

ABDUL - BAHÄ

True Happiness, Wisdom and Progress. The Dawn of Knowledge.

THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM.

The substance or pith of the Bible, when rightly understood, is a clear revelation of events which are transpiring in this present day; and the diligent seeker of Divine knowledge who studies its contents in the spirit of honest research will find that throughout the entire book the hand on the dial of the sacred pages invariably points to the great day in which we live. All the Prophets struck the same keynote in their marvelous song of coming events, the chords of unvarying harmony being the coming of the glorious God and His Christ to set up His Kingdom on Earth.

Jesus declares, Luke 4:43, that His mission was "to preach about the Kingdom of God," and all His parables and illustrations had direct reference to God's Kingdom here on earth; that the lord of the vineyard would come Himself, Mark 12:9; "That He would spread a great table and invite many to partake of His supper," Luke 14:16—and that the people would come from the east and from the west and from the north and from the south, and sit down in the Kingdom of God, Luke 13:29. Jude declared—the Lord would come with ten thousand of His saints, verse 14. Paul speaks of "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ," Titus 2:13. The word of the Lord came to the Prophet Micah, saying—"Hear all ye people, harken O earth—for behold the Lord cometh forth out of His place and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth," Micah 1:2, 3. Solomon intimated, "Will God indeed dwell on the earth?" 1st Kings, 8:27. And this is the blessing wherewith Moses, the man of God, blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said: "The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from Mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints; from his right hand went a fiery law for them," Deut. 33:1, 2. The spirit of prophecy speaking through St. John proclaimed: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty," Rev. 1:8. And at His coming Zechariah avers, chapter 14, verse 9: "And the Lord shall be King over all the earth, in that day shall there be one Lord and His name One." Isaiah tells us, Ch. 2:2, 3, that, "It shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say—Come ye, and let us go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." The Prophet Micah reiterates almost the same words. Zechariah speaks of the same conditions at that time, Ch. 8:20-22. "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; It shall yet come to pass that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities; and the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of Hosts; I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of Hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord."

These are a few of the many passages in the Holy Book announcing the great event which is to take place in the latter days.

To the one who has read these words carefully and understandingly, and is convinced that they mean exactly what they state, undoubtedly the question will arise in his mind: If God is to come and manifest Himself to His creatures and establish His household here on earth, then how shall He appear? In what manner shall He come? From whence shall He come? When shall He come? And how shall we know that He is The One when He does come? Upon all these points the Bible (when rightly understood) has clearly instructed us, and in considering this great question, let us follow the counsel of the Mighty One—Isaiah 1:18—"Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord."

That He is to come, the passages just quoted clearly indicate and should be sufficient to convince any honest, rationally minded person; but owing to the errors of early training, to many, the manner of His coming may perhaps be somewhat perplexing, but a proper exercise of the reasoning faculties which God has given us, in connection with prophetic utterances, will clear our vision, and "make the crooked things straight."

The Bible teaches that no man hath ever seen God. The finite mind cannot comprehend the Infinite Essence; the creature cannot comprehend the Creator—any more than the thing made can comprehend its maker. The watch cannot comprehend the watchmaker; neither can man comprehend his Creator. But you may say, the comparison is not logical because the watch is inanimate matter, whilst man is an intelligent being. Granted that this is so—that man is an intelligent being and the watch inanimate matter—it does not affect the fact the Creator is as much higher above the creature as the watchmaker is above the watch—and as Heaven is high above the earth—because the maker of the watch did not create the essence of which the watch is composed, but the Creator of man did create the essence of which he (man) is composed and also gave him his intelligence; therefore, notwithstanding man's intellectual attainments, his Creator is as far above him as the east is from the west. Man's powers being confined to his own sphere or attitude, he can comprehend nothing beyond his limitations. Being a limited creature, how is man then going to comprehend the unlimited Creator when He comes? Can he know or understand him as a lovely flower, a delicious ether, filling the boundless space of man's sphere, to be breathed into the nostrils of his imagination—or a beautiful bird, a beautiful animal, or any other majestic awe-inspiring thing living outside man's limitations? Assuredly not.

(Continued next week.)