

church. Is it not reasonable to conclude that this proclamation of the great principles of God's Word sent to the nations fulfils the prophetic utterance of our Lord concerning the gathering of the nations before him for judgment? Upwards of forty-five million copies of this resolution were distributed throughout Christendom, particular pains being taken to see that it reached the ruling class. His words concerning the separating of one from another do not seem to relate to the separation of the nations, but rather to the separation of the two general classes composing the nations of Christendom, one symbolized by goats and the other by sheep.

TWO CLASSES

⁸¹Since the goat class is to suffer a punishment similar to that to be inflicted upon the devil, the presumption is that this class manifests the devil's spirit; and we may be aided in locating the class by observing the spirit or disposition thereof.

⁸²As it was in the days of Jeremiah, even so it is in the close of this age; and his prophecy applies in a broader sense to Christendom. The prophet describes "the shepherds" and "the principal of the flock," which we understand to mean the clergy class and the most important ones in the ecclesiastical systems who dominate and control the system contrary to the Word of God. (Jeremiah 25: 34-37) It is a well-known fact that many thus described in the nominal churches outwardly claim to be Christians, yet manifest none of the spirit of Christ, but on the contrary manifest the spirit of the evil one—a stubborn, self-willed, unscrupulous class of men who seek the destruction of all that oppose them.

⁸³There is in nominal Christendom another class of a docile temperament. They believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the great Redeemer of mankind. They strive to do right and want to do good. They do not claim to be consecrated to the Lord, but they have great respect and love for the Lord and his people. They manifest a sheep-like disposition. They are looking for the Lord's kingdom and the restoration blessings that will come to them. Doubtless there are many in the world that could not be properly put into either one of these two classes, but the parable deals with classes that pretend to be Christian. We believe there are millions in the nominal church who are holding on because of their respect for the Lord; and they regard the nominal church as in some sense being used of the Lord. Great numbers of these do not claim to be consecrated unto the Lord, and have no heavenly hopes or aspirations. Here we believe is to be found the class designated by our Lord as the sheep. (John 10: 16) Our conclusion therefore is that both the sheep and the goats of the parable *claim to be Christians*, forming Christendom, and both are claiming to do the works in the name of the Lord.—Matthew 7: 21-23.

PHYSICAL FACTS

⁸⁴Where a prophecy is uttered and later the physical facts fit the words of the prophecy, and are otherwise in harmony with God's revealed plan, we may conclude that we have the correct understanding of that prophecy. We first consider here the goat class. To these the Lord says: "I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink." These words are subject to both a *literal* and a *spiritual* interpretation. The positive command given to those who would assume to be leaders and teachers of God's people is: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." (1 Peter 5: 2, 3) The food for the Christian is the Word of God. The clergy as a class have repudiated the Word of God, and teach the people higher criticism, evolution, and many other false things. They ignore the ransom, the resurrection, the second coming of our Lord and the restoration blessings, all of which is sustaining food to God's people. The true-followers of Christ Jesus have been left by these false leaders as sheep without a shepherd, to roam amongst the ravenous beasts of the earth; and thus these shepherds are chargeable with the crime of destroying the faith of many. (Jeremiah 23: 1, 2; 50: 6; Ezekiel 34: 6) Their wrongful course has produced a famine in the land for the hearing of the Word of the Lord. (Amos 8: 11) When some of their flock were hungry for the truth and asked for it, they received it not. When they found it elsewhere, they were maligned, misrepresented, and persecuted and driven from amongst the ranks of the nominal flock. The Lord pronounced a denunciation upon these through the words of his prophets.—Ezekiel 34: 1-8; Jer. 23: 1, 2.

⁸⁵Many instances are on record where colporteurs going about in the Lord's service have called upon ministers, actually hungering and thirsting for food and water; and instead of being invited in and treated kindly because they were Christians, they were driven away with words of denunciation, all because they dared to represent the King of kings and present his message of reconciliation to the world.

⁸⁶"I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not." Many seeking after truth and righteousness have called upon clergymen to instruct them and have been turned away empty. The Psalmist describes those who have thus wandered about in a solitary way, saying, "They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city [organized church] to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the Lord."—Psalm 107: 4-6.

⁸⁷Literally this scripture has been fulfilled in this: Many colporteurs as strangers have called at the doors of clergymen, and announced that they were calling on Christians to talk to them about God's plan, and have