte river against the government for the wanton destruction of growing crops, the Interior department clerk who proclaimed that water wasn't good for growing corn and potatoes, will probably sit up and take notice.

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STAY AT HOME.

With the reading of President Wilson's message to congress a definite line of action toward Mexico has been presented to the world. And it gives to the world a new method of handling difficulties and crises between nations. Summed up, the policy is this: Children gather up your playthings and come home; you must not associate longer with those naughty neighbor children. We will have nothing to do with the family until they quit their roughness and their disregard for common decency. And why is this not better than for the parents to go over into the neighbors' yard and pick a fight with the other parents? It takes two to make a quarrel, and he is truly brave, who, knowing his strength, refuses to notice the snarls of an inferior. Americans, under the guise of enterprise, go into far countries and commercially exploit the resources of the land. Capital is invested in all kinds of wild cat schemes bearing foreign corporation names, and then it is expected the Stars and Stripes to guarantee the same protection and conditions that exist at home. Up to a certain point this is the American citizen's right, but it has too long been made the basis for wars and the fearful cost that it entails. In the movement for universal arbitration and peace, property rights and property loss should be eliminated as giving any nation an excuse for war. In urging the American citizens still in Mexico to leave that country, President Wilson takes another advanced stand in the diplomatic relations between nations that may lead to a new epoch in the responsibilities of governments. In our domestic life we yould do the same thing—get out of the danger zone. Why not in revolution infested Mexico? There is too much buncombe about patriotism and national honor being involved in these international disputes. Nine times out of ten neither is at the bottom of the trouble. Selfish interests, mercenary exploitation are the factors mostly in evidence. President Wilson's course in the Mexico difficulties is a wise one, and will receive the hearty support and commendation from the people as a whole. The outcome will be watched with interest by every nation on the globe if it succeeds a great step will have been taken in the march toward a higher international civilization.

GOD WILL LAUGH AT HUMAN PRIDE

An Old Prophecy Is About to Be Fulfilled, Says Pastor Russell.

HAS DOUBLE APPLICATION.

It Applied to Jesus Personally, but Also to the Body of Christ, the Church—The Kings of the Earth. The Rulers Amongst God's People. Their Coalition Vain—God Will Laugh at Them—Jesus Will Deride Them—The Breaking as a Potter's Vessel Will Follow—Those Who Put Their Trust In Him Will Be Blessed.


PASTOR RUSSELL

On the Atlantic, September 7.—Pastor Russell's text for today was: "He that sitteth in the Heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision." (Psalm 2:4.) He said: The vast ocean, on which this stately ship is but a toy, reminds me of "God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea," and also of the vastness of Divine Power, and human insignificance in comparison. Humanity may justly feel encouraged by the progress made in the past century.

Mighty ships of steel, a thousand feet long, carrying thousands of passengers, have replaced the wooden dories of a century ago. Propelled by steam, they are indeed leviathans of the deep. The oceans have been underlaid with cables of steel, carrying intelligence to the ends of the earth. And this majestic steamer is outfitted with a wireless system of telegraphy, by which she is continually in touch with sister vessels and with the world. And these are only a few of the many avenues of progress being trodden in our day. Those not guided by the Word of the Lord are puffed with pride, and disposed to feel that our grandparents a little way back were mere monkeys.

God's people, guided by their Father's Word, and by the spirit of a sound mind, are held back from such delusion. They see that there are not many great or mighty today, as compared with the notables of the past. They see that God is behind the wonderful developments of today; for we are living in "the day of His preparation" (Nahum 2:3) for Messiah's Kingdom, and the Reign of a thousand years. These perceive that God is gradually lifting the veil of ignorance and superstition; and that, according to His promise, men are now seeing out of obscurity.

Withal, our blessings are coming in a most natural way. The printing-press, present-day mail service, telegraph systems and telephones, and world-wide education, are bringing the thinkers of earth in close touch the world over. Scarcely is a discovery made of any kind, anywhere, that is not known world-wide within a week. A million minds engage upon the same project, with the result that there are still further improvements, still more wonderful inventions—and all these procedures repeated! Surely the only explanation is that God is back of the present intelligence now coming to the world. His time has come to bring blessings to mankind, instead of the curse which so long has prevailed.

Kings of Earth Set Themselves.

The kings of the earth, in a broader sense, include financial kings and captains of industry, as well as political chieftains. These wise men of the world have grasped the situation only in part. They perceive the blessings and the riches rolling in upon the world through human invention, and are fortifying themselves in luxury and power beside the golden streams they have corralled.

Thus they have "set themselves," according to our text. Moreover, the rulers of the people—the ecclesiastical rulers and princes—are affiliated with them. Together they take counsel. Their next step will be to put their counsels into practice.

"Let Us Break Their Bands."

For centuries past kings and governments have been more or less restrained by the peoples they governed. And the peoples have been more or less guided by the Bible, and its spirit of liberty. The new conditions of our day, however, have evaded many of the regulations and restraints of the past. The restraints are necessarily unequal to the new conditions. And the people are intent upon making new regulations to cope with the Trusts and the wealth of the financial kings, and with the great power of political kings, as represented in modern military armaments and organizations.

The Bible is the great stronghold of liberty. Through it the masses of civilization have learned that kings and peasants, rich and poor, must all eventually stand before the Judgment Seat and be judged by one Law. This same Bible portrays to the public the Divine Plan of the coming Jubilee of Restitution—the rolling away of the curse and the installation of God's blessing, through Messiah's Kingdom. It shows that the Messianic Kingdom is near, and that it will be inaugurated in the midst of a great Time of Trouble, symbolically represented by St. Peter as a conflagration, as respects ecclesiastical interests, and subsequently the social interests of the world.

Thus the Bible stands; and the spirit of hope and liberty which it inculcates is the Divine restraint, the "bands," the "cords," of our context. "The kings of the earth set themselves; and the rulers take counsel together against Jehovah and His Anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

The form which this opposition will assume toward the Bible and its spirit of liberty, the spirit of the New Dispensation, is difficult to detail in advance. We see, however, under the guidance of the New Testament, that this prophecy had a very limited fulfilment at the First Advent; and the fulfilment there may give us a clue to the larger fulfilment now nigh at hand.

Jesus the Head, the Church His Body.

The Lord's Anointed is The Christ of glory—Jesus the Head, the overcoming Church the Body. This prophecy was fulfilled in respect to Jesus when Pilate and Herod, as representing the worldly powers, took counsel with the chief priests, Scribes and Pharisees, as representing the rulers of the people of God. The religious rulers were leaders, prime movers, in the opposition.

What happened to the Master Himself in the way of opposition from the religious rulers and, under their instigation, from the political rulers, is what we should expect shortly as the fulfilment of this prophecy. The opposition that will arise will be against the Lord and against those who are particularly His representatives and mouthpieces in the world. The federated religious interests, fearful of the Truth, and with cherished plans opposed to it, will shortly denounce it as Caiaphas denounced Jesus. His declaration was, It is expedient that one man perish, rather than our whole nation. (John 11:50.) As Jesus was crucified "for the good of the cause," as seen by the religious rulers, so we may expect that the last saintly members of the Body of Jesus will similarly suffer for the supposed good of the cause, as viewed by the Scribes and Pharisees of our Day.

God In Heaven Shall Laugh.

When Jesus was crucified, His enemies supposed that His influence would be gone, and that their projects would flourish. But God laughed at them, for they were really accomplishing His will. It was necessary in harmony with God's arrangement that Christ should suffer. Similarly, it is necessary that the last members of the Church, the Body of Christ, should suffer with Him and enter into His glory, by the resurrection "change." Then, too, instead of succeeding, the plans of the rulers all failed. Under Divine disfavor they entered the time of trouble, which culminated in the complete overthrow of their polity. Here we are to expect the same. The Divine purposes, instead of being thwarted, will be helped onward by human opposition to the Divine Plan.

The plans of these kings and rulers will be measurably carried out because (see verse 1) the heathen, the Gentiles, the irreligious, will rage, will be in tumult, striving for liberty and blessings in their own strength, not knowing of the Divine arrangement for the inauguration of the new Kingdom, which is to bless all the families of the earth.—Genesis 28:14; Galatians 3:16,29.

The declaration further is that "the people [the favored people of God, nominal Christendom] will imagine a vain thing." They will be deceived, as they are at present, into the expectation that *they* will be able to convert the world and bring in the Messianic Kingdom, or into believing, as some do, that Messiah's Kingdom has already come and has ineffectually been attempting the control of the world until now. They are waiting now for a few millions to be poured into the missionary treasury to effect the world's conversion and to insure God's will being done on earth as in Heaven.

The picture of God's laughing at the poor human pride which will thus vaunt itself is a forceful one. The failure that will come both to the professed people of God and to the world will be a great lesson in humility, never to be forgotten. The absurdities of the position would make all laugh, if they could strip themselves of their pride and realize that, without Divine interposition, God's will could never prevail on earth as in Heaven.

"A Haughty Spirit Before a Fall."

The Lord's next step will be to produce the Time of Trouble, which will teach mankind the great lesson they have declined to learn otherwise. "Then shall He speak to them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure." That will be the Time of Trouble so prominently mentioned throughout the Bible, "a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation," "no, nor ever shall be" afterward.—Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21.

Human pride, human schemes, which have ignored the Divine Program, will all in that time of trouble show their weakness. The result will be as described by the Prophet. But "when the judgments of the Lord are abroad in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." (Isaiah 26:9.) Humanity's heartaches and disappointments will eventuate in blessings, as they shall realize God's great and wonderful Plan, with its length and breadth and height and depth of infinite Love, in the Kingdom of Messiah. "The desire of all nations shall come." (Haggai 2:7.) The iron rule will compel obedience, while the Message of God's grace will, as promised, go forth as the Sun of Righteousness, inaugurating the New Day.

The concluding verses of this prophetic Psalm clearly indicate that the trouble under Messiah's Kingdom will burn against those persons and those institutions which are unjust, unrighteous, unholy. On the contrary, all who love righteousness and hate iniquity will be welcomed to associate themselves under Messiah's standard, whether they be rich or poor, influential or otherwise.

As Seen In Former Times.

However strange it may appear to us now, a serious misinterpretation of this very prophecy of the Second Psalm was made by our well-intentioned forefathers. And that misinterpretation brought into the world a vast amount of trouble and persecution.

It came to be generally believed that the Redeemer would not come to set up His Kingdom, to bind Satan and to bless the world. A new theory rose, gradually culminating in the year 800 A. D. It claimed that the Church, before experiencing the resurrection "change" at the Second Coming of Christ, was already the Kingdom of God and fully authorized to reign. Under this theory, missionary work was carried on with a vengeance. The sword, the thumb-screw, the rack and the stake, as well as the national wars, were all considered proper agencies for the enforcement of the Christian faith. This Second Psalm was especially appealed to as the authorization for such unchristian conduct.

It was claimed that, although Jesus was absent, His Church was authorized to reign over the kingdoms of the earth, and to bring them into subjection. All kinds of intrigue and scheming were considered to be justifiable to the accomplishment of the Divine purpose; that Messiah through the Church should conquer the world, that the nations might be broken with a religious sceptre of iron and dashed to pieces, or plotted against and torn in pieces by their subjects, as might be possible. The kings and the judges of the earth who recognized the Church as Messiah's Kingdom were accounted wise. They must serve with fear and literal trembling. On many occasions verse 12 was quoted as a warning to kings and to princes that they must keep in line with the behests of the Church—kiss the son, a claimed vice-gerent of Christ—lest he be angry and they perish by the way.

As Revelation 20:1-5 tells us that the Reign of Messiah's Kingdom is to be for a thousand years, and that during that time Satan is to be bound, so it was claimed that this ecclesiastical system must thoroughly bind and dominate Satanic power, as represented in everything that opposed it. In full harmony with this misinterpretation were some of the facts.

For exactly a thousand years Ecclesiasticism prospered and ruled the world—from A. D. 800 to A. D. 1799. The spell which had held Europe and much of the world for ten centuries was broken by Napoleon. When he carried the Pope a prisoner to France, the world wondered. Could it be that the spiritual power of Christ's Kingdom was ineffective against the great General, Napoleon? What did it mean?

The answer came promptly enough that this was merely another fulfilment of Scripture—the loosing of Satan at the end of the thousand years. (Revelation 20:7-10.) The prediction was made, and fully believed, that very soon the adverse conditions would pass away, and the ecclesiastical throne be re-established in greater power and glory than ever before. But instead, Ecclesiasticism has waned. In September 1870 its last support gave way in the French defeat of Sedan. Forthwith the King of Italy took away the last vestige of temporal power.

Awakening of Bible Students.

Since then, Bible students, and indeed the whole world, are awakening to the fact that no real Millennium of blessing was enjoyed during the thousand years of the past. We see instead that it was a period of great darkness, superstition and ignorance. Furthermore, the whole world is becoming convinced that the blessings that have come to us during the past century are not of Satan, but of God. Indeed, we are learning more and more to appreciate the fact that all these wonderful things of steam power and electricity, with their hundreds of applications for the advancement of science and the blessing of humanity, are foregleams of the true Millennium.

More and more we are realizing that we are in the dawning of that New Day, and that the present time of scientific development and enlightenment is but a preparatory epoch, making ready for the coming blessings of Messiah's Kingdom. The Scriptures indeed describe the present as "the day of His preparation"—preparation for the thousand years of Messiah's Reign and the blessing of mankind.

It is not for us to say dogmatically how soon these blessings will burst upon the world in fullest measure. Some Scriptures indeed seem to indicate that they are very close—impending; but the great Time of Trouble with which these blessings will be inaugurated is almost upon us. The discontent prevalent everywhere is leading on rapidly toward the trouble.

How much need we have to remember our text! How much the kings and princes of the world need to be instructed and to be wise—to serve the Lord with fear, and to rejoice with hope and yet with carefulness! How much all men need to remember the closing words of the Psalm: "Blessed are all that put their trust in Him."

The glorious Head of the Kingdom was exalted more than eighteen centuries ago. The First Resurrection will soon complete the Body of Christ, the Church, through which God has designed that reconciliation shall be extended to the world. Soon the Kingdom will take to itself its great power. Under the Headship of The Messiah, it will go forth conquering, for the purpose of blessing, uplifting humanity, for whom Christ died.