

1226.

The Valley of Decision.

Joel iii. 14.

Hymns <sup>7</sup> 18 "Beyond, beyond that boundless sea".  
 144. 183 "The Lord will come + not be slow".  
 145. 180. "Quickly come, dread Judge of all".  
 Anthem 113

Scripture Joel i. 13-15. ii. 1. 2. 11-17. 30 31. iii. 9-14.

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Joel iii. 14.

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Date	Town	Place	Date	Town	Place	Page
Aug 23. 1914	London	Westminster Chapel				
Sep 1.	"	Union Chapel.				
" 16	"	Bunstable				

The Valley of Decision  
 41. iii leaf  
 Joel  
 "The Day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."  
 "The Day of the Lord is always present."  
 "The Day of the Lord is always coming."  
 "The Day of the Lord is a day of righteousness and judgment."  
 "Government by inflexible standards."  
 "Government by invincible power."  
 "Government by immeasurable grace."  
 "Our text is taken from the last section; that in which the prophet was looking on, to the final movements of the Divine judgment."  
 "The first was the plague of locusts."  
 "The second was the threatened invasion."  
 "Then from a higher height he looked."  
 "The Pentecostal Effusion."  
 "Beyond."  
 "The final catastrophe, and reconstruction."

I. 13-15. II. 1. 2. 11-17. 30. 31. III. 9-14.  
 Joel II. 14.  
 "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!"  
 For the Day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."  
**Introduction.**  
 The Day of the Lord is the keynote of the prophecy.  
 The Message of the Prophet.  
 The Immediate.  
 The Imminent.  
 The Ultimate.  
 The Message of the Prophet.  
 The Day, is always present.  
 The Day, is always coming.  
 The Day, is a day of righteousness and judgment.  
 Government by inflexible standards.  
 Government by invincible power.  
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 Our text is taken from the last section; that in which the prophet was looking on, to the final movements of the Divine judgment.  
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 The second was the threatened invasion.  
 Then from a higher height he looked.  
 The Pentecostal Effusion.  
 Beyond.  
 The final catastrophe, and reconstruction.

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In the paragraph of which our Text is the conclusion there is a graphic description of the gathering of Nations to war. While we shall have to return to it presently for more careful Examination, let us grasp its first meaning in broad outline.

The Call to War: 9-11.

The Purpose of the Gathering: 12-13

Then, The final and poetic description and declaration → → → ~~Text~~ ← ←

The applicability of the passage and text to our Situation is almost startling. Moreover, as we have seen, the whole genius of this prophetic message is that of its insistence upon the persistence of the Day of God. Resolutely therefore I am going to employ the text for purposes of interpretation of the things of the hour.

- Whatever local circumstances call it forth; -
- Whatever Concomitant processes it foretells; -
- It has an immediate Value.

Let us then Consider

- A. The Prophet's View of the Valley of Decision.
- B. The Decisions of the Valley of 1914.

7. The Prophet's View of the Valley of Decision.

I. The Valley of Assembled Nations

Swiftly armed - - - - - 10  
Under Divine Compulsion 11 B.

II. The Valley where Jehovah sits to judge.

Compelling a necessary Sequence.  
The harvest is ripe - Wickedness great.

III. The Valley of Slaughter & Suffering

Put in the Sickle!  
Reap ye!

IV. The Valley of Decision.

\* The place of Sharp Cutting off - De-Cision.  
The place of resolute and powerful  
judgement.

\* Chârûts past participle of Chârâts

Incised - - - { A Trench  
Gold - as mines = Excised.  
Determination.

## B. The Decisions of the Valley of 1914.

### I. The Valley.

#### i. The Patent Similarity.

##### a. The Gathering of Nations to War.

The principles of Verse 10.

##### b. The Place of Slaughter & Suffering.

The Battles and The Homes.

#### ii. The Certain I Surely.

##### a. Jehovah Sit to Judge!

##### b. A Valley of De-cisions!

(4)

GERMANY AND UNIVERSAL  
"TIMES" HEGEMONY. Aug. 17, 1914.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—About seven years ago, I was a fellow-guest at Trinity Lodge, Cambridge, with a distinguished soldier, who showed me, before we parted, a book to which his own attention had, not long before, been called by King Edward. It was "Germany's Swelled Head," by the late Dr. Emil Reich. Its purpose was to set out before English readers what the author affirmed to be the possessing belief of numberless Germans—namely, that Germany is the predestined head and mistress of the human race, a belief at once so settled and so fervent as to form a mighty sustaining force behind political and military ambitions. In particular, Dr. Reich brought evidence—ample, if trustworthy—to show that this belief had long been fostered and developed by every effort of literary suggestion and instruction, not least in monographs and University lectures, as well as in more popular ways. Learned patriots (and learning, apart from wisdom, is capable of any vagary) had been teaching the nation that few, if any, great persons of history can be named into whose making something Teutonic had not entered. St. Paul was expressly mentioned; and one wonders whether, given enough erudition, one might not find that Cilicia has to do with Schlesien, or at least with Silesia. The picture was so strongly coloured that I could not help wondering whether it was not largely imaginative. But recent disclosures of actual German aspirations, and of the astonishing degree in which the German Press is worked to manipulate facts and to organize opinion, leave me feeling that Emil Reich did no more than tell the strange truth.

There is something quite as pathetic as absurd in the sight of a people hallucinated, not least a people whose character has shown such great and heroic elements, and whose gifts for both thought and action are so magnificent. The voice of elementary righteousness calls us to-day, awful as the call is, to withstand with all our might the militarist German Empire. But we wish the German people, with whom we never crossed swords before, all that is noblest and best for their future. That wish can only be realized in an escape out of a fatal *Wahnsinn* in favour of the splendid while sober certainties of a great part, sincerely played, in the European brotherhood.

I am faithfully yours,  
HANDLEY DUNELM.

II The Decisions

i A preliminary word.

a This war is the outcome of a delusion, and a philosophy.

1. The Delusion.

The Bishop of Durham's Letter.

2. The Philosophy.

Schopenhauer & Nietzsche.

\* Professor → (~~Dr.~~ Huxley decides them as;

"The Immoralists".)

(Dr. Clifford says they are incarnate in Prussia.

Admitted → that is the dominant & compelling influence.)

General Bernhardi, and his kind have applied the teaching to war in aid of Somnolence.

ii The Moral Sense of the World is against

a John the philosophy

c. The Physical might of the World is moving to dissipate the illusion.

d. That is as far as we have gone ~  
(Accentuated by the Emperor's use of the Deity)

e. But we know more

1. Jehovah is judging.

2. Other matters are to be decided.

Concerning.

- The Sacredness of Humanity.
- The Sanctions of Authority.
- The Sources of Civilization.
- The Secrets of Peace.

(Now only to be rapidly surveyed)

Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great ones exercise authority over them.

But it is not so among you; but whosoever would become great among you, shall be your servant; and whosoever would be first among you, shall be servant of all.

For verily the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Some Decisions.

a. The Sacredness of Humanity.

1. Individual.

Men are not weapons, cattle, fuel!  
They must not be sacrificed, by their fellows  
in the interest of pride and power.  
The thing seems too obvious to be said!  
Now it is being decided!

2. Racial.

There are no inferior races.

He has made of One ~ ~ ~

He loves the Best ~ ~ ~

("From all Russian literature there  
comes an immense & desolating  
job of humility & self-reproach"  
(Kestel))

b. The Sanctions of Authority.

1. Who ordered this?

The question is not a surface one

It goes to the root of things.

Let us leave it unanswered!

2. By what right?

The word "right" is sorted in such connection!

c. The Appeal to God as decisive.

a. Philippians. { Not content with Sovereignty

} He is crowned as Saviour

b. Matthew. { All Authority is given

} The Cross.

c. Mark. X. 42-45.

c. The Sources of Civilization.

1. Definition of Terms.

a. Civilization

"Civilized Condition. A developed or advanced state of human society."

Civilize = "to bring out of a state of barbarism to instruct in the art of life, and thus elevate in the scale of humanity; to enlighten, refine, polish."

β. Barbarism

A state of being

Rude. Rough. Wild. Savage.

2. The Mis-use of the word.

Who are the Barbarians?.

3. What is Civilization.

The Realization of human Society.

Under the Rule of God.

"Fear not little flock ~ ~ ~"

One Shepherd ~ ~ One flock.

One Father ~ ~ One family

One King ~ ~ One Kingdom.



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d. The Secrets of Peace.

1. Not Ambassadors.

They are not for peace.

They are for war.

Men do not gather grapes of thistles

2. Not Alliances based on Suspicion.

They foster antagonism

They are for war.

Barbed wire is not friendly!

3. The Angelic Anthem.

"Glory to God in the Highest; and on earth  
peace among men in whom He is  
well pleased" (Lk 11:14)

Psalm VIII. 4.

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him?  
And the Son of man, that thou visitest him?"

Introduction.

Last Sunday I spoke of the hour as one of  
Decision, and referred to some great subjects  
which the appalling experiences through  
which we are passing are forcing upon our  
attention.

The one business of the British Empire is to put  
all its strength into the work of proving that our  
loyalty to International Obligations of rightness  
is more than that of sentiment!

It is nevertheless of Supreme importance that  
we keep clearly before the true issues that are  
at stake, the Decisions which are to be made.

Here is the work of the Christian Church, and  
supremely, therefore of the Christian preacher.

I referred to four, intimating my intention of  
returning to them for fuller consideration.

The four are;

The Sacredness of Humanity.

The Sanctions of Authority.

The Sources of Civilization.

The Secrets of Peace.

This evening I take the first of these; and I  
propose to deal with the others, on Consecu-  
tive Sunday Evenings.

## The present human situation.

Let us first distinctly admit that it cannot be completely apprehended;  
Then let us try and get an impression of it.

### The Individual Aspect.

Figures ~ ~ ~ Most uncertain ~ ~

Say 20,000,000 men under arms.

Marching with one intention

Facts. ~ ~ ~

Every unit.

Personal. Lonely. Complete. Related.

Massed as bulwarks of something!

Destroy them to reach it!

### The Racial Aspect.

Figures.

Teuton. Latin. Slav.

Facts.

No racial contradiction

All Complementary.

But for some reason fearing.

Therefore fighting to destroy.

### Our purpose to seek light

These things impossible if the questions of the text be sincerely asked; and the Biblical answer believed.

War is the result of a degraded conception of humanity.

## The Questions of the Text.

There are two.

① What is Man?

Generic; and so microcosmically it is individual.

② What is -- the Son of Man?

Isue; and so racial.

### The Outlook.

The Cosmic Order: Grandeur Beauty  
A night scene.

### The Earth.

Man. The Signify which amazes.  
God mindful of -- and visiting.  
All Creation Subservient.

### The Question unanswered.

Save as the Signifies described suggest --

### Learning these Suggestions;

We turn to the Biblical Revelation in its

Entirety; Considering;

What that Revelation is;

and,

What the Revelation involves.

# A. The Biblical Answer to the Inquiry.

{ Note. The Threefold Message.

{ As to his nature.	Creation.
{ As to his manner of life.	Government.
{ As to his failure.	Redemption. }

## I. Creation - By God

i Individually.	Kinship.	} Rational Moral. Sovereign
	Image. likeness.	
ii Racially.	Communal - Inter-relationship.	} Father Mother Child
	The Family (Trinity). The Crucifixion (Death).	

## II. Government - By God.

i Personal.	Evidence.
	Direct. Immediate
ii Communal.	Divine Residence.
	Resource.
	Direction.
	(E. G. Israel. The Church).

## III. Redemption - By God.

i Individual.	Reconciliation.
	Regeneration.
ii Racial.	Restoration.
	{ Do Harmself.
	{ Do Each Other.

So far  
Idealism

## B. The Consequent Reductions.

### I Individually. The Rights of Man.

i. The Right of Access to God. { Personal  
Immediate

ii. The Right to Live { Simply  
Fully

iii. The Right to Serve. - Not to subvert  
The Divine Right to  
Throne or a Throne

### II Communally. The Responsibilities of Man.

i. Fellowship with God.

In His work for Man

ii. Fellowship with Man

In His work for God.

iii. Individual Restriction & Enlargement.

The losing of life for its finding.

The finding of life in its losing.

We wait beneath the furnace blast  
The pangs of transformation;  
Not painlessly doth God recast,  
And mould anew the nation  
Where wrongs aspire;  
Not spares the hand  
That from the land  
Uproots the ancient evil.

Then let the selfish lips be dumb,  
And hushed the breath of sighing,  
Before the joy of peace must come  
The pains of purifying.

God give us grace  
To keep in his place  
To bear his lot,  
And, murmuring not,  
Endure, and wait the labour.

## Conclusion.

### The Tragedy of Today.

The Destruction of Men.

The Antagonism of Races.

### The Hope of Today.

The Emergence of the Consciousness of the  
Sacredness of human life - individually.

The Emergence of the Conviction of the unity  
of the Race.

### The Responsibility of Today.

To live with God, that we may see work  
Him.

To live with Men, that we may feel work  
them.

To toil towards realization.