

ABDUL - BAHHA

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

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

In our last Talk we gave a brief sketch of the "Bab" who appeared in Shiraz, Persia, in the year A. D. 1844, and declared Himself as the forerunner or advancer of Him "Whom God would manifest;" touching hurriedly upon the main facts only concerning His office: the date of His appearance (according to prophecy); His wonderful powers of argument; His profound knowledge, self-sacrifice, barbarous persecution and cruel death; and closing our discourse with the amazing disclosure that the Lord of Hosts promised in the Bible had already come: He "Who would suddenly come to His temple" after The Messenger had prepared the way.

In delivering this part of the message, we can at this present time state the principal facts only, as there is so much to tell that is beyond the capacity of human beings to grasp and fully understand at one hearing. But to the hungry seekers who desire to know God in reality, the bearers of this Great and Glorious Message can give all the precious food they can digest, from the Table of Divine Knowledge, to which they have free and bountiful access.

Christ said, Matt. 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." And in accordance with His blessed assurance, the opportunity is afforded in this day to every one desiring to know God in reality, and to worship Him in spirit and in truth, to be instructed in the way which He has appointed and promised to the earnest seeker—Jer. 3:15, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." And in this connection we are reminded that God is realized only through knowledge and understanding; which fact is fully confirmed by His word spoken through the Prophet Hosea, Chapter 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou has rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee;" and the importance of our attaining this knowledge He has very emphatically set forth through the Prophet Jeremiah, Chapter 9:23, 24—"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

To know and understand God intelligently is mankind's highest attainment on this earth, and with a proper exercise of the reasoning faculties with which we are endowed, we are certain this can never be acquired through blind faith, superstition and imagination, but only by compliance with the commands of the Most High, who has assured mankind, Jer. 29:13, "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." And the Spirit speaking through the Apostle Paul expresses the same blessed assurance, Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." But if we do not know that Name, how can we call upon Him? It is only those who have sincerely sought Him that shall know that Name. That every one does not know it, is shown in Proverbs 30:4—"What is His Name and what is His Son's name, if thou canst tell?" Other texts imply the same, Psalms 91:14, "Because He hath set His love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known My Name." Also Isa. 52:6, "Therefore my people shall know My Name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am He, that doth speak: behold, it is I." In the fourteenth and fifteen verses of the chapter, Paul questions—
"How shall they call on Him in
"Who shall be saved? and how

shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Accordingly, we shall know the commissioned of God by the glad tidings they bring. It has been our blessed privilege to receive such joyful tidings from one of God's witnesses, as mentioned in Isa. 43:10 and 11, "ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that we may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no savior." And having received these Glorious Tidings ourselves, no greater happiness could be imparted to us than the delightful privilege of delivering the message to the devout and faithful seekers, who have "eyes which see and perceive, ears which hear and understand;" for such we are assured will not be swayed by the fallible opinions of man, but will ponder well this wonderful message, and with earnestness of heart and honesty of purpose, thoroughly investigate the truthfulness of the marvelous message we are about to deliver, to the very end.

As before mentioned, the "Bab," whose name was Ali Mohammed (Elias-Ali), was killed in the year A. D. 1850. Before His departure, He instructed His followers as to when the MIGHTY ONE would appear: in fact, stating in His books the precise date that He would openly declare Himself to the world, and charging them to be on the watch for His coming; assuring them that they would surely know Him by His wonderful revelations; and admonishing them that when such an One did appear, to forthwith transfer their allegiance to Him.

In A. D. 1852, the Lord of Hosts, promised in the Bible, the Great Manifestation of God, appeared in Teheran, Persia, and later to the faithful followers of the "Bab" disclosed His identity, which was duly recognized by them; and He was joyfully accepted as the One Whom the "Bab" had instructed them to expect.