

# ARMAGEDDON OF THE SCRIPTURES

## Startling Presentation of Coming Events.

### PASTOR RUSSELL'S VIEWS.

Churches of All Denominations and the Civil Powers of Earth Are About to Unite in Common Cause—Powerful Influence Preparing For the Battle of Armageddon—A Reign of Anarchy Will Be the Result of the Warfare Until The Messiah Takes Control.



PASTOR RUSSELL

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 3. — The Brooklyn Academy of Music was crowded to the limit today to hear Pastor Russell's discourse on the "Battle of Armageddon." His text was: "He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Revelation xvi, 16.) The speaker said: Armageddon in the Hebrew signifies the "Hill of Megiddo," or Mount of Destruction. It was famous as a battlefield in Old Testament times.

The Lord has seen fit to associate the name Armageddon, with the great controversy between Truth and Error, right and wrong, God and Mammon, with which this Age will close, perish, and the New Age of Messiah's glory be ushered in. He has purposely used highly symbolical figures of speech in the last book of the Bible, evidently with a view to hiding certain important truths until the due time for their revelation. But even in the due time, the Bible assures us, "None of the wicked shall understand" (Daniel xii, 9, 10)—none who are out of heart harmony with God—but only the wise of His people—the "wise virgin" class of the Master's parable.

I have long avoided presentation of my understanding of our text and its context. I take it up now by request and because I believe it is due time to be understood. I disclaim any special inspiration. In some particulars my views agree with those of other Bible students, and in other respects they disagree. Each hearer must use his own judgment, do his own Bible study, and reach his own conclusions.

Kindly remember that I am not responsible for the figures of speech used by the Lord. My interpretations do indeed constitute a terrible arraignment of institutions which we have all revered and which embrace good people, of good words and good works. God's saintly people in these various institutions, being comparatively few, are ignored when systems as a whole are dealt with in prophecy.

#### The Dragon, Beast, False Prophet.

Our context tells us that three impure spirits (teachings) will go forth from the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, and these three will be in accord, and symbolically the doctrines are represented by "frogs." These three doctrines are to have a mighty influence throughout the civilized earth. They are to gather the kings and their armies to the great Battle of Armageddon.

The ecclesiastical kings and princes, and their retainers of clergy and faithful adherents, will be gathered in solid phalanx—Protestant and Catholic. The kings and captains of industry, and as many as can be influenced by them, will be gathered to the same side. The political kings and princes, with all their henchmen and retainers, will follow in line on the same side. The financial kings and merchant princes, and all whom they can influence by the most gigantic power ever yet exercised in the world, will join the same side, according to this prophecy.

These "doctrines of demons," represented by the "frogs," will lead many noble people in this great army to assume an attitude quite contrary to their preference. For a time the wheels of liberty and progress will be turned backward and medieval restraints will be considered necessary for self-preservation—for the maintenance of the present order of things.

In giving this interpretation, it is necessary for us to indicate what is symbolized by the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Bible students of nearly all denominations agree with us that the "Dragon" of Revelation represents the purely Civil Power. Protestant interpreters generally agree that the "Beast like a leopard" (Revelation xiii, 2) represents the Papacy. But fewer still, we fear, will be ready to support our view that Protestantism is the "Image of the Beast" (Revelation xiii, 15) in our context given another name, "the False Prophet." We urge no one to accept our interpretation, nor shall we think hard of any who refuse it. We will neither slander nor otherwise injure them now, nor threaten them with eternal torture. They have the same right to their views that I have, and the same right to make them known to others. And I, for one, will be very glad to consider anything which opponents may set forth as their interpretations of our text.

#### "Unclean Spirits Like Frogs."

The symbolisms of Scripture, rightly understood, are always forceful. When the Holy Spirit used a "frog" to symbolically represent certain

doctrines or teachings, we may be sure the true application will fit well. A frog has a sage look, a wise look. It swells itself up in an apparent endeavor to impress the beholder. Its great mouth well represents its chief power, used to croak.

Applying these symbols, we learn that an evil spirit, influence, teaching, will come from the Protestant churches federated, from the Church of Rome, and from the Civil authorities, all in full agreement. The spirit of all will be boastful; an air of superior wisdom and knowledge will be proudly assumed—all will croak in harmony. All will tell of dire results that would follow, involving the interests of both the present and the future life. If their counsel be not followed. However conflicting the creeds, the differences will be ignored in the general proposition that nothing ancient must be disturbed, or looked into, or repudiated.

The Divine authority of the Church, and the Divine right of kings, aside from the Church, will not be allowed to conflict. Any persons or teachings in conflict with these boastful and unscriptural claims will be branded as everything vile, at the mouths of these "frogs" speaking from pulpits and platforms and through the religious and secular press. The nobler sentiments of some will be strangled by the philosophy of the same evil spirit which spoke through Calaphas, the high priest, respecting Jesus. As Calaphas declared it expedient to commit a crime in violation of justice, human and Divine, to be rid of Jesus and His teachings, so this "frog" spirit will approve of every violation of principle necessary to their self-protection.

The croaking of these "frog" spirits or doctrines will gather the kings and princes, financial, political, religious and industrial into one great army. The spirit of fear, inspired by the croakings of these "frogs," will scourge the passions of otherwise good and reasonable men to fury, desperation. In their blind following of these evil spirits, evil doctrines, they will be ready to sacrifice life and everything on the altar of what they mistakenly suppose is justice, truth and righteousness, under a Divine arrangement.

For a brief time, as we understand the Scriptures, these combined forces of Armageddon will triumph. Free speech, free mails, and other liberties which have come to be the very breath of the masses in our day, will be ruthlessly shut off under the plea of necessity, the glory of God, the commands of the Church, etc. All will seem to be serene, until the great social explosion in our context described as the "great Earthquake." An "earthquake," in symbolic language, signifies social revolution, and the declaration of the context is that none like unto it ever before occurred. (Revelation xvi, 18, 19.) Jesus described it as a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.—Matthew xxiv, 21.

#### The Lord Will Gather Them.

The false, frog-like teachings will gather together into one host the great, the rich, the wise, the learned and the kings of the earth, to battle. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward, and our text tells us that HE shall gather the marshaled hosts to Armageddon—to the Mountain of Destruction. The very thing which they sought to avert by their union, federation, etc., will be the very thing they will hasten. Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by the Great Messiah, and that HE will be on the side of the masses. Thus we read in Daniel xii, 1: "At that time shall Michael [the Godlike One—Messiah] stand up"—assume authority. He will take possession of His Kingdom in a manner little looked for by many of those who erroneously have been claiming that they were His Kingdom, and authorized by Him to reign in His name and in His stead.

Jesus declared, "His servants ye are unto whom ye render service." Some may be rendering service to Satan and to error, who claim to be rendering service to God and to righteousness; and some of these may be serving ignorantly, as did Saul of Tarsus, who "verily thought that he did God a service" in persecuting the Church. The same principle holds true reversely. As an earthly king does not hold himself responsible for the moral character of each soldier who fights in his battles, so the Lord does not vouch for the moral character of all who will enlist and fight on His side of any question. "His servants they are to whom they render service," whatever the motive or object prompting them.

The same principles will apply in the coming Battle of Armageddon. God's side of that battle will be the people's side, and the very nondescript host, the people, will be pitted at the beginning of the battle. Anarchists, Socialists, and hot-headed radicals of every school of reason and unreason, will be in the forefront of that battle. The majority of the poor and the middle class prefer peace at almost any price. A comparatively small number, God's consecrated people, will at heart be longing for Messiah's Kingdom. These will bide the Lord's time and wait patiently for it; they will be of good courage, knowing the outcome outlined in the "more sure word of prophecy," to which they have done well to take heed, "as unto a light shining in a dark place until the Day dawn."—1 Peter i, 19.

The masses will be restless of their restraints, but will be conscious of their own weakness as compared to the kings and princes, financial, religious and political, which will then hold sway. Besides, the masses have no sympathy with anarchy. They realize truly that the worst form of government is better than none. The masses will seek relief through the ballot and peaceful re-adjustment of earth's affairs for the elimination of evil, for

the placing of monopolies and utilities and the supplies of nature in the hands of the people for the public good. The crisis will be reached when the lither-to upholders of law shall become violators of the law and resistors of the will of the majority as expressed by the ballot. Fear for the future will lead the well-meaning masses to desperation; and anarchy will result when Socialism fails.

#### The Cloud's Silver Lining.

Horrible would be this outlook for the future did we not have the infallible Word of God assuring us of a glorious outcome! Divine Wisdom has withheld until our day the great knowledge and skill which is at the same time breeding millionaires and discontents. Had God lifted the veil a thousand years sooner, the world would have lined up for its Armageddon a thousand years sooner. But that would have been too soon for the Divine purpose, because Messiah's Kingdom is to be the great Thousand-Year-Sabbath of the world's history. God in kindness veiled our eyes until the time when the gathering to Armageddon would immediately precede Messiah's taking to Himself His great power, and beginning His reign.—Revelation xi, 17, 18.

#### "Send Them Strong Delusions."

St. Paul wrote prophetically of our time, that it would be one of serious trial and testing to many professing to be Christians. The reason for this he states—they received not the Truth in the love of it. (I Thessalonians ii, 10, 11.) They preferred their own erroneous theories, the Apostle explains, and therefore God will give them over to a "strong delusion," and let them believe the lie which they preferred, and let them suffer for missing the Truth which they did not love. Thus they will be in the condemned host, "fighting against God," because of their lack of love for the Truth.

It is sad to say that we all as Christians have been laboring under a thorough delusion respecting God's Plan. We have claimed that Christ set up His Church in Kingdom power, and that the Church has been reigning on the earth as His representative. On the strength of this delusion, Jews and heretics have been persecuted to death as opponents to Christ's Kingdom. All the while we thoughtlessly repeated the Lord's prayer: "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as in Heaven." We knew that the Redeemer said that He would come again to make us His Bride and joint-heirs; but we ignored the Scriptures. We were drunk, as the Scriptures symbolically say, "all nations were drunk" with the false doctrine. It is this false doctrine that will constitute the "frog" spirit which soon will begin to croak and to prepare for Armageddon.

The Bible presentation is that the world is a section of the universe in rebellion against Divine authority, under the captaincy of Satan and his associated fallen angels. By Divine grace Jesus has already "tasted death for every man," and the merit of that sacrifice must, eventually, grant Adam and his posterity a full, fair opportunity for the attainment of everlasting life. All who thus see the Divine program and are walking in the light may know something at least respecting the "times and seasons." These brethren "are not in darkness, that that day [and that battle of Armageddon] should overtake them "as a thief"—unaware.

#### Armageddon Not Yet but Soon.

For forty years the Armageddon forces have been mustering for both sides of the conflict. Strikes, lockouts and riots, great and small, have been merely incidental skirmishes as the belligerent parties crossed each other's paths. Court and Army scandals in Europe, Insurance, Trust and Court scandals in America, have shaken public confidence. Dynamite plots, charged by turns on employees and on employers, have further shaken confidence and tended to make each distrustful of the other. Bitter and angry feelings on both sides are more and more manifest. The lines of battle are daily becoming more distinctly marked. Nevertheless Armageddon cannot yet be fought. Other matters intervene, according to prophecy.

Gentle times have still two years to run. The "Image of the Beast" of our context must yet receive life—power. The Image must be transformed from a mere mechanism to a living force. Protestant Federation realizes that its organization will still be futile unless it receive vitalization—unless its clergy directly or indirectly shall be recognized as possessed of apostolic ordination and authority to teach. This the prophecy indicates will come from the two horned beast, which, we believe, symbolically represents the Church of England. High-handed activities of Protestantism and Catholicism, operating in conjunction for the suppression of human liberties, await this vivifying of the Image. This may come soon, but Armageddon cannot precede it, but must follow—perhaps a year after it, according to our view of the Prophecy.

Still another thing intervenes: Although the Jews are gradually flowing into Palestine, gradually obtaining control of the land of Canaan, and although reports say that already nineteen millionaires are there, nevertheless prophecy requires an evidently larger number of wealthy Hebrews to be there before the Armageddon crisis be reached. Indeed we understand that "Jacob's trouble" in the Holy Land will come at the very close of Armageddon. Then Messiah's Kingdom will begin to be manifested. Thenceforth Israel in the land of promise will gradually rise from the ashes of the past to the grandeur of prophecy. Through its Divinely appointed princes Messiah's Kingdom, all-powerful but invisible, will begin to roll away the curse and to lift up mankind.

# HOW ONE TITANIC FUND WAS SPENT

## \$9,000 Distributed in Aid of Nine Families.

### SOME MONEY PUT IN TRUST.

Director of the Red Cross Emergency Relief Committee Reports on the Expenditure of Proceeds of Metropolitan Opera Benefit.

W. Frank Persons, director of the Red Cross emergency relief committee, has made his report as to the distribution of \$9,000 raised at the benefit performance at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, last April for the families of victims of the Titanic disaster.

Mr. Persons in his report states the circumstances of nine families of victims, to each of whom \$1,000 was given from the contribution, and says that each of these families has received or will receive gifts from other sources sufficient to carry out an appropriate plan for their permanent relief. An artist who was just coming into a career of great promise had gone to Europe to execute an important commission and was returning on the Titanic. He was lost with his sketches and left a widow and children. One of his children has shown marked artistic ability, and the parents were planning an education for her along those lines. The younger children, too, must be provided for, and Mr. Persons says that the support of the family will require in addition to the modest property remaining to the widow a considerable gift, which it is hoped can be raised.

#### Help For Widows.

A newly married couple were coming to this country to make their permanent home here. The husband was lost in the wreck. A child has been born to the wife. When she leaves the hospital she will take a place at service in the country, where she can have her baby with her. It is planned to give her a small sum of money available for emergencies and times when she may not be able to earn anything and to put a larger sum in trust for her child.

A widow forty-eight years old lost her nineteen-year-old daughter who had been of help in supporting the family. She had four children surviving, all of whom are in delicate health, and she has now the support of the entire family on her hands. She has broken down under the strain and cannot work at her washing for six days a week. The plan is to provide a pension for a number of years to supplement the earnings of the woman and her daughters and so lighten her work that she will be able to earn a living going out only three or four days a week.

The widow of an oil operator who was lost and who left three children, one of whom is a cripple and the other an invalid threatened with tuberculosis, is to be helped at nursing, for which she has a natural gift, and a pension for ten years is to be set aside for her until her daughters are able to help her.

The widow of a laborer who was lost, leaving six children, will receive the same assistance. An entire family, consisting of father, mother and nine-year-old son, were coming to this country when the father was lost and with him all their money and property. The widow and child are now with her people, who give her a home. She has found employment in a factory and earns \$6 a week, which she pays for board for herself and her child, as her relatives cannot board her without compensation. A pension will be provided for her support until her son is educated and able to help.

#### Other Cases Relieved.

The widow of an American merchant in moderate circumstances who went down on the ship is left unprovided for. She has had a successful experience in running a small dry goods business, and she wants to establish another. She will be helped in this.

A South Dakota farmer who had gone to Sweden to bring back his father was lost with his father in the wreck. He had borrowed the money for the trip, and his farm and implements were mortgaged. He left a widow and six children, for whom emergent help has been given, and it is hoped a large part of the debts can be paid.

A mechanic who had gone to England with his wife and who during his absence had been excused from payment of dues in his union was lost, and his wife is excluded from the usual death benefit for widows of the union. She is incapacitated for work by reason of ill health, though she is a competent nurse, and if she has proper care for a few years she may be able to support herself. She, too, has been aided.

#### Germany's Wine Areas.

Germany's area devoted to vine culture reached its maximum—297,087 acres—in 1906 and has since decreased by 27,900. The vintage varies greatly from year to year. Extremes were represented by \$13,875,100 in 1910 as against \$34,019,200 in 1904.

A Mohammedan University. A Mohammedan university is to be established at Bagdad.

Repressed Emotion.  
Oh, the man who is shouting with might and with main  
To scatter his wisdom around  
Is a hero, although he may labor in vain  
For knowledge and light to abound.  
Disappointment and toil he has willingly shared.  
Reward, if it came, has seemed small.  
Yet he suffers but little in spirit compared  
To the man who says nothing at all.  
When he's walking on tiptoe lest he may disturb  
The harmony friends hold so dear  
How he envies the fellow out there on the curb  
Whose voice bids the multitude cheer!  
His cheek is aflame, and his hand slightly shakes  
As he harkens to the old battle call.  
But he forces a smile while his heart nearly breaks.  
The man who says nothing at all.  
—Washington Star.

#### No Place For Him.

"This is a pleasant little village," conceded the visitor.  
"Yes, sir. It's one of the loveliest spots in the country," answered the native.  
"I was thinking of moving here with my family."  
"Why not? We're up to date. We have a amateo dramatic club, a—" "What was that first item?" "A amateo dram!"  
But he never finished the sentence. The prospective resident was running so fast that he had already become a thing of the past.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

#### The National Pastime.

It is an ancient martinet.  
He stoppeth one of three  
And holds him with a skilful hand.  
"Have you a match?" quoth he.  
The shades of night were falling fast  
When through an Alpine village passed  
A youth who bore mid snow and ice  
A banner with a strange device—  
"Got a match?"

It was a summer's evening.  
Old Kasper's work was done,  
And he before his cottage door  
Was sitting in the sun.  
His little grandchild butted in.  
"Have you a match?" said Peterkin.  
—Milwaukee Sentinel.

#### Wisdom of Minerva.

A famous spinster, known throughout the country for her firmness, was entertaining a number of little girls from a charitable institution. After the luncheon the children were shown through the place in order that they might enjoy the many beautiful things it contains.  
"This," said the spinster, indicating a statue, "is Minerva."  
"Was Minerva married?" asked one of the little girls.  
"No, my child," said the spinster with a smile; "Minerva was the Goddess of Wisdom."—New York World.

#### Men's Desires.

Some men are eager to command  
Where many may be led;  
Some men want gold, and some crave land;  
Some merely ask for bread;  
Some men would be well satisfied  
With love or with renown;  
Some men win selfish, foolish pride  
By pushing others down;  
Some men possess their greatest glee  
When they may calmly fish;  
Some gift to gain applause may be  
Another's dearest wish,  
And here and there we find a male  
Who even claims delight  
If he can merely be the tail  
Of some one else's kite.  
—S. E. Kiser in Chicago Record-Herald.

#### Misleading Demonstration.

"You say your hearers sat through your speech in open mouthed astonishment?"  
"I thought so at first," replied Mr. Teeljus. "But I have learned that most of those fellows are accustomed to sleep with their mouths open."—Wash.

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