

acter of the Gospel. Truly the Gospel is peaceful in its character. But the character of the Gospel is not the fulfillment of these glorious prophecies of a time of external peace and safety.

In the early days of the Christian church, when Christianity first began to spread over the earth, at a time when the Roman peace was triumphant almost everywhere, and war was temporarily almost unknown, there were writers who in their enthusiasm tried to show that these prophecies were already then fulfilled through the peace which was established in the earth. But the invasions of the barbarians from the north and the outworking of the decadence which was so widespread in the luxurious life of the later Roman Empire soon put an end to all such hopes. The Middle Ages came, with almost universal war and danger, upheaval and turmoil. This prophecy certainly was not then fulfilled. Then the time came in our modern days when arbitration commissions were set up and nations made treaties to settle disagreements by peaceful measures. In 1914 the statement was made by many that a great war could never come again. Arbitration was so firmly established that the nations would never again have a great war. Even as people were talking thus, the World War broke out—the most universal and most destructive war that this world has ever seen. No, this prediction has not been fulfilled up to the present time. But God has spoken. We know that it will come to pass, and God will yet establish that time of external peace and safety, when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

## **A UNIVERSAL KINGDOM**

We shall glance at some of the evidences for a third feature of this kingdom. It is to be a universal kingdom. The verse which I have just read brings this out very clearly. "As the waters cover the sea"—there is not a square inch at the bottom of the ocean which does not have water above it. The entire sea is covered with water, and the entire earth, without exception, "shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord." Could the universality of the promised kingdom be made clearer? Psalms 2 and 110 stress this aspect. God will give Christ the nations for his inheritance. Even the uttermost parts of the earth are to be his possession. His enemies are all to be made the footstool of his feet. There is to be nothing left which shall lift up its head against his control. This thought of the completeness of the victory which Christ is to win in this earth is found in the New Testament as well. All the nations of this world are to become the kingdoms of our Lord