

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

A plague of darkness so intense that it could be felt! Yet there was light in all the houses of the children of Israel! Because they attributed all power, presence, and intelligence to God and trusted in Him. There will always be light for the spiritually minded, those who hear the voice of the Christ saying: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Rudyard Kipling in one of those bursts of Soul, shown forth at times by great poets in their writings, says:

*At two o'clock in the morning, if you open your window and listen,  
You will hear the feet of the Wind that is going to call the sun.  
And the trees in the shadow rustle and the trees in the moonlight glisten,  
And though it is deep, dark night, you feel that the night is done.*

While the earth brings forth abundantly, more so than at any previous time, because of God's munificence and bountiful goodness to the children of men, still the world at large finds itself in great trouble and distress. Why? Because it forgets to turn for relief to the only place where permanent relief can be found — to the Giver of all good gifts. Amid all this confusion, the words of our Master ring down through the centuries and into the ears of the people at practically every service and form of Christian worship: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

To those who may see little farther ahead, the world is journeying through a wilderness betwixt matter and Mind, and the difficulties and struggles which are being experienced are simply the travail attendant upon the birth into consciousness of the understanding that it is really God, or Mind, which controls, and not man, or the machinery of man.

It is a fact, as Jesus taught, that the Kingdom of God is an ever-present reality, here and now. The material kingdom is only a false sense of that which is truly spiritual. We peer through the glasses of materiality and behold materially that which exists as Spirit, just as we look through blue glasses and see everything as though it were blue. This false material sense has determined to hold the spiritual in bondage, and must be plagued before it will let go.

The plagues, which visited the children of Israel and their overlords the Egyptians, passed over the Israelites leaving them quite unharmed, while denuding their captors of everything supposed to be of value in this world. This is symbolic of every individual who tries to free himself from the bondage of the material senses. The Egyptians represent those personal senses, while the children of Israel symbolize spiritual sense, the former endeavoring to hold the latter in bondage.

The first plague which visited them, and which this age has already experienced, was the turning of water into blood. In the Scriptures water almost invariably indicates

spirituality, and blood generally signifies a material sense of life. The spiritual streams of the pure waters of life are forever flowing into the consciousness of the world. Through channels, such as the Scriptures and literature based on them, through books, magazines, newspapers, radio, screen and stage, there is an endless stream outpouring into human consciousness which should be altogether spiritual and good, but which has been so contaminated by material sense that in large measure it has been “turned to blood” or rendered undrinkable, unfit for quenching the world’s thirst for spirituality.

For ages the Bible has been interpreted more or less from a material standpoint, though there has burst forth at different times some scintillating light which has brightened and continues to brighten the heavens and the earth. The commentaries on that inspired book have dealt largely with the phenomena of physical life and its concomitants. The attendant literature which should spread the good news, or gospel, has been contaminated by the same materialism. Books, radio addresses, motion pictures, seldom contain more than a crass material viewpoint; and a cursory glance through the columns of a large majority of magazines and newspapers shows a dearth of spiritual things.

Nevertheless, God is never without His witness. There has always been someone who has held fast to the spiritual, bearing aloft the banner of Truth and keeping the light of the Christ constantly lighted. So it was when the Egyptians were plagued by the turning of the water into blood, the children of Israel were never without clear, sweet water to drink. In this and other ages, when gross materialism has crept into the streams, always there have been those same spiritually-minded souls, and their explanations and interpretations have kept the streams, at least, measurably cleansed of the contaminating influences. Those who have turned to the teachings of the spiritually enlightened messengers stand undismayed with them in the midst of turmoil, darkness, poverty, war and rumors of war, and wait patiently for the universal recognition of the presence of God and the operation of the power of good in our everyday human affairs.

The next plague was the visitation of frogs. Frogs are croakers. One does not have to travel far afield to be aware of the presence of these croakers in the land, for, like the poor, they are always with us. Those who should be teaching the love of a good and beneficent God, and who should be setting forth the facts of eternal life, are holding up to the gaze of the people certain eventual death for all, and this in spite of the Master’s declaration, “If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death” (John 8:51), until there has settled on the world a plague of frogs (croakers) unparalleled in the experiences of the past. This, too, when the Creator has caused His creation to bring forth in greater abundance than ever before in the history of the world.

Nevertheless, he who is spiritually minded stands firm in his recognition of an ever-present loving Father. Even though he hears these dismal forebodings on every side of him, he remains complacent and maintains a consciousness of the true facts of being, that “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity,” and, undisturbed, awaits the outcome with the certainty of coming good.

Then came the plagues of the lice and the flies. These would seem to indicate intense irritation. The whole world has been unquestionably in a state of irritation, as far back as history carries us, even from the time of Cain and Abel until now, when peace seems almost impossible of attainment. The world’s present irritation is so marked that its inhabitants are beset with fear, and the ultimate establishment of “on earth peace, good will toward men” seems as far off as ever.

We now come to the plague of the murrain on the cattle, horses, flocks, and herds, which were the mainstay of the wealth of those days. When this came to pass it may possibly have dawned upon the consciousness of the Egyptians that "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof," and "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Though this be the fact, the title never passes from the Father to the recipient, but continues to inhere in the Father. When one is deluded into laying "up for yourselves treasures upon earth," it is not long before he finds out that he has usurped the prerogative of the Almighty, put man in the place of God, and he has become an idolater. Whether these facts may have dawned upon the consciousness of the Egyptians or not, it is true that everything belongs to God, and when the substance of the Egyptians was wiped out, it was clearly shown that reliance on material things, rather than on the spiritual, was wholly nebulous. Once again matter had been plagued and its resolution to hold Spirit in the clutches of matter was loosened.

We do not have to look far to see that the plague of lost wealth is upon us now, for today values are brought down to such a low level that nothing seems to withstand the onslaught. Riches of every sort and kind, stocks, bonds, property of whatever nature, which we have been educated to regard as wealth, has faded away until little, if anything, is left to those who have believed that they must accumulate substance for themselves if they would continue to live and be happy.

Then came another plague — boils on man and beast. There is perhaps nothing which signifies inflammation so markedly as a boil. Today the world is inflamed to a degree probably unheard of in all history. Touch the world at the particular point of inflammation and it fairly writhes with pain and squirms with rage until one is tempted to wonder if order will ever be brought out of the seeming chaos. No one can successfully dispute that this plague is upon us; yet amid all this inflammation, the spiritually minded look on, quietly aware of its unreality, attending to their daily affairs, quite certain that "God is in heaven," and all is right with the world — that God still governs. They know that under the light of the Christ a way will appear and, as of old, "by day in a pillar of cloud, by night in a pillar of fire" will guide and show them how and when to go forward. If a Red Sea faces them, they know that it will open and they will pass through it on dry land once again to safety, while the enemy seeking to destroy them will be swallowed up.

The next plague was the further destruction of any remaining material wealth or substance. Hail and lightning came destroying whatever may have escaped from the former plagues, for whatever cattle, horses, flocks, or herds which may have been saved and were still in the fields, together with all growing crops belonging to the Egyptians, were swept away by these destructive forces.

To cap the climax, there followed another plague, the visitation of locusts in such myriads as had never been seen before, devastating the land and laying it bare of every green thing which perchance the hail and lightning had passed by; leaving the whole country, far and near, utterly barren of anything which might have been termed material wealth or substance.

Then came the plague of darkness — darkness that could be felt. "Men's hearts failing them for fear." Today history repeats itself and we find this world stumbling about, terrified, conjuring up in the darkness of fear hobgoblins and specters of all kinds, wars and rumors of wars, want and woe, burdens ever growing heavier and heavier; yet so unnecessary, for in the midst of it all, there always has been a way out, that way being the

spiritual way. Until man ceases to turn to the material and learns to seek the spiritual, chaos and darkness will continue to reign, and the prodigals will continue to live on “husks” because “no man gave unto” them, and this for the simplest of all reasons, because man has nothing of himself to give, and can offer no solution to the problems which present themselves to the world.

There yet remains one more plague experienced by the Egyptians to come upon the world before it will recognize the Christ rule of the Kingdom of God and its existence here and now, wherein “all the earth is mine,” saith the Lord. This final plague is the destruction of the firstborn, “from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon,” and “even unto the firstborn of the maid-servant that is behind the mill.”

This doesn't mean that the firstborn child of anyone must die. Not at all. It means that the materialistic beliefs which present themselves first and foremost in consciousness must be destroyed in everyone, and in their place must be established the firstborn of Spirit. It means that instead of having primarily in consciousness beliefs which indicate that we rely on matter, that matter is substance, is living, intelligent, and sentient, that we are material and live in material bodies, are subject to the whims of matter and other materialistic viewpoints, we must behold the things of Spirit, or Mind, and recognize the Truth which makes us free. We must, in fact, be spiritually minded, depend upon Spirit only, and live as of and in the Kingdom of God, Spirit.

This plague is here. Those who have attained this state of spiritual consciousness, to which all must ultimately advance, have already destroyed their firstborn of matter, and find it is a perfectly feasible and natural operation to “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,” and to recognize the spiritual facts of God, man and the universe, at all times endeavoring to behold something of the realities of the Kingdom of God.

In the last analysis, everyone must advance to the degree where he is able to turn constantly to the Kingdom of God, and find more and more of the riches and innumerable blessings which a great and beneficent Father has bestowed upon all with unstinted hand. The world at large, however, still submerged in its erroneous beliefs in matter with its concomitants as real and substantial, and still worshipping the golden calf, has yet to be visited by this plague whereby the firstborn of matter will be shown to be utterly unreal, a dream soon told, a world of myth, a mirage, or a world of nonsense (non-sense). Then the firstborn of matter will be destroyed, and at the same time will appear the truth of being, or the firstborn of Spirit, and this will be the guide, for “a little child shall lead them.”

The angel of the Lord shall come once more and destroy the firstborn of materiality. He will pass over those who have already slain their materialistic beliefs, leaving them in perfect safety, even as in the days of Pharaoh the angel of the Lord “passed over the houses” of the Israelites on whose side posts and lintels were to be seen the blood of the lamb. Today the blood of the Lamb, the mark of the Christ, or the light of Mind, will be plainly seen written upon the face of him who has given birth to the firstborn of Spirit, and the result will be perfect safety in all ways and conditions, even though the rest of the world may struggle in the toils of materialism until they, too, are finally loosed.

This spiritual idea is already conceived and is “The last appearing of Truth . . . a wholly spiritual idea of God and of man, without the fetters of the flesh, or corporeality.” (*Miscellaneous Writings*) Exactly what its nature may be other than that it is spiritual and is of Mind, “knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”