

the works of the devil" (I John 3:8b). Our returning Saviour will take the government of all the world upon Himself. After showing the two phases of the incarnation which are so necessary for the atonement, our verse looks forward to our wonderful deliverance through the return of Christ to establish His kingdom of righteousness and peace upon this earth.

Yet this statement is not merely a marvelous declaration of the blessed hope. It is also a pattern for us. If we have believed in Christ and have been justified through His precious blood, we have then begun the long road of sanctification. It is His will that we be delivered, not merely from the guilt of sin, but also from its power. There is one way in which to attain this goal that is to see that more and more the government of our lives shall be upon His shoulder. In the millenium He will rule over all the world, but even now ^{we have} the wonderful opportunity of inviting Him into our hearts, to take more and more possession of our lives. It is a marvelous promise. May God enable us to take full advantage of it.

The rest of the verse gives the wonderful names ^{by} which our Saviour will be called. They are not names, in the sense of a designation by which a particular person is merely indicated. They are rather, as is so often true of Hebrew names, descriptions of character. If space permitted, it would be interesting to look at each of them and see what glimpses of His being it contains. All we can do now is simply to emphasize the fact that these names, written so long before the coming of Christ, testify in no uncertain ^{terms} to His deity, and to the vital place that He desires to take in each of our lives. At this Christmas season, may the Prince of Peace bring peace into the hearts of many, by leading them to accept Christ as Saviour and become children of God. May His peace increase in the hearts of all of us. May the government increasingly rest upon His shoulder.