"SHINE FORTH"

C. O. STADSKLEV

Developments in recent years have given new significance to some things Jesus said about "the last days." Some words that have been considered figurative are now becoming literally fulfilled.

Take your Bible and read carefully verses 36 through 43 in Matthew 13. The sower is the "Son of man." "The field is the world," not the church. "The harvest is the end of the world," the present world order. "The tares are the children of the wicked one. . . As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;" a nation in the field; not the church.

We are primarily interested in verse 43 where we read: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." If this New Order of the Ages is actually and literally the prophesied restoration of the kingdom God established in and by the Isaac-sons in Exodus 19, we should begin to see verse 49 being fulfilled, which we are.

"So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just." (Matthew 13:49) The tares are the wicked. Note, this severing takes place in the end of this age and not in the beginning of the next age. The tares will continue to identify and expose themselves by what they believe about Christ, and what they say and do. When communism makes its all out attack on Christendom, all will know who the tares are. There apparently will soon be a startling alignment of nations and peoples. Those who are enemies and haters of the Lord have more in common with communism than with Christianity.

In verse 43 in Matthew 13 Jesus said: "Then (at the same time) shall the righteous (Christians) shine forth as the sun" in the kingdom nation. "The sun" is used throughout the Scriptures to represent civil rulers. So this New Order of the Ages is the great Zion nation that was to arise in in the last days, we should now begin to see Christians "shine forth" in civil affairs. This we are beginning to see and hear. Shine forth means to perform in the kingdom nation.

Isaiah prophesied concerning this shining forth in chapters 60, 61 and 62. We shall quote verses 1 through 3 in chapter 60:

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." (How anyone can read these scriptures and teach the futuristic theory is a mystery to me.)

Isaiah saw, in the future, a land and nation which he called to "arise" and "shine; for thy light is come." At the same time he saw that "darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people" who did not have the light of God's Word. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105) "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." (Psalm 119:130)

"Thy light is come" are challenging words. What is "thy light"? The words thy light seem to imply that there is light (truth) in God's Word concerning one particular people, and so there is. It is the gospel of the kingdom that identifies this New Order of the Ages as the beginning of the restoration of the kingdom to the Isaac-sons, the Anglo-Saxons. See Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2 and Romans 11:12. The prophets called this great end time nation, "Zion."

In chapter 4 and verse 1, Micah, a prophet, gave a concise description of this Zion nation. "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." Why do and how can Christians say we are in the last days and insist that the tiny Edomite Jewish nation in Palestine is the great end time Zion nation? It must be because they do not read the writings of the prophets in the Old Scripture.

Referring to the great end time "restitution," Peter was inspired to say, "Which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:21) In verse 24 Peter continues: "Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days."

Regardless of how sincere a Christian may be, it is impossible to scripturally expound end time prophecy and totally ignore what all the holy prophets have spoken about the restitution since the world began. There is practically no preaching or teaching on the restitution all the holy prophets said would come to pass in the last days. This is largely due to the error that the Old Scripture is replaced by the New Scriptures.

There is a very timely exhortation in II Peter 3:1 through 4:

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

There is twenty times as much prophecy on the restitution in the present end time, in the Old Scripture, as there is on Christ's first coming. This is why the disciples expected the restitution and redemption of the kingdom to come to pass at Christ's first coming. See Luke 19:11, 24:21 and Acts 1:6.

The Lord's end time prophecy in Luke 21:25 through 33 is one of the most revealing, timely and reassuring prophecy on our time in the Bible. But for the most part only verses 25 and 26 are quoted and preached on. For some strange reason verses 27 through 33 are ignored and neglected. In verse 28 Jesus said, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." What "things"? the things in verses 25 and 26. "Then" is a time word referring to verses 25 and 26. So when verses 25 and 26 are beginning "then" verses 27 through 33 will also come to pass, which is the coming forth of the manifestation and revelation of the kingdom age.

At first thought, "Then look up" would appear to mean: cheer up and be optimistic, but in view of the fact that God's hand is in everything (He notes the sparrow's fall, and numbers the "hairs of your head"), "look up" raises some questions. In verse 25 Jesus said, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars."

In view of other scriptures, "look up" means more than to be optimistic; it means and reminds us that our help, as Israel people, is from heaven. It always has been, and always will be. Moses set this forth in Deuteronomy 33:26 through 29. Be sure to read these four verses. They are the last words of Moses. "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face." (Deuteronomy 34:10)

There are scores of examples in both sacred and secular history on how help from heaven has saved and delivered the Isaac-sons, the Anglo-Saxons and kindred people, throughout their history. Be not unduly disturbed by those who insist our nation should unilaterally disarm. They cannot disarm the Redeemer and Shepherd of Israel. Neither can they change one iota of God's Word. They may place themselves in a difficult position and affiliation when the antichrists make their all out effort to destroy America.

Recent newscasts have also added significance to Christ's words: "Then look up." We are told that scientists with fantastic instruments are scanning and monitoring the heavens. (Congress has allotted ten million dollars to this project.) Is this in the providence of God or is it a chance effort? The newscast announcer flippantly said: "If there is anyone up there, we will be able to hear them after five years." In any case, the earth will soon both see and hear things from heaven that will completely and forever change everybody and everything on earth, including the dead.

Isaiah prophesied: "The Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard." (Isaiah 30:30 and 31) Christ said: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice." (John 5:28)

No, the Lord does not need man's devices to cause His glorious voice to be heard from heaven. But the recent startling developments raise some legitimate questions. Why has God, now the first time in history, permitted mortals to travel in outer space, and scan and monitor the heavens? Who can ever begin to imagine the confusion and fear that will sweep over the earth, especially Christendom, when the Lord speaks with an audible voice from heaven? We are the same people who in Exodus 19 heard God speak, and they thought they would all die. See Exodus 19 and Deuteronomy 5:25.

The Lord speaking in an audible voice from heaven would cause millions in this nation to go wild with fear. They literally will be scared out of their wits, or maybe into their wits (the power to think). When Christ came forth from the grave, the Roman guards "became as dead men."

What will be the effects on humans when Christ descends from heaven "with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God"? Large money will buy no preachers then. When Christ in verse 28 said: "Then look up," He evidently desired to alert and prepare the people of Christendom in regard to the time of His return to earth. In the providence of God, the present generation can now look up and see and hear more in the heavens than any past generation.

What do the signs in the heavens, distress of nations, and men's hearts failing them for fear (nuclear war) portend and signify? "Your redemption draweth nigh." Here, we turn into a stone wall. This is due to a refusal to accept the Bible meaning and provision of redemption. Some also imply that redemption means the rapture of the church, which is clearly unscriptural. This teaching wrests the scripture and destroys the Lord's prophecy and promise in Luke 21:25–33.

Throughout all Scripture the word redemption means and provides that God's kingdom and