

The Air.

Its place in World Politics and Bible Prophecy #1 pp. 114 - 117

A brief survey of a mighty theme.

Such a passage as that of Ezek. xxviii. superficially addressed to the King of Tyre, but which uses terms like “thou art the anointed cherub”, “thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty”, make it impossible to limit such a passage to the human King of Tyre, and in like manner the language of Isa. xiv. spoken of as a “proverb against the king of Babylon”, can hardly be limited to that earthly king:

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart,
I will ascend unto heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will be like the Most High” (Isa. xiv. 12-14).

As these words stand they are ominous, but when the air and outer space, projected landings on the moon, or investigating at close range Mars or Venus, are topics in our daily newspapers, together with aerial missiles and the use of the air for defence, offence, and world wide communication, these call for an examination of the Scriptures that have something to say about this important sphere and its relation to the latter days.

There are many prophecies in both the Old Testament and the New, that in earlier times have been scanned by learned and godly men but not apprehended, and have been left to speak when the time foreseen by omniscience should arrive, and prominent among such foreshadowings are the references to the air found in a number of prophetic contexts, but which until quite recently have only attracted a passing attention. In 1921, in the series of articles dealing with the book of the Revelation, we wrote concerning the monster that represents the Antichristian Beast in chapter xiii. at the time of the end:

“We do not wish to be fanciful, yet we are confident that Scripture fully anticipates the end. Military experts, as well as the man in the street, know that the next war is to be a *war in the air* we know that the introduction of aerial warfare has broken down all frontiers. That nation, large or small, which has dominion of the air, will conquer the world. Satan is called ‘The Prince of the authority of the air’ (Eph. ii. 2). Satan gives his great authority to the Beast, the result being that all the world at once recognize his position and say ‘Who is able to make war with him?’.”

We make no foolish claims to the gift or prophecy; we are only pointing out that for over nineteen hundred years, the Scriptures have indicated that the air and its authority will be the arsenal of the future Kingdom of the Beast to which all nations are unwittingly making preparation for their own subjection by the great urge for political, financial, military and church unity, repeating in the large, the urge exhibited in the building of the tower of Babel. We cannot make amends for the failure of our forebears, but we can turn

to these cryptic references to the air with a desire to learn what their inspired foreshadowings have to teach us as the last days which assuredly are close upon us.

The air above is now the sphere both of offence and defence, so let us therefore give the Scriptures a hearing.

When the vials of God's wrath are poured out, we read that the fifth angel poured out his vial "upon the seat of the beast, and his kingdom was full of darkness" (Rev. xvi. 10). The Greek word *thronos* occurs 46 times, and where we read in Rev. ii. 13; xiii. 2 and xvi. 10 of "the seat" of the Beast or of Satan, we should alter that rendering and read "throne" (Gk. *thronos*), for Satan is a 'Prince' though fallen and wicked. The same word *archon* (prince) used of Christ is used of "The Prince of the Kings of the earth" (Rev. i. 5) and of Satan (Matt. ix. 34; xii. 24; Mark iii. 22; John xii. 31; xiv. 30; xvi. 11; Eph. ii. 2) and we rob ourselves of valuable though terrible teaching by altering either the word 'throne' or 'prince' out of a false desire to stretch out our hand to stay the ark of God. Michael had no two thoughts as to the rank of this fallen foe, as Jude 9 reveals. We read not only that one of the vials was poured out upon the *throne* of the Beast, but also upon "the AIR" (Rev. xvi. 17).

Now without the title "the prince of the authority of the air" to guide us, we might wonder why the air we breathe should be thus visited, but knowing this fact, and in the close association with the throne of the Beast in the context (Rev. xvi. 10), we realize that Satan's domain is here seen to come under the judgment of the last days. Perhaps we shall perceive a deeper significance in I Thessalonians when we read concerning the Second Coming that some will "meet the Lord in the AIR" (I Thess. iv. 17). It should also be remembered that *ouranos* translated 'heaven' over 260 times in the N.T. is nevertheless translated "air" ten times, as in "the fowls and birds of the air".

This is also true of the Hebrew of the O.T. *shamayim*, translated nearly 400 times "heaven", is nevertheless translated "air" 21 times, as in Gen. i. 26, even as in Matt. xiii. 32. The 'fowls' that devoured the seed in the parable of Matt. xiii. 4 are explained in Matt. xiii. 19 as the agents or the work of the wicked one.

With these passages in mind, and with the present emphasis upon dominion of the air for both offence and defence, let us look a little more closely at other prophetic utterances long neglected and misunderstood. When we read the appalling consequences of the atomic bomb that fell on Hiroshima and then come across the terrible description of the plague spoken of in Zech xiv. 12 (and the reader would be well advised to turn to that passage and consult it once more before proceeding) and we read further of "everyone that is LEFT of the nations, which come up against Jerusalem" in verse 16, one begins to wonder whether we have here a prophetic forecast of the results of nuclear warfare, and also in the hurting of the earth, the sea, and the trees in Rev. vii. 3 which results from the censer filled with fire being cast to the earth (Rev. viii. 5).

Do we now deny that man's nuclear weapons could, and possibly will, burn up a third part of the trees, and all the green grass? Is it merely an extravagant figure of speech to

say that a “third part of the ships” were destroyed? or that the “third part of the waters” become bitter as “wormwood”? (Rev. viii. 7, 11). The very diplomats who might possibly repudiate such a book as the Apocalypse, are entertaining the possibility of these very quotations, without realizing that they have been accessible to all in the pages of the N.T. for 1,900 years. The words of Rev. xi. 18:

“Thy wrath is come and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth”,

make us ask, will man, with his inventions, bring about his own ruin? We are not prophets, but we have in our hands a sure word of prophecy, and realize that the blessed hope for which we look and wait will be realized before the advent of the Son of Man. More than this we do not intend to say or to anticipate, but there is comfort even in these dread prophecies, in that they make it abundantly clear that God knows the end from the beginning, and can never be taken by surprise, or forget to provide for the safety of His redeemed people, “as it was in the days of Noah” in more senses than one. Human life is utterly impossible apart from the functioning of the “green grass” or leaf. One field of green grass can yield excellent beef or mutton, chicken, eggs, cheese and butter, milk, bone, hides, hair, bristles and glue. Countless other essentials to normal life are all produced by the consumption and use of green grass and herb. If necessary, let the reader use an Encyclopaedia if he is not aware of the meaning of photo-synthesis; he would then the better realize the tragedy behind the statement that “*all* the green grass” will be burnt up (Rev. viii. 7).

Its place in World Politics and Bible Prophecy #2 **pp. 135 - 137**

We now quote from an article in *The Midnight Cry* issued in November 1963. One or two extracts form a supplement to the conclusions made in the body of this article, and the testimony of “two or three witnesses” is in line with the requirements of the Scriptures.

Things that Must shortly come to pass **by Hubert H. Heath.**

“True science and Bible prophecy, rightly interpreted, always run in parallel lines, and ever have. This is inevitably always the case, for both being true and it being impossible for truth to be contradictory, it is inescapable.

The Word of God tells us that all matter of every sort is composed of atoms, and atoms are composed of nothing more stable and equally invisible, as electrical energy—electrons, neutrons, protons, &c. Scientists vapourized a two thousand acre island in the Pacific not long ago, and apparently reduced it, largely, to its original elements. What has been done can be done again. These actions come with a terrific display of heat and fire. A few years ago a famous Scandinavian geophysicist was visiting Los Angeles and was asked what such heavy explosions might do to the position of the earth in space. His

reply was both interesting and instructive. He said that the ice cap on the Arctic was receding rapidly while the ice caps on the Antarctic had an overload.

That being so, he said, no person on earth could foretell what effect such explosions might have on the earth's position in space, nor what would result from it. Try throwing a ball far with a wad of gum stuck to one side of it and watch its erratic course and draw your own conclusions. Now let us turn to the Word as given to the great Hebrew prophet Isaiah, chapter 24:1. 'Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof'. Verse 3 'the land SHALL be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled; for the Lord hath spoken this word. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant'. Verse 6 'Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein, are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth ARE BURNED AND FEW MEN LEFT'. Those words certainly point to a climax and give the reason for it. Then again in verses 19 and 20 of the same chapter we read: 'The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth SHALL reel to 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'.

These are the sort of things the 'one-worlders' responsible for our undoing are saying that they can accomplish. After making a study of these writings of the great Isaiah, it is well to turn to Matthew twenty-four, and read what the Lord Jesus Christ said of these days. These things are admittedly possible. They have NOT occurred as yet. It is very definitely in the power of very wicked, very powerful men, to bring all this to pass at any moment they see fit. Greed-mad men, lusting for power over others, are the greatest menace of the ages.

These men are responsible for the great moral, spiritual and economic chaos and ruin that now covers all the earth. In their insane greed and lust for power over all others they are the supreme menace of all time. No sane man ever desired to destroy the Christian faith and Christian civilization. But that is what these are now doing in their mad grasp after total power and all wealth. THINK ON THESE THINGS, for they shall shortly come to pass."

We have no desire to emulate the 'fat boy' of Dickens who tried to make peoples' "flesh creep", but it is most certainly unwise to emulate the ostrich, which traditionally hides its head in the sand! All Scripture is profitable, not only John xiv. or Psalm xxiii. We quote experts in the scientific world who make no reference to the Scriptures, the Coming of the Lord, or give any indication that they are even aware of the prophetic utterances of the Bible, yet their testimony concerns all who are alive today. The following quotations, the original of which can be verified in the usual way. They are verbatim so far as we know, and no word has been added or subtracted or toned down.

"In fifteen years from to-day (Dean Acheson said), this world is going to be too dangerous to live in."

While the U.S.A. may have more atomic weapons than Russia, Dr. Linus Pauling, a leading scientist and professor of chemistry, said:

"A mere 4,000 such weapons (U.S.A. had 100,000 at the time) *could destroy the human race.*"

The consequences of atomic fall-out, as an aftermath of atomic war is too terrible to contemplate. (See references to Zechariah already mentioned.) It has been found that caribou bones found in the Arctic showed 102 units of radioactive strontium, yet 17 units is about the safe limit for human life, and a biologist who examined these bones said that the safe limits had been exceeded.

“It is clear that for a great area of the earth’s surface that time has now come.”

Strontium is now served up to us in milk, beef, eggs, as well as in vegetable products. Some have set aside the attitude expressed in the Bible concerning “inventions” considering this antiquated and pointing to the affluent society with its labour-saving devices and its luxuries (II Chron. xxvi. 15; Eccles vii. 29; Psa. cvi. 29, 39; Rom. i. 30). These many inventions make life easier, by camouflaging the curse that was pronounced in Gen. iii., as the descendants of Cain are said to have done in Gen. iv. 21, 22. It was the Lamech, descended from Seth, who refused this smoothing over of the curse, as seen in his attitude in Gen. v. 29, where the only acceptable deliverance was the type of atonement in the Ark built by his son Noah. Can anyone who reads with horror the results of the first atomic explosion over Hiroshima together with Zech. xiv. 12 and the reference to “every one that is left” (Zech. xiv. 16) have any doubt as to this prophecy being a true foreshadowing of nuclear warfare?

Not till all that is implied in the closing words of Zech. xiv. are fulfilled, will true peace be known in the earth, i.e. when there will be “no more Canaanite” in that kingdom of Priests, which in its turn anticipates “The End” or goal as written in I Cor. xv. 24-28.

Our purpose in writing this article is to draw attention to the signs of the times, particularly as they refer to the important place the air is predicted to occupy at the time of the end.