

Confidences in the Universal Triumph of the Gospel

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The Scriptures speak in the most confident tone of the ultimate and universal triumph of the gospel. The final victory may be long delayed, but it is assured beyond the possibility of a doubt. This is the one far-off divine event to which the whole creation moves. To Abraham the promise was given:

“In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 22:18).

In the apostolic comment on this passage it is said that the “seed” spoken of was Christ (Galatians 3:16). To Moses God swore:

“As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.” (Numbers 14:21).

He who saw the end from the beginning, has promised that the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9), and His promise can not be broken.

The prophets spoke of the sufferings of Christ, and of the glory that should follow (I Peter 1:11). David said:

“His name shall endure forever: His name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in Him: all nations shall call Him blessed” (Psalms 72:17).

His dominion should extend from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth (Psalm 72:8).

“Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever” (Isaiah 9:7).

According to this prophet, He should see the travail of His soul and be satisfied. Daniel said:

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away and His kingdom, that which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14).

In Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, the little stone cut out of the mountain without hands smote the great image so that it became like chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. Malachi said:

“For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto My name, and a pure offering: for My name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 1:11).

Then men who spake as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance spoke of Christ as the Desire of all nations (Haggai 2:7). The benefits to accrue from His advent were not to be confined to one people. All kindreds and tribes and tongues are to be blessed in Him (Acts 3:25).

In the New Testament we find the same confidence expressed everywhere. The angel said to the shepherds:

“Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10).

Simeon speaks of Him as a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel (Luke 2:32). John the Baptist said:

“Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:5-6).

In His own teaching our Lord said:

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also must I bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one flock and one Shepherd” (John 10:16).

President Garfield, when dying, asked his friends if they thought that he would have a place

in human history. Our Lord had no fears on that score. Speaking of His death, He said that if He was lifted up from the earth, He would draw all men to Himself (John 12:32).

When His disciples were cast down He bade them be of good cheer, for He had overcome the world (John 16:33).

His attitude is that of expectancy. He must reign until every enemy is put under His feet. He must be recognized as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is seated on the right hand of God, waiting in confidence to see all nations bow to His authority.

This should be our mental attitude today. We have every reason for encouragement. The whole world is now open to the gospel. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

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