

SEED & BREAD

FOR THE SOWER ISA.55:10 FOR THE EATER
BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Bible Teacher

THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Listen to me, all who are now living in fear of a nuclear holocaust that will destroy the world! Hear me, all who are now troubled by predictions that the world will soon end! Pay attention, all who are depressed by the claims that the human race will soon perish in a battle called Armageddon! I have good news for you.

Succinctly stated it is this. The world has a Savior. This Savior is the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. But before giving the details, I must establish a certain fact upon which all statements concerning this will be based.

Of all the principles which I hold to be God's truth, there is none more important than **the fact that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God.** This truth became a principle of faith with me sixty four years ago, and it has dominated my life since that time. Through these years I have also believed that this faith was a gift of God, so I have ever sought to follow this principle out to all its conclusions and accept all the consequences that arise from pursuing such a course.

Anyone who commits himself to the principle of full verbal inspiration will find that he has created a multitude of problems and questions. He must accept these as being the normal outcome of the position taken, then work on them one at a time, confident that overcoming anyone of them will bring to him a measure of truth which he can receive and proclaim.

All who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ should remind themselves regularly that God has spoken, and it is our duty to know what He has said. And to put this into immediate practice, let us note that God has spoken concerning a matter that is especially important at this time. The inspired Word declares: **"The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world"** (1 John 4:14).

This is one of the truly majestic declarations to be found in the Word of God, but it is one that has been ignored by commentators and stultified by translators. Many

theologians ignore it since it contradicts one of their pet doctrines, that is, that the world is to end - an idea that they have long supported by erroneous translations of Matt. 13:39, 40, 49 and 24:3.

Very few, if any, of the commentators or translators seem to be willing to recognize or make anything of the fact that the Greek word translated "sent" in 1 John 4:14 is **apostello**, a very strong word which means "to commission," and carries within it the ideas of commissioning with authority and power. This is set forth in detail in Issue No.**SB005** of SEED AND BREAD, under title of "What Does *Apostello* Mean?"

Thus, this divine declaration tells us that within the complex of the Deity the Father commissioned the Son to be the Savior (Preserver) of the world. This became His position, His work. It started when the world was created, and no one should stultify this declaration by interpreting it to mean that this took place at Bethlehem when the Word became flesh, that He was then sent from heaven to earth in order to become the Savior of the world. If so, then who or what was saving or preserving the world before the birth of Jesus Christ? He was from the very beginning of the world its Savior. He was in the best possible place to act as the world's Savior. This became His commission. He has done His work. He is still doing it. Yesterday, today, and forever He has been and will ever be the active living Savior of the **kosmos** we call the world.

The Greek word *kosmos* has basically to do with system, order, Of arrangement. It has many applications. However, in this study we are considering the system, order, or arrangement which God created that makes it possible for man to exist on this planet. Therefore, the earth is not the world. The world is a system upon and around the earth that makes it suitable as a dwelling place for the human race. The world that God created contains all that is essential for man's well-being and happiness.

As far as anyone knows, no such system or arrangement exists on any other planet or in any other place. Thus, when the first astronauts went to the moon, they had to take along the air they breathed, the water they drank, and the food they ate. These three important things are a part of this world, and they are mentioned here because they are the most familiar among the thousand-and-one things that constitute it. A moment's consideration should quickly convince anyone that we have in, upon, around, and about planet earth a world that is so utterly complex that it is only partially understood, even by the wisest of men. The Bible reveals that even the principle of love is an important factor in our world (1 John 4:7). Without it, mankind could not exist.

Our God created our world, and He cared so much about it that He gave His only Son to it as His greatest contribution (John 3: 16). Indeed, the Son of God was in the world from the moment of creation (John 1: 10), and He was in it as its Savior

(Preserver). Furthermore, as we have already seen, the Bible simply and forcibly declares that the Father commissioned the Son to be the world's Savior (Preserver). This being His commission, this is what He is, this is what He is doing.

The Son does not need to do anything to become the Savior of the world. He is this by divine commission. This fact is part of the record God has given of His Son. Anyone who does not believe this part of the record will make God to be a liar (1 John 5:10). This I believe, on this word I rest, and this I proclaim.

If someone does not believe this, if they say they do not understand how this can be, that in no way alters the fact. He has been the Savior of the world, and that is why it is here today. He will be the Savior of the world tomorrow. This world will never end or be destroyed. It has an ever-living Savior. Will you give Him this recognition (glory)?

At the present time man has advanced so far in his scientific achievements that most people are now thinking that the future of the world is in the hands of men. They hold that whatever men do will either save or destroy the world; therefore, it is up to us to take the proper steps so that the world might be preserved. Not so! The future of the world is in the hands of the Son of God. He being the Savior of the world, it will be preserved.

Those who would perform any act that would threaten the world with destruction, be they individuals or powerful nations, will find themselves in direct conflict with the One who is preserving it. When, and if, this ever comes to pass, we know what the outcome will be. He will destroy those that would destroy the world, even as He will "**destroy them that destroy the earth**" in another time and situation (Rev. 11:18).

Any serious thinker who studies the facts is forced to admit that man's advances in the production of destructive weaponry has created a situation wherein both the world and the human race are facing extinction if these weapons are ever used in combat. If the two great powers that now dominate the earth should come to the point of hurling even one-tenth of their stock of nuclear bombs at each other, this world and all life upon it would perish. However, we who take God at His word know that there is a contravening force that can nullify all plans and actions of both parties. This one is the Savior of the world, who will certainly know in advance if anyone is about to take the step (push the button) that would result in the destruction of the system that makes life possible on this earth.

He will intervene, He will assume sovereignty, He will govern the nations upon the earth (Psa. 67:4). The Savior of the world has never neglected or surrendered His position.

In December of 1983 the editors of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the

hands of their "Doomsday Clock," the face of which always appears on the front of their publication, to three minutes to midnight in order to symbolize the growing danger of nuclear war, the destruction of the world, and the annihilation of mankind. Only one other time in the thirty-seven-year history of the Bulletin have the hands of their symbolical clock stood closer to midnight. This was in 1953 when the Soviet Union exploded its first hydrogen bomb [**Ed – in 2005, we now deal with North Korea, and Iran, both developing atomic weaponry**].

We can expect, therefore, that the phrase "Three Minutes Until Midnight" will be a popular subject in the months to come for the prophets of doom and the ballyhooers of "Armageddon," who will call up the sponsors of the above-mentioned "Bulletin" as witnesses to the idea that the end of the world is upon us. However, we who take God at His word will know that in that three-minute gap stands the Savior of the world, a fact we are glad to reckon with. And even if that gap should close to one second until midnight, the Savior of the world will be in it, never permitting it to strike the midnight hour.

I do not say that there will be no more war, or that the Savior of the world will protect our country from the ravages of future conflict. There will be wars until Jesus Christ assumes sovereignty and speaks peace to the world. Nations in the grip of fear will always choose military power to solve their problems. "**The way of peace they do not know**" (Rom. 3:17). However, military power has grown to be such a monster that for a nation to use it would mean the destruction of the world. This the Savior of the world will never permit.

To a certain extent the history of nations is a record of the wars they have fought. The weapons they have used have advanced from swords and spears to the atom bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima, but none of these weapons was a threat to the system that is essential to man's continuance. At Hiroshima we learned that one plane carrying one bomb could do what it had heretofore taken a thousand planes loaded with many bombs to do. Today we know that there exists a galaxy of missiles, each one so small that three or four could be carried in the back of a station wagon, the yield of explosive power of each one about twenty-three times the yield of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima.

If there is no force to contravene, these bombs (or more deadly ones) will be used, and the use of them will mean the destruction of the world and the annihilation of mankind. However, over against all this stands He who is by divine commission the Savior of the world. Therefore, to all I say: "**Acquaint now yourself with Him and be at peace**" (Job 22:21).

End Issue No. SB174

