Pray On!

BY ROBERT HARE

No, not today, nor yet perhaps tomorrow,
   The prayer that throbbing lips repeat in vain,
Will find its answer, but some coming morning,
   After the weary night of pain.
Tuned to the wisdom God alone can offer,
   Thy heart’s desire is hallowed in His sight.
Pray on! He hears, and every true petition
   Offered in weakness waits His might.
Pray on! Deem not the days and hours of waiting
   Are lost below, to either life or love;
Grief finds an echo by the throne eternal,
   For all your needs are known above.
Touched by your sorrow, still the Saviour watches,
   And by devotion’s shrine He finds a place.
High Priest for all His weak and earthly children,
   He prays before the Father’s face.

Then make His service ever thy delight;
   And as the passing hours pass by, pray on,
Maybe He waits until the shadings vanish,
   That eyes may see in clearer dawn.
Know that God lives, and He will surely offer,
   All that is best your life need to supply;
He knows, He feels, and with a Father’s kindness
   He ever notes the feeble cry.

"Thy heart’s desire"—be sure that self is banished
   And the soul temple fit for service sweet;
Then love will pray, and every heart petition
   Will, through His Spirit, be complete.
are overcomers—they overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. Thank God for this message of the Spirit of prophecy. Now is the time to talk courage in the Lord and in the success of His work.

"They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage." Isa. 41:6.

What God Could Do, but Does Not

By G. B. Starr

While Jesus was here on earth, He healed all that were sick, of "all manner of disease." The power of God was manifested in Him. This blessing God might extend toward all the human family now, but He does not do this, so there must be some good reason for His withholding the manifestation of His love toward all of His earth-born children, whom He equally loves.

It is God also who gives power and wisdom to accumulate riches. This same power and wisdom He could extend to the entire human family, until there would be no poor upon the earth; but He does not do this. Instead, He has said, "The poor shall never cease out of the land." And Jesus Himself said, "The poor always ye have with you." He also commissioned His disciples to "heal the sick" wherever they proclaimed the gospel. This plainly infers that the sick would be found in every place they should go.

But why are these widely different classes permitted to exist side by side? We think a good and wise answer is given in the following quotation: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." To be willing to give contributes to the development of character, to be made recipients of blessings, and the channels through which these are to flow to others. Jesus is the recipient of the greatest wealth of blessings of every kind; He is heir of all things in heaven and earth. Power and riches and might are His. He has all the intelligences of heaven at His command. Yet "He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." This spirit pervades heaven. No one there considers himself a reservoir, to hoard for himself the gifts of God; but instead, all contribute toward the happiness of others, and by so doing increase their own. All the redeemed are to develop this spirit. By withholding for self-gratification, man becomes narrow and small.

"Every good thing of earth was placed here by the bountiful hand of God, as an expression of His love to man. The poor are His, and the cause of religion is His. He has placed means in the hands of men, that His divine gifts may flow through human channels in doing the work appointed us in saving our fellow men. Every one has his appointed work in the great field; and yet none should receive the idea that God is dependent upon man. He could speak the word, and every son of poverty would be made rich. In a moment of time He could heal the human race of all their diseases. He might dispense with ministers altogether, and make angels the ambassadors of His truth. He might have written the truth upon the firmament, or imprinted it upon the leaves of the trees and upon the flowers of the field; or He might with an audible voice have proclaimed it from heaven. But the all-wise God did not choose any of these ways. He knew that man must have something to do in order that life might be a blessing to him. The gold and silver are the Lord's, and He could rain them from heaven if He chose; but instead of this He has made man His steward, intrusting him with means, not to be hoarded, but to be used in benefiting others. He thus makes man the medium through which to distribute His blessings on earth."—"Testimonies," Vol. IV, pp. 472, 473.

The Remnant Church—Part II

By N. P. Neilsen

A special message must go to all the world just before the second coming of Christ. This message is to prepare a people for the great day of God. It is the great threefold message of Revelation 14. It proclaims that the hour of God's judgment is come. It uplifts the downtrodden law of God, and presents the seventh day as the Sabbath of Jehovah. It has the testimony of Jesus, the Spirit of prophecy. It began in 1844, at the close of the 2300 years, that long prophetic period which ushered in the judgment hour. It is a world-wide movement, calling sinners to repentance in view of the nearness of the end. It bears the marks given by the word of God for the remnant church, and it fulfills the prophetic specifications. It is the last great movement of God, His last offer of mercy before probation closes. It will continue until the end. It will not be set aside or superseded by any other movement. It will carry the faithful ones into the land of Canaan. Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt, opposed the movement, and said, "I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go." Ex. 5:2. He is called "the great dragon" in Ezekiel 29:3. He did all he could to oppose the movement; but nevertheless, God delivered His people. We read: "The Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm He led them into the land of Canaan. Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt, opposed the movement, and said, "I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go." Ex. 5:2. He is called "the great dragon" in Ezekiel 29:3. He did all he could to oppose the movement; but nevertheless, God delivered His people. We read: "The Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: and He hath brought us into . . . this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey." Deut. 26:8, 9.

"The Second Time"

While the exodus movement was a great movement, the second advent movement will be still greater. God will take out a people, not from one nation only, but from every nation under heaven, and He will lead them into the heavenly Canaan. This advent movement, of which the exodus movement was a type, we believe was foretold in prophecy in the following striking language:

"It shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again
the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. 

"There shall be a highway for the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt." Isa. 11: 11, 12, 16.

It will be noticed that according to this prophecy the Lord would "set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people." The first time He extended His arm and with a mighty hand delivered Israel from Egypt; but the second time He will extend His hand and with mighty power take out His remnant people, not from Egypt only, but "from the four corners of the earth," "and from the islands of the sea." It shall be a world-wide movement, led by God's mighty hand, and His remnant church will be gathered from "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

Notice, again, that the prophecy says that "it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people." The expression "in that day" evidently refers to the last days, when God will gather His remnant people. Thus it is a definite movement, with a definite message, at a definite time, calling out a people from under the hand of oppression, and leads them to their Promised Land, the heavenly Canaan.

Opposition of the Enemy

As the haughty Pharaoh, "the great dragon," withstood the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, so will our great archenemy, the dragon, Satan, do all in his power to hinder the second advent movement. He will plan his warfare against the remnant people. Of his work we read: "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12: 17. Satan will cause men to arise who will enact laws against this movement, to overthrow the work; but they will not succeed, even as Pharaoh did not succeed.

But plans still more subtle are laid by the enemy. He will cause men to arise among us who will criticize the church. They will find fault with the work that is being done, and will deride the leaders of the movement. They will take delight in pointing out the defects and faults in the church, while they, themselves, claim to be holy. Such will tear down instead of building up the cause. By their criticism and faultfinding they will ally themselves with the enemy of the movement. Of such Sister White says: "Those who have any realization of what this warfare means, will not turn their weapons against the church militant, but with all their powers will wrestle with the people of God against the confederacy of evil. Those who start up to proclaim a message on their own individual responsibility, while they, themselves, claim to be holy. Such will tear down instead of building up the cause. By their criticism and faultfinding they will ally themselves with the enemy of the movement."

Protection

By Robert Hare

"My Presence" with you ever,
Then darkness turns to light,
Rough ways grow smooth before my feet,
And stars gleam in the night.
His guardian angels beckon To duty's holy shrine,
He rules, the King of kings! Beneath that will eternal,
The thorns cannot destroy.
He still leads on the upward way,
To everlasting joy!
Trust, when the darkness palleth,
Trust, when the day is done;
Trust, when the busy morn awakes
To greet the rising sun!
"My Presence," let its echo
Ring in life's every song,
To cheer the pilgrim homeward bound
And make the spirit strong!

who while claiming to be taught and led of God, still make it their special work to tear down that which God has been for years building up, are not doing the will of God. Be it known that these men are on the side of the great deceiver. Believe them not. They are allying themselves with the enemies of God and the truth. They will deride the order of the ministry as a system of priestcraft. From such turn away, have no fellowship with their message, however much they may quote the 'Testimonies' and seek to intrench themselves behind them. Receive them not; for God has not given them this work to do." — 'Testimonies to Ministers,' p. 51.

Original Movement a Success

God did not lead the children of Israel out of Egypt to have them perish in the wilderness. No, He led them out that He might bring them in to the Promised Land. We read, "He brought us out from thence, that He might bring us in, to give us the land which He sware unto our fathers." Deut. 6: 23. The same movement which left Egypt went into Canaan. It was not another movement, nor a "split-off" from the movement, that entered the Promised Land; but it was the original movement, led by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. True, many fell in the wilderness because of unbelief, and never reached Canaan, but the movement went on nevertheless. Some found fault with the movement, like Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and left it, together with their sympathizers; but they perished miserably by the way. No "side issue," no "split-off" from the movement, no faultfinding combination, however righteous their cause appeared in their own eyes, ever crossed the river Jordan. Only those who stayed by the original movement, led by the pillar of God, reached Canaan.

Here is a lesson for us who belong to the great advent movement. It is the prophetic movement which began on time, that will be used of God to lead His people home. Men may leave the movement and endeavor to get others to join them, but they will not succeed. God has "set His hand the second time" to lead a movement through to Canaan, and He will surely accomplish His purpose. May God help us to cling to the movement until the journey is ended!

Similarities

The exodus movement was a type of the advent movement. There are many similarities between the two. In the exodus movement the Lord took a whole nation out of Egypt and led them into the Promised Land. In the second advent movement God is taking out a chosen people from all the nations of earth, and is leading them to the heavenly Canaan. The prophesy says, "There shall be a highway for the remnant of His people; . . . like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt." Isa. 11: 16. The "highway" spoken of here is doubtless the great highway of truth upon which God's people will march in their journey to the heavenly land. They are not to walk in the lowlands of earth, but upon the great highway cast up for the people of God in the last days. They are not to be in uncertainty, nor grope in darkness; for all the light of all the ages will shine upon the pathway of God's remnant church. They will "come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 1: 7.
In Answer to Prophecy

The exodus movement was foretold in prophecy, and was to begin at a definite time. It was a prophetic movement. The Lord said unto Abraham, “Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with gladness.” Gen. 15:13, 14. The exodus movement was to begin as strangers in a land that was not theirs for four hundred years. At the end of this period God would deliver them.

There are two periods mentioned in the Bible in connection with this prophecy, one of four hundred thirty years, and the other of four hundred years. The four hundred thirty years began when the promise was first made to Abraham when he entered the land of Canaan. Gal. 3:17. The four hundred years began thirty years later, when Abraham arose and Ishmael per­secuted Isaac. Gen. 21:8-10; Gal. 4:29, 30. But these two periods ended at the same time.

At the end of this prophetic period God was to deliver Israel. Moses tried to start the movement forty years earlier. He wanted to take matters into his own hands and deliver Israel. But the time had not come for the movement to begin, and he could not succeed. All he did was to kill a man, hide him in the sand, and then flee for his life. Ex. 2:11-15. But when the time came for the movement to begin according to the prophecy, God had so prepared the way that the hosts of Israel could leave Egypt on the very day foretold in the prophecy. Of its fulfillment we read, “Now the so­journing of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.” Ex. 12:40, 41. Yes, the same God who gave the prophecy could fulfill it. The exodus movement began on time, and no other movement could meet the fulfillment of the prophecy.

Advent Movement Following Type

So it is with the great advent movement. It, too, is a prophetic movement. It began at the end of the 2300 years, that long prophetic period which ushered in the judgment hour. Dan. 8:14. It proclaims with a loud voice to all the inhabitants of earth that “the hour of His judgment is come.” Rev. 14:6, 7. It did not begin one year too early nor one year too late. It began on time, and meets the requirement of the prophecy.

Another similarity between the exodus and the advent movement will be found in the manner of leading them. The Lord chose Moses as the visible leader of Israel, and through him gave them instructions regarding the divine services and their responsibilities toward God and man. We read, “By a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by his prophet was he preserved.” Hosea 12:13. “Then leddest Thou people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.” Ps. 77:20. God led the exodus movement by a prophet. The pathway of duty was made so clear and plain that none needed to go astray. The children of Israel were not to be like the nations around them, but were called to walk upon the highway of truth and righteousness, elevated above the customs and ways of the world. God led them by His prophet Moses.

The same is true of the advent movement. It, too, is to be led by a prophet, for of the remnant church we read, “The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Rev. 12:17. But “the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.” Rev. 19:10. Hence it is plain that the remnant church is to be led by “the Spirit of prophecy,” even as the exodus movement was led by a prophet.

Instructions of the Prophet

Ever since the beginning of this movement in 1844, the Lord has been sending instruction to this people through Mrs. Ellen G. White. Her first vision was given in December, 1844, shortly after the passing of the 2300 years, and she continued with this movement for more than seventy years, until her death on July 16, 1915. During all this time her pen and voice were busy giving to our people the instructions, reproofs, and corrections which the Lord so graciously gave to her.

While these writings are not to take the place of the Bible, they nevertheless shed precious light upon the word of God, and they have guided this movement through all the years since its beginning. Mrs. White remained with this movement, even as Moses did with the exodus movement, until her death. She did not join some other movement. She had strong confidence in the leadership of God, and in the triumph of this movement, as will be seen by the following words addressed to the General Conference in 1913: “When in the night season I am unable to sleep, I lift my heart in prayer to God, and He strengthens me, and gives me the assurance that He is with His ministering servants in the home field and in distant lands. I am encouraged and blessed as I realize that the God of Israel is still guiding His people, and that He will continue to be with them, even to the end.”—Life Sketches, pp. 437, 438. Thus we find that God is leading the advent people, even as He led the children of Israel. He will not leave us to perish in the wilderness; but He has called us out from the world, that He may bring us into the heavenly Canaan. While some may turn back to Egypt, and others may leave the movement to follow a path of their own choosing, let us remain faithful, and triumph with the people of God.

God's People Delivered---Part II

BY MRS. E. G. WHITE

Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour, and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a "man of sorrows," to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victorious in battle, and established as judge the living and the Dead. "Faithful and true," "in righteousness He doth judge and make war," and "the armies which were in heaven follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms,—"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. "His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light." As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head, but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noontide