



BIBLE STORIES
ABOUT
LIONS.

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STRONGER THAN THE LION.

THE SHEPHERD, THE LION, AND THE LAMB.

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STRONGER THAN THE LION.

WE will look together at some of the things which the bible tells us about the “strongest among beasts, and that turneth not away for any.” In the days of the “Old Testament” the lion was both familiar and terrible to the people of Palestine, for there used to be numbers of them in the “Holy Land,” though now none are to be found there.

The strength of the lion is very great: he will gallop across the country with an ox in his mouth, and jump over a ditch

without letting his burden drag upon the ground, while with one tap of his mighty paw he will crush a dog to death, or kill a man. The muscles of his limbs are like steel bands, so hard and strong are they. His name in the bible is the *Strong One* ; and who among the beasts which God has made is like unto him ?

The “Strong One” is a type or figure in the bible, which sets before us sometimes Christ, sometimes Satan, or mighty earthly powers ; so that, whether we listen to the stories of Samson, David, Daniel, or the prophecies of Isaiah which bring in the lion, we shall have much to interest and to learn. Nor shall we forget the New Testament references to him, either as figuring the Lord or the Adversary.

When you remember that the lion is hardly discernible as he moves about in the night, and add to this the thought of his vast strength, I feel sure you would say, “Let me be in a secure place when ‘he goeth about seeking [whom he may devour.]’”

The oldest riddle upon record is respecting a lion ! Do you remember what it is ? “Out of the Eater came forth meat, and out of the Strong came forth sweetness.” He who gave this riddle promised a fine prize to those who should find it out ; and they only discovered it by threatening to burn his friend and her parents, unless she told them what it meant. It is about this riddle that we will now speak.

God, who made the lions, once made a

man stronger than the “Strong One”—his name was Samson ; and one day as Samson went to the vineyard, and was at a little distance from the high road, “a young lion roared against him.” Samson had no weapon in his hand, but “the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent the lion as he would have rent a kid.” He did not boast of what he had done, nor indeed mention it, but he let the lion lie where he had killed it.

After Samson had slain his foe, the numerous birds of the country which feed upon flesh, swooped down to the carcase ; carrion birds by day and hyenas by night did not, as we may be sure, allow many hours to pass before every large piece of flesh was stripped from the lion’s bones ;

the countless insects, too, which, with their tiny jaws, pick off what the large animals leave, would be busy; so that as the hot sun of Palestine poured down its rays upon the lion's skin and bones, they would become so thoroughly clean and dry, that even the sweetness-loving bee would not shun the strange shelter for a home! And so it was. A swarm of wandering bees in search of a nest flew by; they saw the shady hollow in the carcase of the dead king of beasts, and there they made their dwelling. After a few days, these eager, earnest workers had filled their waxen cells with honey, little aware that some thousands of years after we should be wondering why God had written their doings in His sacred word.

Not long after slaying the lion, Samson came with his father and mother near the place of his victory, so he left the highway to look at the carcase, and behold, the nest of bees ! He took of the honey and ate it, and filling his hands with the spoil, shared it with his parents. Within the Eater was meat. Out of the strongest of beasts came forth the sweetest thing there is. But Samson kept his secret.

Now this ancient riddle, and the way Samson overcame the Strong One, is written for our instruction and our good. There is a Strong One, who prowls about unseen, both night and day ; he is feared upon every side ; his voice is more terrible than the lion's roar, and with one stroke the mightiest of men fall before him. His

name is Death. “What is stronger than a lion ?” asked the men as they answered Samson’s riddle. He might have replied, The man who slew him with his bare hands. What is stronger than death ? we ask, and bow our heads with reverence as we reply, “Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life,” who

“ Bowed to the grave, destroyed it so,
And Death by dying slew.”

And, said they, “What is sweeter than honey ?” Do you know, dear young reader ? Think a moment. You reply, The love of Christ. Yes, indeed, and it is in His victory over death for us that we discover the sweetness of His love. Sweet indeed His love to little children as He took them up in His arms and blessed them. Sweet His

love as He brought back to life again the little girl of twelve years old, the Ruler's only daughter; and all His wonderful ways of kindness are as honey to the souls of His people; but it is in His victory over death that the sinner learns the love of Jesus.

Death was ready to devour the poor sinner. The Strong One rose up against us, but Jesus overcame for us. He overcame by dying and by rising again. Death is now to the christian a dead thing; its power is gone; its strength is weakness; for the sweetness of Christ's love to sinners is found there. Once upon a time, through fear of death, God's people were all their lifetime subject to bondage; but since Jesus has shewn Himself to them as the

Resurrection and the Life, they know Him as Stronger than Death and the Grave. God's people can now, by faith, say of the Strong One, "Death is ours!" for they live in Christ, who is in glory above.

Jesus has conquered. He has overcome for us. You have not to think of Him as a dying Saviour, but as the Saviour who has died, and who lives to die no more. Thus to belong to Christ is to belong to the mighty Victor, and to be eternally secure. He is in heaven, in glory, and in Him all His people have life and liberty.

Think well over this riddle and its answer, dear young reader. None but those who love the Lord can answer it from their hearts. May you be amongst that happy company! May you know

Him, who is coming to take His people home to be with Himself! Believe in Jesus, and you shall be safe for time and for eternity, and you shall find delight for your young hearts in Him.

“What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?”





THE SHEPHERD, THE LION, AND THE LAMB.

HAVE you heard a lion roar ? The other day I was listening to one of these kings of beasts. He planted his great forefeet upon the floor of his cage, stretched out his neck, and, having filled his chest with air, sounded out a loud, high cry ; which, as he slowly drew his lips together, grew gradually deeper and deeper, louder and louder. Several times did he roar thus, till my chest trembled and ached with the majestic sound. His last two utterances were, I think, more full-toned

and deeper than the rest. Then he made a sort of moaning, sighing sound, and so his cries died away.

As his voice shook my chest, I thought of this text of Scripture, “Your adversary, the Devil, as a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour.”

But the lion’s voice in his own hunting-ground is quite another thing. There, as he utters his deep sighs or thunders out his terrible music, men and animals quail. They hear but see him not; for he prowls near them, almost invisible, ready to carry off his prey to his den.

Long, long ago, in Palestine, a young shepherd was keeping his father’s flock. To be a shepherd there, was to be in constant danger and risk of death, for lions

and beasts of prey were always watching for the helpless sheep. The sheepfold of those lands was not, as we see in the southern and midland counties of England, an enclosure of wooden hurdles ; nor was it such as we meet with on the northern moors or in Scotland, where, placed in a hollow on the hill-side, the fold is built of stones and earth to afford shelter from the snow-storm ; but the eastern sheepfold was, and is, a strongly walled place, the thick and high sides of which thieves could not break through nor lions leap over.

We may imagine that night after night a lion had lurked about the fold where the young shepherd, David, the son of Jesse, tended the flock ; and close had the foe, no doubt, often come to the high stone walls,

and lain outside them as still as a stone, so that in the dim hours of the night even the practised eye of the shepherd might mistake the couching monster for a rock or mound of earth ! When the lion approached the fold the flock trembled, and the good shepherd David watched.

God says in His word, “ We all like sheep have gone astray ;” and a lamb, some way or other, escaped from David’s care and wandered away. Once more the lion came ! His keen eye saw the helpless wanderer, and in a moment the lamb was in his giant mouth ! Did the young shepherd hear the lamb bleat ? Did he see the foe draw near ? How it was we are not told ; but away he went to the rescue.

Ah ! he was loving, brave, and strong.

He knew that in attempting to save the lamb he might lose his own life ; but the flock was dear to his heart ; his father's sheep, his choicest care, and he pursued. Had he a sling with him ? Did he cast a stone at the lion's head, as he pierced Goliath's temples ? We know not. However, he tells us that he went out after the lion, " and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth ! " Then, as the fierce beast, robbed of his prey, turned against him, David smote and slew him.

A moment before the lamb had been in the lion's jaws ; but, by the shepherd's love and strength, the terrified, helpless thing was " delivered out of his mouth."

In our picture we have drawn the shepherd having thrown aside his long flowing

robe the more readily to follow the enemy, and as wearing only his under and closely fitting garment. Upon his shoulder he supports the lamb, or kid, as the margin of the bible reads ; at his feet lies the lion, dead. Can you, as you look well at the picture, read the lesson of this bible story ? If one were to be drawn of Jesus the Good Shepherd, Satan the Roaring Lion, and you, dear little reader, would you be placed upon the Good Shepherd's shoulder ? Safe, safe for ever, there ? Delivered from the lion's mouth ? Would the picture be true of you ?

You are either in the lion's mouth, or upon the shepherd's shoulder. Either lost, or saved. Either being dragged away to destruction, or being carried home

to glory. Which is it? You cannot save yourself any more than the lost lamb could escape out of the lion's mouth. Are you so bold that you will dare to go on unsaved? "The lion hath roared, who will not fear?" Alas! many foolish and proud children know not their danger.

For all who love the Lord Jesus, the strength of Satan is no more. Jesus has through His death upon the cross taken away the power which the Enemy had over His sheep and lambs. Satan is as powerless to rob you from the hand of Jesus as the dead lion at David's feet was to devour the saved lamb. The lamb's fears were gone when it was upon the shepherd's shoulder; so are the fears of poor trembling sinners chased away, when they believe the love of

Jesus in seeking and His power in saving them. The victory is the shepherd's. The safety yours, who believe. Has not God said of Him, "He shall gather the lambs with His arms, and carry them in His bosom." Oh! place of rest and peace—the strong arm and loving bosom of Jesus!

Dear boys and girls, do not turn aside from the Good Shepherd, who gave "His life for the sheep," who died to deliver, who bled to save. Satan has no power to destroy the sheep and lambs of Jesus' flock. None shall pluck them out of His hand. No! like the lion dead at the feet of the shepherd, so lies Satan without strength at the once wounded feet of Jesus.

Remember, we are speaking of and to

stray lambs ; for you all have gone astray, you all have sinned and wandered from God. Oh ! it is well to feel your danger and your lost state. I once read of a great traveller who was in a lion's mouth, and the lion shook him as a cat shakes a mouse, but did not crunch his bones. It was a narrow escape ; but the strange thing the traveller told us was, that while he was in the lion's mouth he felt no pain ! There seemed to be some power in the shake the lion gave him, which prevented the man from calling out or feeling hurt ! Ah ! how like this is to poor sinners in The Lion's mouth ! They do not feel how dreadful it is to be there. They do not seem terrified. But there will be an end of this sleepy state some day.

When the traveller was saved he told us what a deliverance he had had, and we tell you of many boys and girls who have been delivered, and as they look back at their former danger they tremble, while they weep for joy because Jesus has them safe upon His shoulder. And they tell us, as we tell you, that unless Jesus had gone after them and saved them they would never, never have been saved at all. Oh ! believe the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep, and who keeps safe for ever all who trust in Him.

Look once more at the picture, and again ask yourself, “ Am I safe, like the lamb upon the Shepherd’s shoulder ? ”



FAITH STOPPED THE MOUTHS OF LIONS.

 F all the wonderful stories in the bible about lions, there is none more remarkable than that of Daniel in the lions' den. Daniel is an example to us of decision for God and of faith in God. And speaking practically, these two generally go together. Daniel prized God's glory more than his life, and God not only preserved His servant's life, but glorified Himself in Daniel's faith.

When Daniel was a youth he nobly served Jehovah. You remember that,

because of their wickedness, God allowed the children of Israel to be carried into captivity, and that King Nebuchadnezzar made the greater number of them slaves in Babylon. Thus the Israelites lost not only their liberty, but, far worse, their beautiful Temple, where the Lord was worshipped. Sorrowful as it was to be slaves, it was more sad to be amongst the heathen. But God is ever faithful to those who call upon Him; and even in Babylon, those who feared Him found Him always near.

Such of the captives as really loved the Lord “wept when they remembered Zion.” They hung their harps upon the long-leaved and sweet-scented willows which grew beside the waters of Babylon, and

there they sat down in their grief. "Sing us one of the songs of Zion," would their captors say. "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" was the reply of the captives. For the sweet songs of Zion recounted the love of God for His people; His saving them from the bondage of Egypt; and His care over them in the land which He had given them.

Daniel was one of these captives. No doubt he was the son of some prince of Israel, for he was placed with companions of noble birth in the palace of the great king.

It was the custom of the conquerors of those days to slay some of the kings and people they took prisoners—and most cruel were the deaths to which their hap-

less victims were put—but they also chose a few to be their personal attendants, and treated them with honour. Daniel and three captive Jews were selected, along with various youths from other countries, for this favoured service. They were strong in body and able in mind, and were taught the tongue of their captors and the ways of Nebuchadnezzar's Court. Now, the king was an idolator, and the food placed upon his table had been blessed in the name of his gods; hence, when Daniel was brought into the circle of these chosen young men, a grave difficulty presented itself to him. How could he eat the food offered to idols? He feared Jehovah; and God, who looks into the heart, tells us Daniel's decision: “ Daniel

purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." Let our young reader well consider this. A less noble spirit might have said, "Oh! what harm is there in eating the king's meat?" But in such a spirit God has no pleasure. And had Daniel in his youth stumbled over this act of obedience to God (small as it may seem) and taken the frequented path, "No harm in it," we may be sure that he would never have been the favoured prophet used by God to communicate His mind to men in all ages. God honours those who honour Him.

Melzar, who was set over Daniel and his companions, trembled at their decision.

Poor man! he feared not only for their lives, but for his own head; for Nebuchadnezzar, the great king, made nothing of killing every one who did not obey him. Then Daniel besought Melzar to allow him and his companions to prove their faith in Jehovah; they begged to have, instead of the king's dainty meat and drink, pulse and water for ten days. What was the result? "At the end of the ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat." Faith gained the victory.

Dear young christian friends, prove God in the path of dependence upon Him. You will have your difficulties. But, if you are faithful to God, God will be so

also to you. See how He rewarded these faithful Hebrew youths: "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams," and at the end of the time allotted to their education, of all the youths none were like them, for they excelled by ten times, in wisdom and understanding, all the magicians and astrologers that were in all Nebuchadnezzar's realm.

Daniel outlived Nebuchadnezzar, whom, for his pride, God made to eat grass as an ox. Later on he explained to Belshazzar the mysterious writing upon his palace wall, foretelling the doom of that impious king. After the death of these monarchs, Darius reigned in Babylon, and his thought

was to set Daniel over his whole realm ; thus we find the once-captive youth the greatest man under the mightiest king of the whole world of that day.

It is too often the case that some slight worldly advancement spoils the devotion of the heart to God ; and thus we frequently see boys and girls who, like Daniel, begin life by serving God, become, as they grow older, careless and worldly-minded. How different was Daniel. His enemies could find no occasion against him save one ! What was this ? Oh ! may it be yours when you grow older. These men said, “ We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel except we find it in him concerning the law of his God.”

In the midst of his greatness in Babylon,

Daniel remembered his own native land, the ruined Temple, and the scattered people of God ; and longing for God's glory in His people, three times a day he knelt down and prayed with his face towards poor desolate, down-trodden Jerusalem. This it was by which the envious princes thought to ruin Daniel, so they induced Darius to sign a decree, by which it became law that for one month no man should pray to God or man for anything, only to the king himself ; and that if anyone broke the law, he should be cast into the den of lions, that being the usual death of offenders in Babylon. Monuments illustrating this cruel practice have not long since been dug out of the ruins of the city. Daniel, regardless of this decree,

prayed to God and praised Him as afore-time.

Then his enemies told the king, and demanded Daniel's punishment. Darius was deeply grieved, and sought his utmost to change the foolish and wicked law, but in vain; for the influence of princes was too powerful for him.

The day passed by, and in the evening Daniel was brought out of his house to suffer the horrible death. But the king knew enough of his faithful servant to have some hope in Daniel's God. "Thy God," said he, "whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee."

As they took Daniel to the den he was firm and calm, for he knew the Jehovah in whom he trusted, and his faith did not

waver. So they cast him into the pit where the lions were kept, and a stone was laid upon its mouth, which the king sealed with his own seal and with that of his lords, so that all might know that the laws of the Medes and Persians could not be set aside.

All that night Daniel was in the pit amongst the lions, and all that night Darius was in his palace fasting and lamenting. Daniel was calm and peaceful, for he believed God ; and God sent His angel to be with Daniel in the lions' den, and to shut their mouths. We never need fear if we obey God ; for He always takes care of those who put their trust in Him, and God has written this story to encourage us in Himself.

Very early the next morning the king hastened to the lions' den, and with a sorrowful voice he called, "O Daniel ! servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions ? "

Then Daniel answered the king that God had preserved him ; so they took him up out of the den, and " no manner of hurt was found upon Daniel, because he believed in his God." What a word for us to remember is this "because he believed in his God." The Lord tells us that the very hairs of our heads are all numbered. Are you, dear young reader, one of God's children ? And, if so, do you trust God daily ? Have you believed, not only for the salvation of your soul, but do

you every hour of the day believe in God for everything that you may have to do ? Trust God, and He will take care of you. Obey Him, and leave the consequences of your obedience to Him.

The wicked men who conspired to slay Daniel met themselves the very death which they had prepared for him: they were thrown into the den, and the fierce lions tore them to pieces immediately.

There is one more point we would have you notice in this wonderful story. Through Daniel's faith and decision, the whole of the realm heard of his God. King Darius issued a decree in all the languages of his kingdom, bidding each different country know that Daniel's God had

“delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Thus God blessed His servant, and made him a blessing to many; for it is as we truly serve God that we become of true service to others.





“A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM.”

WE have seen from our bible stories about lions the Lord Jesus overcoming Death and Satan. We have also seen in the story of Daniel how that by faith the believer is mightier than every foe. There are other lessons yet to be learned from the bible about the lion.

You have looked already at the picture and you have guessed that we shall now speak of a day not yet come. We will read the scripture, which tells of the time when the lion's nature shall be changed, and when instead of being the terror of man

he shall be kind and tame, and obey even children. “ And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of His roots : and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord ; and shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord : and He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears : but with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth : and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked. And righteous-

ness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins.

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den.

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”—Isaiah xi.

Before long, my dear young friends,

there shall not be one single cottage or tent where the Lord shall not be known.

Ever since the Lord Jesus left this world and went up to heaven there has been a great battle going on between the friends of evil and the servants of God. Sometimes the powers of darkness have sorely pressed God's people. Then again a mighty rousing has taken place, a great army has sprung up: telling all around them of the blessed Jesus, and winning thousands for Him. But never since the Lord left this world have all parts of the earth heard of Him at one time. And now, while in our own dear country and in some other lands the knowledge of the Lord is widely spread, yet by very far the greater part of this world lies in utter

ignorance of God, and in total spiritual darkness.

This darkness will continue and increase until, as we read in Thessalonians iv. 16, the Lord Jesus comes to the air; and when He so comes He will call to meet Him in the sky every boy and girl, man and woman, that has ever known Him, and He will take them all away to His Father's house and make them just like Himself.

And what then? Yes, what then? Schools will go on, and churches and chapels too, but the knowledge of the Lord will have left the earth, and God will send men strong delusion, and they will believe Satan's lie. This will be God's great punishment upon all who

heard the truth about Jesus, but who would not love and obey Him. In that dark and terrible night every one who wishes to love God will have to suffer—yes, probably to die a martyr's death. May none of you who have read, and thus (so far as your minds are concerned), know, about God and about the way to heaven, be left behind for this time of judgment.

But the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord. How will this be brought about? It is now December, and when you awake in the morning there is a little candle burning in your room, but at about half-past eight the sun rises, and his glorious light fills not only your little bedroom but all the houses and all the

fields and woods as far as you can see. So will it be by-and-bye in a spiritual way. Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, will arise over the dark world; He will come from heaven to the earth; there will be healing in His wings; ignorance of God will flee before Him, and sorrow and sadness depart. All wickedness and sin will be punished and put down. False teachers and blasphemers will be slain. "With the breath of His mouth He shall slay the wicked;" and all the followers of the wicked Deceiver shall perish, and the Lord Jesus shall reign upon the earth, and all who went up to the Father's house shall reign with Him.

Then the poor heathen at the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord, and be-

come worshippers of God and servants of Jesus. None shall be poor or unhappy then; none shall be ignorant of God, as now.

“ Peoples and realms of every tongue
 Dwell on His love with sweetest song ;
 And infant voices shall proclaim
 Their early blessings on His Name.

“ Then all the earth shall rise and bring
 Peculiar blessings to its King ;
 Angels respond with songs again,
 And earth repeat the loud Amen.”

The poor animals which have shared with man in many a famine and in many a hardship shall then come in for the blessing of the happy earth. There are groans rising up to God from the creatures He has made. Do we not know that He feeds the sparrows and hears the young

lions when they lack and suffer hunger? And He has willed that when Jesus the Lord makes all men happy by His reign, even the beasts of the field shall also get kindness and plenty. The savage wolf shall dwell with the timid lamb, the crafty leopard lie down with the playful kid, and the great lion, whose voice makes the cattle tremble, shall be gentle and good, so that they shall browse in his company, Moreover, God, who in the beginning made man to control the animals, shall in that day so bring all creatures under man's sway that even the little child shall lead the king of beasts as now he leads the docile dog. And the secret of all this lies in the fact that the fierce and savage natures of the beasts shall be changed,

even to their no longer preying upon each other, but to their eating the herbs of the field together.

As you get older you will hear persons speak of what fine things are to take place in the world by-and-bye, but ever remember that judgment is coming first. May you think of the good and glorious, and not far distant time when the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who loves us and died for us, and who keeps all that love Him as He kept good Daniel in the lions' den, shall reign over the whole earth, and make all men and creatures happy, when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH.

PERHAPS you have seen the standard of Britain waving in the sky, and have noticed upon it the figure of the lion; but if not, look at the back of a florin and you shall see the lions there. Different nations have different symbols of strength to express their own greatness, thus the French and other countries have the eagle, which is the king amongst the birds. God gave to the tribe of Judah the king of the beasts as a symbol of strength (see Genesis xlix., 8—12), and although now the Jewish

people have no king and are scattered over the earth, and cannot even call Judea their own country, yet in due season all the nations of the earth will bow to the greatness of God's ancient people, and Jesus, upon whose cross the mocking gentile wrote the inscription, "The King of the Jews," shall be enthroned upon Jehovah's holy hill of Zion.

Do you know where the Lion of the Tribe of Judah is spoken of? You will find the verse in the 5th chapter of the book of Revelation. And as He who bears the title of strength is said to be of the root of David, that is, one sprung from King David, yes, who bears up David, you know who the Mighty One is.

It is Jesus, who so far back as the time

of the Patriarch Jacob, God said should come and rule ; Jesus, who was worshipped by the wise men when born King of the Jews, and nailed to the cross because He said He was King of the Jews ; Jesus, whom God raised from the dead and took up to heaven, and seated upon the throne of the Majesty on high ; the Almighty Jesus, before whom every knee shall bow, and whom hell, earth, and heaven shall own Lord to the glory of God the Father.

God was showing to the apostle John scenes yet to take place, terrible judgments and deep distress that will fall upon the earth ; but the end of all these judgments will be mercy, for the Lord will bring peace to the earth and will

reign over it. As John wept because no one was worthy to open the book of the judgments, he saw a Lamb as it had been slain come and take it out of the hand of Him who sat upon the throne, and then unloose its seals. It may seem strange to you that the Lord should be called both the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and also a Lamb as it had been slain. But because He has been slain, His is the right to open the book, which shall begin the judgment of God upon all who will not have His love in the gift of His Son. How few really believe that the self-same Jesus, who was crucified, is now seated upon the throne of God ! that the Lamb once slain is the Mighty Lord, who will soon judge men for their hard speeches against Him !

When the Lord Jesus unlooses the judgments of God and punishes men for their sins, those who now refuse His love will be compelled to bow before His wrath.

How soon the Lord shall be known in His strength and judgment we cannot tell. God says that the time is near, but the exact hour He does not mention, and therefore no one knows it. To-day we learn His strength, in mercy rather than in judgment. We who believe find that Jesus saves His people from their sins — takes away their sins, and takes away from their hearts the love of sinning. He is a perfect Saviour; He died upon the cross to save us from the judgment of hell, and He will come to the air and take

away from the earth all who love Him, before the dark and terrible time of sorrow clouds this world. Whatever else you may not know, dear boys and girls, never rest until you are quite sure that you belong to the Lord Jesus. He casts out none who come to Him ; therefore, if you have not gone to Him for your soul's salvation, go to Him now. Believe in Him now, and you shall belong to Him for ever.

It will be a glorious day when the Lord comes. Thousands and thousands will accompany Him from the sky to the earth ; every one, young or old, who loved Him will be in His train then ; ten thousands of His angels will swell the triumph ; the armies of heaven will follow

Him ; and every eye shall see Him, and all the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. How proud men will be surprised ! Yes, Jesus the Lamb once slain shall be no longer despised. All will then find that all that which God says about His Son is true. Once more let me ask, Would you be glad to see the Lord ? Are your sins all washed away by His blood ?

Does it make you fear to think of the Lord's coming to judge the people of the earth ? It would not do so if you were quite sure that you were on His side. It would make you feel so safe, so confident, to believe that Christ upon the Throne of God is your Saviour, and that when He appears you also shall appear with Him

in glory. Little do people consider His power and majesty ; little do the great nations of this earth think that before the Lion of the Tribe of Judah all their armies shall fall. Let our parting words to you be : Do not rest until you are certain that you are on Christ's side. You remember His own words, "He that is not with Me is against Me." Come to Him now, He will receive you, and take every fear out of your heart ; He will wash away all your sins in His own blood, and then when He opens the book you shall join the great song, "Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof : for thou wast slain."

H. F. W.

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