

## Wednesday Jan. 18: God's law of progress

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Prov. 25:4

- 4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

Isa. 1:16-20, 25

- 16 ¶ Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;
- 17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.
- 18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
- 19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:
- 20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.
- 25 ¶ And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

Dan. 3:8, 9, 12-14, 16-28

- 8 ¶ Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.
- 9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.
- 12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.
- 13 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar in *his* rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.
- 14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it* true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?
- 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter.
- 17 If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

- 18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.
- 19 ¶ Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–nego: *therefore* he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.
- 20 And he commanded the most mighty men that *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–nego, *and* to cast *them* into the burning fiery furnace.
- 21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.
- 22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–nego.
- 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.
- 24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, *and* spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.
- 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.
- 26 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, *and* spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.
- 27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.
- 28 *Then* Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed *be* the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

## I Peter 4:12, 13

- 12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

- 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

I Peter 1:6, 7

- 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:
- 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

S&H 586:13-14

**FIRE.** Fear; remorse; lust; hatred; destruction; affliction purifying and elevating man.

66:6-7, 10-11

- 6 Trials teach mortals not to lean on a material staff, — a broken reed, which pierces the heart. Trials are proofs of God's care.

410:14 (to .)

Every trial of our faith in God makes us stronger.

22:20-22

- 18 Love is not hasty to deliver us from
- 21 temptation, for Love means that we shall be tried and purified.

Mis. 124:32-4

- In proportion to a man's spiritual progress, he will
- 125:1 indeed drink of our Master's cup, and be baptized with his baptism! be purified as by fire, — the fires of suffering;
- 3 then hath he part in Love's atonement, for "whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth."

S&H 323:6-9, 32-5

- 6 Through the wholesome chastisements of Love, we are helped onward in the march towards righteousness, peace, and purity, which are the landmarks
- 9 of Science.

- Willingness to become as a little child and
- 324:1 to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of

[A bright outlook](#)

the advanced idea. Gladness to leave the false landmarks  
 3 and joy to see them disappear, — this disposition helps  
 to precipitate the ultimate harmony. The purification  
 of sense and self is a proof of progress.

240:19-21

18 If mortals are not progressive, past failures  
 will be repeated until all wrong work is ef-  
 21 faced or rectified.

Progress  
 demanded

232:32-7

There is neither place nor opportunity in Science for error  
 233:1 of any sort. Every day makes its demands upon us for  
 higher proofs rather than professions of Christian power.  
 3 These proofs consist solely in the destruction  
 of sin, sickness, and death by the power of  
 Spirit, as Jesus destroyed them. This is an element of  
 6 progress, and progress is the law of God, whose law de-  
 mands of us only what we can certainly fulfil.

Profession and  
 proof

Mis. 118:21-24

21 Self-ignorance, self-will, self-righteousness, lust, covet-  
 ousness, envy, revenge, are foes to grace, peace, and  
 progress; they must be met manfully and overcome,  
 24 or they will uproot all happiness.

S&H 170:22-24

Spiritual causation is the one question to be considered,  
 for more than all others spiritual causation relates to  
 24 human progress.

Causation  
 considered

171:25-30

The so-called laws of matter are nothing but false be-  
 liefs that intelligence and life are present where Mind  
 27 is not. These false beliefs are the procuring cause of all  
 sin and disease. The opposite truth, that intelligence and  
 life are spiritual, never material, destroys sin, sickness,  
 30 and death.

353:22-24

When we learn that error  
 is not real, we shall be ready for progress, “forgetting

24 those things which are behind.”

409:20-26

The real man is

21 spiritual and immortal, but the mortal and imperfect  
so-called “children of men” are counterfeits from the  
beginning, to be laid aside for the pure reality. This  
24 mortal is put off, and the new man or real man is put  
on, in proportion as mortals realize the Science of man  
and seek the true model.

492:3-6

3 For right reasoning there should be but one fact before  
the thought, namely, spiritual existence. In reality there  
is no other existence, since Life cannot be united to its  
6 unlikeness, mortality.

222:31-2

We must

destroy the false belief that life and intelligence are in  
223:1 matter, and plant ourselves upon what is pure and per-  
fect.

99:23-29

The calm, strong currents of true spirituality, the  
24 manifestations of which are health, purity, and self-  
immolation, must deepen human experience, until the  
beliefs of material existence are seen to be a bald imposi-  
27 tion, and sin, disease, and death give everlasting place  
to the scientific demonstration of divine Spirit and to  
God’s spiritual, perfect man.

492:7-12

Being is holiness, harmony, immortality. It is already  
proved that a knowledge of this, even in small degree,  
9 will uplift the physical and moral standard  
of mortals, will increase longevity, will purify  
and elevate character. Thus progress will finally destroy  
12 all error, and bring immortality to light.

Mind one and all

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