

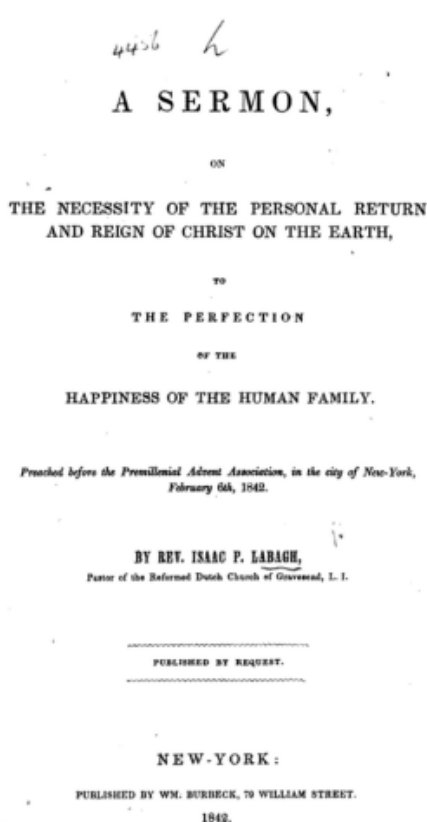
Bible Changes

Amos 8:11-12 & Daniel 7:25

Lion shall lie down with the Lamb Continuing Residue

S.C.1 | 05/23/2021

0 Comment



(9)

of any of these *natural evils* out of creation which we have mentioned, and which is promised in the scriptures to take place on the earth, cannot be accomplished by the present means, or under the present dispensation of God's grace, but await the coming of our Lord in a dispensation yet to be established.

Is it not evident, therefore, that imperfection belongs to the present dispensation of God's grace, and that under it the human family cannot attain to that state of exalted glory and perfect enjoyment which is declared in the scripture to belong to the millennial period, when the savage nature of the beasts of prey shall be destroyed, and the poisonous fangs of the serpent be rendered harmless; for the lion shall lie down with the lamb, and the child shall put his hand upon the cockatrice's den: when the inhabitant shall not say I am sick: when there shall be no more curse, either of barrenness or toil, contention or war, ignorance or idolatry, sorrow or sighing, sickness or death; in fine, nothing to hurt or destroy in all God's holy mountain. Is not such a state of things utterly unattainable by the greatest efficiency that can be given to the present means of grace.

Here a question arises, and a very important one it is, and one which we desire to give a candid examination; viz. Cannot all these results be attained without a change of the present dispensation? Cannot all mankind be enlightened and sanctified, as some are, by extensive and powerful outpourings of the Holy Spirit, and then Satan be cast out and all the physical evils we have enumerated be expelled from creation by a simple act of omnipotence from above, without the personal appearing and return of Christ to the earth? Has not God power to accomplish all these results in this way? and if so, Whence the necessity of Christ's personal return and reign on the earth to the perfection of the happiness of the human family, and to the accomplishment of all the glorious promises of *Paradisaical blessedness*? A question of this kind, originating in honest doubt, and prompted by pious feeling, we desire to treat with the greatest respect, and in reply to it would observe.

That God can do whatever he pleases. If it is his pleasure to bring all mankind at the feet of Jesus by the present means of grace, and then expel Satan and all physical evil out of creation by the simple word of his command from heaven, and thus introduce a millenium of perfect holiness and happiness, he can do it. Who can doubt this for a moment? But is this a question of the power of God? Is this great truth to be decided by merely ascertaining what God can do? Would those who ask this question be willing to decide other questions on this ground? Suppose we should ask them, Cannot God bring all men into subjection to himself by the secret operations of the Holy Spirit, without the assistance of so many societies, the agency of the press, and the money of the world? they will reply, Certainly he can, if he pleases: he has the power to subdue all things to

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(Paragraph 2)

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