

The Sea of Mankind

Seeley D. Kinne

A common method in Holy Writ of explaining or illustrating a subject is the using of a metaphor or simile: that is, making one object represent another, in an effort to explain or elucidate the first. Waters are used in their several names to set forth, in figurative imagery, the various spheres and activities of mankind, and sometimes of God upon man. The usefulness, aptness and divine wisdom in these usages will soon be apparent.

Accordingly the angel says, "The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." "She sitteth upon many waters." "I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea." The great Sea of Mankind stretches from the dawn of creation down to the present, and on into the dim horizon of time; and from the Orient to the Occident. It is vast and bewildering in its limitless expanse. Rev. 17:1, 15; 13:1.

One may stand on the sands of the seashore of mankind and behold, from different viewpoints and occasions, the ark of Noah, riding the devastating flood, or later resting on Mt. Ararat, the law revealed at Sinai with thunder, lightnings and trumpet sound, many scenes in the life of Jesus and his apostles. In fact, earth history records innumerable scenes of glory, grandeur, momentous events and never ending influences. Now, as we stand on the shores of the sea of summing up of the past and opening of the new ages, words would fail to describe it all. Too high for description. Too awful to compass.

Consider now, some of the similarity of characteristics. "Fear ye not me? saith Jehovah: will ye not tremble at My presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?" So, too, hath God "set the bounds of the people," nations and individuals. Over these limitations which God has made, man cannot pass. "For He doeth according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?" "This matter is by the decree of the watchers." See Jer. 5:21-25; Acts 17:26; Deut. 32:8-13; Dan. 4:17, 35.

There are great surging tides in earth's oceans, that ebb and flow, some-

times varying many feet. Just so, "There is a tide in the affairs of men." "There followed Him great multitudes." "The world is gone after Him." In the first flows of the Spirit, it is said, 100,000 believed, in Ephesus. Then look at the tides of occult and other evils, and of persecution. Then behold the tides of fashion, dress, language, custom, food, architecture, education, religion, government, heathenism, etc. All sorts of tides among men. Some of them have run very high.

There are great streams in the sea. The Japan current washes our western shores, giving California a salubrious climate. Among humanity have been many streams, small, and others of mighty proportions. Among them are Judaism, Christianity, Mohammedanism, occultism, idolatry, Catholicism, infidelity, Protestantism, universalism, Christian Science, and a multitude of others, especially of these last days. Some streams have been rich in Divine blessing, and been a great uplift to the race. Millions will be in Heaven thereby. Others have swept multitudes to perdition. Some warmed the hearts of their adherents with the heavenly flame. Others froze their followers into huge icebergs or glaring glaciers. Some landed their converts in tropical verdure. Others ended in the maelstrom of destruction and perdition. "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." Isa. 57:20.

We went fishing last winter in Florida, on a bridge over an inlet of the Gulf. We saw a school of fish called mullett. They were beautiful bright silver color, tinged with gold, over a foot long. There appeared to be hundreds of them—a sight not soon to be forgotten. Fish run in shoals. So likewise, men congregate in races, nations, sects, cults and societies; sometimes for good, often for evil. "I have hated the congregation of evil doers, and will not sit with the wicked." Ps. 26:5

The oceans are full of fish. "So is this great and wide sea wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts." (creatures) Even so is the Sea of Mankind filled with innumerable human kind from pigmy to giant: the basest to noblest, dumb or shrewd, unlearned and lettered, vilest or holiest, ungodly and saintly, and all varieties between. Jesus said to skilled fishermen: "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." Where would you be found?

Where do you frequent? In mountain torrent? or muddy pond? In ocean wide or sluggish river?

Jesus said, "The kingdom of Heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind, which when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the age..." (Mat. 13:47.)

There are many varieties of fish, beasts of the sea. Some are useful, while others are dangerous. Sharks are greedy and voracious. There are sharks among men. "Some for a pretense make long prayers, and devour widows houses."

Torpedo fishes have an electric power, that gives a dangerous shock, may kill. There are men that have a deadly, dangerous shocking power, that is apart from God. Beware! there is the giant octopus. To be trapped in his arms is one's end. Some human governments or companies are very like an octopus. To be caught by one is a sure end. Where are you building? Oh, where are you building? On the rock, solid rock, or on the sand?

Religion in Russia

The Christian faith is said to exist in the souls of 60,000,000 Russian men and women.

God uses the wrath of men to praise Him, and many in every nation have come to a saving knowledge of our Lord through the vicissitudes of war.

1. Civil rights have been restored to the clergy and priests are now allowed to exercise the franchise.

2. Since 1940 the seven-day week has been brought back and the Christian Sunday restored as a universal day of rest.

3. School textbooks have been revised and offensive passages relating to religion have been excised.

4. Restrictions have been placed on blasphemous attacks on religion in the cinema, theater, and education. Anti-religious tests for the army and civil service have been abolished.

5. There has been relaxation of the labor disciplinary laws to enable peasants to attend Sunday worship and to keep the great festivals.

6. There is now general recognition of the part played by Christianity in the early stages of Russian civilization. The phrase "the role of religion" now occurs quite frequently in the Soviet papers.

7. There is a tacit understanding that no objection will be raised to orthodox clergy who are serving as soldiers minis-

(Continued on Page 11)