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“THE WHY
AND THE WHEREFORE
OF THE EUROPEAN WAR”

Bible Study by
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FOREWORD

I can state positively that the following pages contain substantially the message I delivered in the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, on November 19, 1916. Mr. E. B. Unger, the stenographic reporter, took down my uttered words. May our Gracious Lord Jesus use them for strengthening the believers and for a testimony to the worldly-minded.

MAX WERTHEIMER.

“THE WHY AND THE WHEREFORE OF THE EUROPEAN WAR”

A few preliminary statements ought to be made before giving the message. I want you to know that I sympathize with all suffering humanity; whether they be Germans, French, Russians, Greeks, English, or whatever nationality or color they may be, my heart goes out for the orphans and the widows who are victims of terrific circumstances. I shall speak tonight not from any patriotic standpoint, but simply as a student of prophetic history—that is the plan from which I intend to handle this subject.

It has often been remarked, since the beginning of this war, that such highly civilized nations should be engaged in such a warfare, and that a nation like Germany, and one of the aggressors in the warfare, should be crowned with such great military successes. I say these things have been commented upon.

Now I want you to notice that tonight I wish to lay down some methods

and some ways by which God gauges the nations. For instance, in the eighth century before Christ one of the most epoch-making nations of antiquity was the most successful in military achievements, and that nation, because of its military exploits, was disposed to boast of its great achievements. Now in the 10th chapter of Isaiah we get into the very heart and secret of why that nation was successful. That nation is the Assyrian nation. I will begin from the 10th chapter and the 5th verse. (5th to 7th verses.) And now a number of statements are made relative to what this Assyrian says in his heart, which I will not read, but I will start from the 12th verse. In the 15th verse is what God says concerning this boast. The Lord says of this Assyrian, with such great military achievements and such great boasts, "What is he? Why he is an axe—I hew it; he is a staff—I swing it; and when I am done with it, I will break it in pieces and get me another one."

In the 36th chapter of Isaiah this Assyrian again boasts—which I cannot read for lack of time—and in the 26th and 27th verses of the 37th chapter the Lord again addressed him. We

have even a more remarkable case of military success in the 27th chapter of Jeremiah, and which is even more startling than the one of Isaiah X.—all of which brings us into God's ways and methods of looking at the nations.

In the 27th chapter of Jeremiah, 2d verse, Jeremiah is asked "to make bonds and yokes and put them upon thy neck, and send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the Ammonites, and to the king of Tyrus, and to the king of Zidon, by the hand of the messengers which come to Jerusalem unto Zedekiah king of Judah." In the 4th verse they are to say unto their masters, "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel; thus shall ye say unto your masters: 'I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.'" (7th to 12th verses.)

It was really surprising that a heathen king with such disregard for the

high God of Heaven should be given all these countries; that all these nations must put their neck under his yoke, and that even Israel, His covenant people, should be in servitude to a heathen monarch. I say this was the most staggering blow that was given at that time to the ancient people, and they could not fathom it. But four hundred years before Jeremiah prophesied this there was a prophetic Billy Sunday of his day by the name of Amos. (Amos 1:2-3.) He was a cowboy. I will read the remainder of the 1st chapter of Amos and the 2d chapter, 1st to 9th verses.

That God is still on deck. He is the God of the nations. He has never made an assignment. He is still ruling, beloved friends.

To go back to the original statement with which we started out, I say it seems queer that out of the war sufferers little Belgium should be one of the worst, and if we believe in justifiable war we say Belgium is justified in taking up arms against the invaders who had no other reason to go against it, but simply because Belgium lies in the pathway of Germany's greatest enemy, France. The man who from the sur-

face looks at the thing is startled, yet any one who is conversant with Belgium's history says that God's hand is in it.

Do you remember some time ago Stanley discovered an immense new territory in Africa that is known as the Congo Free State? Fourteen European nations and the United States agreed to reserve that great territory for an experiment in philanthropic civilization. Now no one of the larger countries could take hold of that great territory for fear of arousing the suspicion of the other powers that it would make aggressions for the country, and so all the nations acting together, agreed to appoint Leopold, the king of Belgium, as a joint trustee in the administration of that vast territory known as the Congo Free State, with an extent of about 9000 square miles, about as large as Austro-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Switzerland combined. In due course there arose a demand for rubber, with which the forests of the Congo abounded. King Leopold leased concessions to the trading companies, for which he received, it is claimed by some, as much as \$14,000,000 a year from these trading

companies. He gave almost unlimited authority to these trading companies in the matter of dealing with the natives. As long as the rubber was forthcoming, and was secured near the villages in the forests, things were not so very distressing. Naturally the rubber within easy access gave out and the people who had to secure the rubber were compelled to go into the interior of the forests, and that entailed extra traveling and extra expenditure. Now the trading companies demanded that the same amount of rubber must be furnished and just as cheap as before, whether the supply gave out or not. In the course of time, when the rubber was not forthcoming an assessment tax was imposed upon the natives, and when the assessment was not forthcoming there was enforced upon the people so-called punishment. This punishment ranged all the way from a mere flogging to cutting off a hand or foot or arm or dismembering the body and massacring whole villages, and these things were done to set an example to the other natives not to be lax in their rubber assessments.

Now the native soldiers who executed these punishments thought this

was a fine chance to pay off old tribal grudges. It is claimed that since 1884, when King Leopold was made the trustee, or when he was appointed over that territory, that no less than 10,000-000 natives were slaughtered, and the cries of these natives were mounting up to Heaven, and the missionaries in the jungles in Africa were petitioning God Almighty to hear and intercede for that down-trodden people. He heard, and sent the Germans to devastate Belgium. We heard that they cut off the feet, cut off the arms, cut off the legs, dismembered the bodies, and massacred whole villages, and great persecutions were entailed. The God of the nations is still alive, beloved friends; He is still demanding just retribution. *See page 32.

Let me go a little further. England is in this war. She is in this war from no will of her own choosing; she is in this war mostly because she has pledged her support to Belgium, by treaty. Now let us look at England. England's possessions in Africa have been comparatively fairly well administered. Also, the administration in India was fairly good with some exceptions. However, to civilize the vast plains of India

involved a great expenditure. How to meet this vast expenditure in order to civilize the great stretches of territory in India was a question. England in the last century, adopted the plan to raise opium in India and sell it in China. But at that time China herself was trying to stamp out that very drug from the nation; they were sick of it, yet England forced it upon China. By what is known as The Opium War of 1840, followed by another war, they created a market for opium, which enriched India but debauched China, and probably all the money England has made in opium she is going to lose in this war, because the God of the nations will demand a just settlement. You will find out another reason why England has war troubles in a minute or two.

Now Germany is in this war. Why should she be in the war? Germany, the home of Martin Luther, the home of the Reformation, where great epochs were created through godly men. Germany, the home of Melancton, Franke, Tholuck and Neander. Germany has a very kind-hearted population, and her people are quiet and obedient to the authorities. I am

not talking about the common people. I am talking about the bureaucracy, the officialdom that rules Germany. I wish you to notice, beloved friends, that in philosophy Germany has been the leader for centuries. Treitschke, who was for more than twenty years the most popular professor in Berlin, was one of the great leaders in philosophy. His great motto by which he guided his philosophical disputations was founded on this: "Might is right!" Beloved friends, mere brute force is never right; not "might is right," but "Right—that is might." I believe when you have a foundation like this to build on, you cannot expect to raise a great structure that will be pleasing to our Lord.

There was another great philosopher in Germany by the name of Nietzsche. He was the son of a Lutheran minister. This son had mental aberrations. He was in his insane moments locked up in an asylum. During his lucid intervals, however, he wrote a number of books. He died afterwards in that asylum, but those books that he had written are today the text books in universities. The leading thought in Nietzsche's philosophy is force, brute

force, the superman, "der Uebermensch," as he calls it, an embodiment of brute force, a picture of Satan himself. Anything that is powerful to knock down the weak, to get there by any means fair or foul, that is the emphasis of his philosophy.

Beloved friends, the religion of Germany was powerless against teaching like that, for what is morally wrong cannot be politically right in the eyes of God. Germany has officially accepted Evolution and Darwinism. She has been working overtime in that. She has been turning out thousands and thousands of students; students from all the countries; students from England, from France, from Austria, from Russia, from America, for the last two generations have flocked over to their universities and to their colleges and seminaries to drink from such poisoned wells teachings of rationalism and world wisdom, and after such a course of instruction they went back to their respective homes as teachers and preachers to undermine the faith of millions in the infallible word of God and the essentials of Christianity.

I wish you to notice, if Evolution and Darwinism are right, then Ger-

many in this war acted perfectly correct and orthodox. If Evolution is right, then Germany in her preparation for war has been correct; for if Evolution is true, then such things as meekness, kindness, love, long suffering, which are commanded by the Holy Scriptures, would be weaknesses. According to Evolution a nation that indulges in tenderness and loving-kindness and unselfishness is unfit to survive. Germany has applied this Evolutionary process to commercial things, and brought on colossal monopoly, industrial oppression and wholesale thefts. It has also been applied to religion and religious literature, and has produced optimistic twaddles, unconcern for man's responsibility to God, and climaxed into higher criticism, which is simply Evolution applied to the inspired Scriptures.

You have heard of the Father of Higher Criticism, Wellhausen, who said the Old Testament was a fabrication of forgeries and lies, various man-invented documents patched together. He analyzed in this way the Old Testament, but that wasn't sufficient; he also wrote a commentary on the New Testament. When he came to write

about the gospels of Matthew and Luke, he omitted the first two chapters of them because they deal with the supernatural, and according to Evolution such a thing is impossible, so he ignored the miraculous, the divine credentials of God's workmanship.

I was this summer in Baltimore preaching for three weeks, and I told those astonished people in Baltimore they need not be so staggered at my words against higher criticism, for they have officially adopted it in their Johns Hopkins University there—that propagates rapidly Wellhausen's theories.

In Germany they had another writer by the name of David Strauss, who published about 82 years ago "Das Leben Jesu." He presents the life of Jesus as a common, ordinary person, and the gospel as a fabrication of mythologies. I tell you the God of Heaven will not allow His Holy Immaculate Son to be insulted and evilly spoken of. And was it not eminently fitting, that God's scourge and battle-axe in His hand, should be that nation to which all the other nations have been

turning to get Evolutionary wisdom, culture, refinement and inspiration? And so, thus to call attention to the fruits of this Christian civilization (Gal. 6:7 expresses it all), what men and women need is not civilization merely, they must be born again (John 3:3), spiritually regenerated, not externally veneered, but they need a mighty spiritual revolution from within.

Germany is in this war for a purpose. England has not only had laid to her charge the idea of imposing opium on China, but, also the city of London today is a whirlpool of filth. Think of the godlessness, the worldliness, the neglected opportunities! They tell me that seventy-five per cent. of the population turn their backs upon the Christ of God and never enter a house of worship. It is even claimed officially by some that the universities of Cambridge and Oxford, instead of standing four-square for the deity of the Christ of God, are catering to the promiscuous population of Great Britain and are preaching Pantheism, Mohammedanism and Hinduism in their universities.

But France is in this war too. What has France done? Let us say it in a

few words. Her legalized prostitution, her blatant atheism, and her ridicule of all that is spiritual, beloved friends, and many other things like anti-Semitism in the Dreyfus case. All these things have worked havoc for the nation. Motherhood was ridiculed, and the smart set in France has always been the set that were the leaders. Now God says, "that for three and four transgressions I will hold France responsible."

Russia is in this war. What has she done? She has bottled up six millions of Jews in a limited pale, in Russia, and not permitted them to go out. She has closed the doors of her colleges and universities to most of the Jews, and if any Jewess today wants to go to a high school, or any college or university, first before she can do that she must go to the chief of police and ask for the yellow ticket of a prostitute and thus degrade her womanhood. That is Russia for you! Russia is a peculiar nation. The Greek Catholic Church has opposed itself to every advance of the gospel of the Christ of God. All these things stand charged against Russia. Need I speak of the cruel pogroms, the Kishinev massacres of

innocent Jews and Jewesses and the throttled voices in Siberia?

What is the matter with Turkey? The wholesale slaughter of the Armenians, and the persecution of the people in Palestine. Turkey is usually called the "Sick Man." I want you to notice that Turkey holds the greatest gateway of commercial power in the East, for she holds the gateway from the Bosphorus to Bagdad. They want a railway established from Bagdad to Babylon. When the long-talked-of Euphrates Valley Railway becomes a reality, Babylon will be one of the most important and strategic places on the line. Few realize the magnitude of the Sultan's Asiatic dominions. They form the most important section of the earth's surface in connection with the international political situation of the near future. It is the most productive country between the Euphrates and the Tigris, but that fertile region needs irrigation of her ruined canals, and the German Emperor himself has an interest in the irrigation process. When once it is irrigated that land will prosper and thrive and will be the granary of the world. Now Turkey has the key and has opposed all advance by others

and has been very obstinate to the spread of the gospel of the Christ of God.

Well, Austria, what has she done? Austria is the land of the Blue Danube waltz, the land of fun and frolic. They ridicule all that is holy and godly. Of course, according to the Roman Catholic Church, they go to their masses, but the people at large in heart are atheistically inclined. The cruelty of the dead monarch, Francis Joseph, his double life, his estrangement with his wife, and his love affairs with other married women, the ruthless spirit of vengeance which controlled him in the early years of his rule—all these were seed-plots for this war in Europe, which has engulfed scores of nations and kingdoms.

How about Italy and the other countries? I will not go into detail about that. Suffice it to say that God is dealing with these nations for their national sins. That is one reason why this war is on. Greece, Syria, Macedonia, are in this upheaval—all this is prophetic territory according to Daniel (8th chapter); God is getting ready for that.

Now let me make a statement. The United States never got into this war. I am glad to say that while we had a President who was being criticised by others, he is at least a godly man, I believe—at least he stemmed the tide of warfare in this country. But this country itself has been the rebuke of the Lord, for you remember what happened in 1861 to 1865. Slavery was charged against this country, and she had to yield the blood of her fathers and sons to wipe out this iniquity. While this country is not at war, it is paying war prices for its food. Let me tell you another thing. When I look around and see what is going on with the masses of America's promiscuous population on the Lord's Day; how they never come to the church, never have family worship; how the people do not care for God or Christ or the Holy Spirit, and there is no reverential attitude for the word of God today; when I see the United States is taking an enormous share from the whiskey traffic, and from what is sold to the warring countries, I tremble, for God will hold them responsible. This country, beloved friends, has a state of oppression coming on. Strikes and wars

are almost imminent. When I see this, I tremble; I tremble for America, beloved friends. Sooner or later she will be engulfed in this universal agony of war.

How did it come to pass that the people of Germany, France and the other nations, over night, as it were, were changed into maniacs, willing to pound and to rush upon one another and to murder each other? How did that happen? How did that happen over night? I am going to say something I know will be received by some as a great superstition, but I want to tell you what the Lord declares. God says He employs satanic agencies in warfare. Refer to 1 Kings, 22d chapter. I will have to read some verses in order to make myself understood. 1 Kings, 22d chapter. I will give you a second illustration in Revelation, 16th chapter, beginning with the 13th verse. (Verses 13 and 14.) Here you have something that is coming in the future.

Now I am going to show you something to which I alluded the other evening, but which was too horrible to give at that time, but I will refer to it now, and I refer to something that is almost unspeakable—the 9th chapter

of Revelation. Be sure that you see it in the word of God. (1st to 3rd verses, inclusive.) Now these are not material locusts, but these are demoniac monsters, demons dressed up like locusts. (4th to 21st verses, inclusive.) Now I will give you something even more startling than this prophecy, beloved friends. Take the 25th chapter of Jeremiah, beginning at the 15th verse. (15th to 33rd verses, inclusive.) Be sure you study this as God's spoken oracle.

Beloved friends, "God has a controversy with the nations." What is that controversy? They have turned their backs against the Christ of God, beloved friends. Remember that same Jesus who was crucified has been made Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36.)

Now I am going to ask you which nation on earth today in official documents ever acknowledges the lordship of Jesus Christ? And yet you say we are "Christian" nations. I will tell you what they say: They acknowledge God Almighty, but the lordship of Jesus Christ is ignored by them all. God wants His Son well spoken of. The people that forget God—what about Psalms 9:17? He has a controversy

with the nations, and the controversy is about this. Worldly people are heard to exclaim that "Christianity is a failure," because it did not prevent this war. But the Christian Church was never commissioned to put an end to war. That shows ignorance of God's word. The disciples of Christ were separated from the world and sent back into it, as citizens of a foreign country to present the claims of Jesus the Christ their King, urging faith and obedience to Him as the only way of salvation from sin, and His personal return to this earth as the only hope of the race. Their business was not to convert the world, but to "take out from the nations a people for His name." (Acts 15:14-18.) Wars must continue to the very end of age. (Daniel 9:24-27.) I have no quarrel with the Christianity of any nation, but I want to say that there are no Christian nations acknowledging the lordship of the Christ of God. We have Christian individuals here and there who do acknowledge His lordship.

Listen! I want you to notice, however, that the so-called "Christianity" of the nations in Europe is a very corrupt Christianity; it is a perversion of

it, a counterfeit. When the Samaritans would not receive the Lord Jesus Christ the two disciples said to Him, "Send down fire among the Samaritans." Jesus said, "The Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save men's lives." (Luke 9:55-56.) Our Lord never intends to shoot down people unless they take the law to themselves. The Magistrate bears the Sword of Authority, according to Romans 13:4.

The Lord Jesus Christ is indeed the God of Love. He is also the Man of War to the rebels against His government. He must lead. He must be respected. The tocsin call of this slaughter that is going on everywhere in Europe and the cry of these battles are that the people should repent and humble themselves before God and honor His crucified, risen and ascended Son, Jesus the Christ of God. All that we can do is to do precisely what Abraham did in behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 18:24-32.) Let the godly remnant intercede for the sinners! In these days stand close to the Lord!

President Wilson, when he was in St. Louis, made one of the most epoch-

making speeches. He said, "We are living in times when I do not know what is going to happen in the next twenty-four hours." This is surely a crucial time. But God works according to His plan and counsel of His will, and not after that of conceited men.

But the Jews are in this war too, aren't they? Five hundred thousand Jews are fighting against each other. German Jews fighting against French Jews. Russian Jews fighting against German Jews, and all this whirlpool of Jews against Jews, Catholic against Catholic, Protestant against Protestant. "The Lord is pleading with all flesh." But how about the Jews? The Jews will be so sick and tired and disgusted with the carnage that has been going on in Germany, Russia, France, Italy and Austria, that they will gladly go back to Palestine, at the opportune hour on God's prophetic clock, and this war is God's beckoning to come back home. The time is up, and there is the call for Israel; and while we say "we don't want to go back, America is good enough for us," the time is coming when He will cause all nations to drink of this frantic cup of war. Then the turmoil will be on. God

loves Israel, and He will make good His promises to patriarchs, prophets and priests of old—but according to His own word. If the United States is a nation, she will be included in this universal war. I pray that the Lord may hold off the crisis a little longer and give some people a chance to repent and get right with God. Oh, when I think of the millions of mothers that will be widows, and of children that will be orphans, and of fathers that will never come home when that war is over, I am perplexed! but this is Jehovah's Day of Vengeance. Suppose you woke up some morning, and overhead of you bombshells were coming down? A thought like this fifteen years ago would have brought laughter among any audience. Well, the people do not laugh today, beloved friends. The statesmen of the nation are puzzled at the situation, they do not laugh nor rejoice—they hang their heads in perplexity.

Now what will be the direct outcome of the war? What do they wage war for? The individual nations all have their peculiar reasons for it. Germany will say, "We want to go East; we want to get to the granaries of the

world. 'Der Drang nach Osten.' We want that great Anatolian Railway from Konieh to Bagdad, and from Bagdad to Babylon." Great Britain will say, "We want a railway from the Cape of Good Hope to Cairo, Egypt. We are imbued with Empire lust. We want to colonize Africa and Egypt." What does France want? "We want to colonize; more elbow room, more opportunities for trade and industry." What is at the bottom of the whole outfit? The love of money is a root of all evil, beloved friends. That is the point. God is pleading with all flesh. The French Revolution was horrible—when it burst the world was quiet. What will be the outcome of this war? I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet; my business is not to prophesy, but undoubtedly some sort of a peace will be patched up to last forty or fifty years, but no permanent peace. You will notice they will have peace because their financial exchequers will be exhausted. They will have peace not because they want it, but because they will have to; they will have no money, and all the billions that have gone from this country I doubt very much if they will ever come back. What will be the

outcome for this country? Is God a respecter of persons or nations?

Now I am going to make a prophetic statement before I close. God is going to have that controversy with the nations, but He postpones the punishment of that nation He has so long put in authority. What is that nation? Russia. Read the 38th chapter of Ezekiel. I want to call attention to the 6th verse thereof that I have read. Among the nations that will be with Russia is Gomer and all his hordes. In the 10th chapter of Genesis, verse 3, we are told who Gomer and all his hordes are. One of the sons of Gomer is Ashkenaz. Any intelligent Jew who knows Hebrew can tell you who these names refer to. Ashkenaz means Germany, and Ashkenazim are the Germans. I am not a prophet, nor a son of a prophet, but the time is coming when Germany will be under the dominion of, or in partnership with, the Czar of Russia, and Russia will be the greatest worldpower coming against Israel, and then God will punish Russia, the very last of Israel's oppressors. I don't say that this will be the outcome of this present war, but when the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, appears in

Glory the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel will be literally enacted.

Now what is it we can learn, in conclusion, that we can take home with us, beloved friends? Shall we boast that we are a great people, a great nation, with our arts, our sciences and discoveries? Shall we worship the works of our hands and forget the Christ of God? Shall we fall into this up-to-date fashionable idolatry? Then woe will follow. I am inclined to read you a poem of Rudyard Kipling, written on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897—of course written from an English standpoint, but true for us:

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart:
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,
Such boastings as the Gentiles use,
Or lesser breeds without the Law—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard,
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding, calls not Thee to guard,
For Frantic boast and foolish word—
Thy Mercy on Thy People, Lord!

Preparedness! Prepare! I want you to think of this: "Prepare to meet thy God!" In this age of boasting, bragging and human conceits, the words of Jeremiah, 9th chapter, bring us to our senses! Jeremiah 9:23-24.

"Thus saith the Lord, 'Let not the wise man boast or glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man boast or glory in his might, let not the rich man boast or glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight,' saith the Lord."

Psalms 46:10—"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

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