

ABDUL-BAHA

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

THE MESSENGER.

To review briefly the salient points of our last Talk—we have seen that the fundamental teaching of the Bible is the coming of God and His Christ, and the setting up of His Kingdom here on earth. That He would come in the human form, be born a child of earthly parents, grow up, and as Prince of Peace, rule with great power (i. e., spiritual), majesty, justice, love and mercy. That under His propitious government would be ushered in the Most Great Peace and Universal Brotherhood, and that His coming would be heralded by His Messenger whom He would send to prepare the way before Him. That Messenger, we told you, had already come, and in this Talk we shall relate a few particulars concerning His appearance and wonderful work.

As God declared through the mouth of the Prophet Malachi, 4th Chap., 5th and 6th verses, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord"—the Elijah herein mentioned (as before stated) has already come and fulfilled His mission, has broken the seal of prophecy and ended the wonders which for centuries have perplexed Bible students and seekers of Divine Knowledge.

As was said of Christ during His mission, Matt. 7:28, 29, "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine: For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." The same very fittingly applied to the Precursor of the Great Manifestation of the Mighty God, Who in our day has come, and revealed His secrets unto the ones whom God declared should know them. Psalms 25:14 "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant."

You will from now on begin to realize why these teachings are given privately. Christ, referring to these days, said, Luke 12:3, "That which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops." The time for announcing this Great Truth openly to the world has not yet arrived; the majority of the people are not ready to receive it, and until that time arrives, we must be guided by the reminder of Christ, Matt. 10:16, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." He, Christ, taught His disciples in private, but to the multitude, He spoke in parables, telling them that only which they could grasp, Mark 4:33, "And with many such parables spake He the word unto them, as they were able to hear it"—"as they were able to hear it," i. e., as they were able to grasp and comprehend His explanation. "But without a parable spake He not unto them; and when they were alone, He expounded all things to His disciples," Mark 4:34. Matt. 13:10-16, "And the disciples came and said unto Him, Why Speakest Thou unto them in parables?" "He answered * * * Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not given." * * * "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand" * * * "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."

In the days of Christ many flocked to hear Him, not that they were impulsed by any real spiritual motives, but because they were curious to hear His explanations and parables, and for this reason charged His disciples that they were not to cast their pearls before swine—meaning that they were not to give the precious Truth He had taught them to those who were not seeking with their whole heart to know God—and to such as display no desire to know the Truth, He said, "If ye will not receive it, let it be so." "And it shall be given you; seek ye and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." "For everyone that asketh shall receive, and he that seeketh shall find."