



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

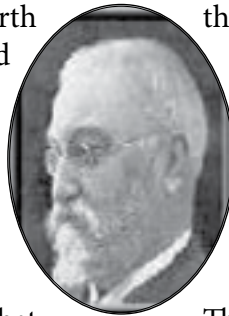
Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume XVIII  
Issue 440

# The Great Conflict of the Ages

by — E. W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

The moment that the word went forth that the Seed of the woman should one day finally crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15), that old serpent, the Satan, took his stand before the woman in order to destroy her Seed as soon as it should be brought forth.



the whole race had to be destroyed. Noah and his three sons were alone pure from the awful defilement.<sup>2</sup> Nothing but Divine interposition saved the race and reserved mankind from a total overthrow. In Shem, the line of the "the Seed of the woman" was continued, and the promise of Eden was preserved.

Satan's object, from the going forth of that prophecy, was to prevent that "Seed of the woman" from ever coming into the world. He does not mean to be crushed if he can prevent it, and hence it is that, just as we are about to be told of the serpent's doom and how it is brought about, we are thus reminded of the fact and told how he took his stand so as to prevent His coming at all; or to bruise His heel, if He should come.

He has used, of course, various instruments and agents, and while these have had their own respective objects and motives, Satan's object has been one – and one only – and this has formed the great conflict of the ages.

We see the first great attempt in Genesis 6:2, when Satan strove to corrupt the whole of mankind. He succeeded so far, that only one family was uncontaminated. That is the meaning of the "perfect in his generation" in Genesis 6:9. תָּהִמִּים (*tāhmîm*) means *without blemish*, especially as to pure descent, or blood (Exodus 12:5; 29:1, etc.). It refers to genital perfection.<sup>1</sup> So vast was the corruption from the irruption of evil angels (II Peter 2:4-7; Jude 6-8) that

The second great attempt was made in Exodus 1 to destroy the male children of Israel at their birth. Pharaoh's object was to prevent the increase of the people so that they might not get up out of Egypt. Satan's object was to destroy the male line altogether, and thus make the birth of "the Seed of the woman" impossible. Again Divine interposition defeated Satan's plans. It was a spiritual conflict, the same conflict which we see ... in Revelation 12; but it is written, "He taketh the wise in their own craftiness" (Job 5:13), and what Pharaoh had said with Egypt's "wisdom" (Exodus 1:10) was frustrated by a baby's tear (Exodus 2:6); for when Pharaoh's daughter opened the ark of bulrushes, "she saw the child, and behold the babe wept. And she had compassion on him." Thus, Pharaoh's wisdom was made to end in having to board, lodge, bring up and educate the very man who accomplished the very object Pharaoh had striven to prevent; for Moses delivered the nation

(see CONFLICT, page 3923)

2. If so, and his sons married the fearful progeny, we have a sidelight on the diversity of the great races, though originally descended from a single pair.

1. "Generation" is not the same word rendered "generations" in the former part of the verse. Here it means *contemporaries*; there it means *family history*.

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## **Bible Student's Notebook™**

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
  - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
  - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
  - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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**CONFLICT** (continued from front page)

out of his hand, and God overthrew his armies in the Red Sea.

We see another very special and determined attempt of Satan in II Chronicles 21-22 to break up the Royal Line by which the Seed of the woman was to come. On the death of Jehoshaphat, his son, Jehoram, *made a beginning* (to serve his own purposes, of course). He *“slew all his brethren with the sword”* (II Chronicles 21:4). So the Royal Line was reduced to himself – one life. Yet he had children; and of these, we read that the Arabians came up against Judah and slew all of his sons, *“so that there was never a son left him, save Ahaziah, the youngest of his sons”* (II Chronicles 21:17). Mark the emphasis put by the Holy Spirit on this solemn fact. That they were slain is clear from II Chronicles 22:1.

Ahaziah was then the only lineal descendant of the Royal Line of the Seed of the woman, through David, Abraham and Shem – but Ahaziah had children. These, in their turn, were slain by Athaliah. She evidently left them all for dead, for [the Scripture] says that she *“destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah”* (II Chronicles 22:10). That is what she meant to do, and would have done had not God again divinely interposed and rescued the infant *“from among the king’s sons that were slain”* (II Chronicles 22:11). For six years all of the hopes of God’s people rested on that one life. All of the faithfulness of God depended on the life of that one babe. While Jehosheba, the wife of the high priest, was hidden with the child in one of the chambers of the House of God, her husband, Jehoiada, was going about among the people testifying and saying, *“Behold, the kings’ son shall reign, as the Lord hath said, of the sons of David.”* That was the burden of the testimony – the faithfulness of Jehovah – and nothing but the Divine interposition frustrated the designs of Satan (and the plans of Athaliah) from succeeding in cutting off the Line by which the Seed of the woman was eventually to come into the world.

In the book of Esther we see another attempt on the part of Satan to destroy the whole nation – and not merely the males, or the seed royal. He used Haman’s pride as the secondary cause; but again a small thing was used to frustrate the design of *“the Jews’ enemy”*: a sleepless night, that was all; but it was enough (Es-

ther 6:1), and again Satan was defeated. Yet he still *“stood before the woman ... ready to devour her child as soon as it should be born”* (Revelation 12:4).

At length the hour came when the Seed of the woman entered into the world. Herod was used this time; and having ascertained the *place* (Bethlehem) from the Scribes (Matthew 2:4), and the *time* when the star appeared from the wise men (Matthew 2:7), he slew all of the babes in Bethlehem under two years of age, and thought he had devoured the Seed of the woman – but again Heaven interfered and defeated his plans.

The suggestion of Satan that Christ should throw Himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple (Matthew 4:6); the attempt of the people of Nazareth to cast Him down from the brow of the hill (Luke 4:29); the two storms on the lake (Matthew 8:24 and Mark 4:37; Luke 8:23), were all so many attempts of Satan to devour this Man-Child. Then when he saw Him on the cross, and laid in the sepulchre, and the stone sealed, and the watch set, he thought he had his prey within his grasp – but again Heaven interfered: *“God raised Him from the dead,”* and the child was *“caught up to God and His throne”* (Revelation 3:21). However, we are anticipating. ■

*The Apocalypse, or The Day of the Lord*, 1935 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, London), pp. 399-403



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# Political Redemption of the Earth

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

The throne section of the Unveiling solves the subject of supremest interest in the world today. It is the political redemption of the earth. The world has become an armed camp. The sittings of peace conferences are disturbed by the din of drums and the building of battleships. More than nine-tenths of the cost of government is wasted in war or in preparations for war. The world is weary of war, but every effort to prevent it seems doomed to failure. Once we were told that the Hague tribunal would avert all further strife. We know better now. Then, after the most awful clash of arms the world has ever seen, the nations hailed the League of Nations as the savior of mankind. But the very nation which proposed and fathered the scheme turned against it ere it was consummated, and now proposes a different plan to keep the world's peace.

How futile are all of man's efforts! The cry is, "Peace! Peace!" when peace is apparent nowhere. Even in the nations not at war there is constant internal strife, of-

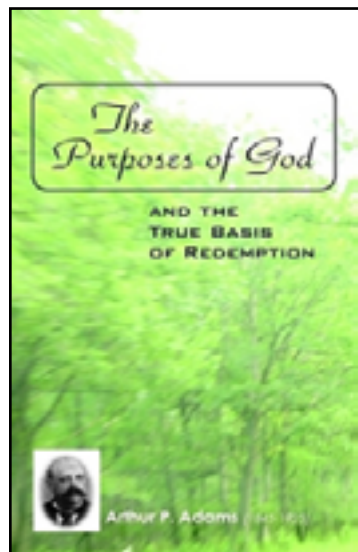


ten leading to bloodshed, and all are busy preparing for war which, they say, will never come.

Those who know the page of prophecy are well aware that the time of the end is an era of wars and rumors of wars. Nation will rise against nation, the East will be pitted against the West, and there will be no peace until the false respite under the false messiah.

Mankind is striving for good government. Monarchies are being turned into republics, despotisms into soviet, and vice versa, democracies into kingdoms. There is a worldwide delusion that, if government could only be given into the hands of the people, all would be well. Democracy was the slogan of the world war; but we know that, in the reaction from democracy, the world will yet welcome the most absolute despot and dictator it has ever had. The political redemption of the earth cannot be accomplished by man. His methods are all foredoomed

(see *REDEMPTION*, page 3926)



This is a compilation of some of Arthur P. Adams' smaller works that first appeared in his periodical *The Spirit of the Word* in 1885. Adams suffered greatly for the truths presented here. The riches found within these pages deserve to be preserved for future generations. Even though Adams wrote over one hundred years ago, in many ways his writings are just as fresh as if they had been written today.

*This is THE TRUE BASIS OF REDEMPTION – God our Creator, responsible for His Own creation, and every attribute of His being pledged to its successful completion. God is able, and He will. The creature may rest secure on that basis – the all sufficient ground and full assurance of his deliverance and final triumph in the redemption of Jesus Christ. – A.P. Adams*

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# A Time to Laugh

by — J.R. Miller (1840-1912)

*There is a time to weep – and a time to laugh; a time to mourn – and a time to dance (Ecclesiastes 3:4).*

*A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit (Proverbs 15:13).*

*All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast (Proverbs 15:15).*

*A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones (Proverbs 17:22).*

*I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live (Ecclesiastes 3:12).*

**T**here is no inconsistency between holiness and laughter. It is no sin to smile. Indeed, somberness is unnatural. Gloom is morbidity.



most wretched people in the world are those who go about in sackcloth, carrying all of their griefs on their faces and casting *dark shadows* everywhere.

There is a flower which is most fragrant after the sun has set, and in the *darkness* pours its richest aroma on the air. Just so, Christ grows in sweetness, as the shadows deepen. He misrepresents Christ whose life is cold, dreary, cheerless, joyless, or who frowns on gladness and pleasures.

Every believer should be a happiness-maker. We need a thousand times more joy in our lives, than most of us get. We would be better men and women, if we were happier.

Wit has a blessed mission. Life is so hard, so stern, with so many burdens and struggles, that there is need for all of the bright words we can speak. The

**A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones (Proverbs 15:30).**

**An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up (Proverbs 12:25).** ■

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# Without Wrath

by — Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981)

*I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting (I Timothy 2:8)..*

A condition about prayer laid down by the apostle Paul is “without wrath.” It is most important that we should realize the exact meaning of this word “wrath.”

It does not mean what is usually suggested to us by the common usage of that word. It does not mean so much anger or the expression or manifestation of anger as an unloving disposition – not a violent outburst of temper, but rather a settled condition of ill will and resentment.

Here the emphasis is not on the way in which a man regards God and approaches Him, but on the way in which he approaches and regards his fellowmen, his neighbors.

Added to this, perhaps, is the whole question of a man's spirit – not only his actions, but also his outlook and his attitude toward others and toward life. How vitally

## REDEMPTION (continued from page 3924)

to failure. He has not the power to accomplish such a tremendous task.

But we know that there will be peace. We are sure that the world will yet enjoy a righteous rule. How will it be brought about? By uplifting humanity? By education? By the gradual influence of religion? Nothing of the kind. It will be ushered in by *force, unstinted force*. From above the artillery of heaven will be trained upon rebellious man, from beneath the infernal cavalry will take a terrible toll of human lives, the thunders of God's wrath will exhaust themselves upon the race.

No peace conference ushers in the long delayed millennium. Its approach is heralded by the breaking of seals, the blowing of trumpets and the clapping of thunder. ■

*The Unveiling of Jesus Christ*  
1935, pp. 148-149

often there is a feeling of resentment in our hearts while we are praying. We feel that we have a real grudge and a genuine complaint. We feel that we have been wronged, yet we feel that we are dependent on God; so we ask Him for favors.

This same spirit also shows itself in our attitude toward our fellows. If we have enemies, we must not hate them, but love them. The rule is, “love your enemies,” “without wrath.”

The emphasis here is not on the way in which a man regards God, but on the way in which he regards his fellowmen. ■

*Why Does God Allow War?*  
pp. 28-30

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