

**QUIET TALKS ON THE
DEEPER MEANING OF THE
WAR AND ITS RELATION
TO OUR LORD'S RETURN**

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Quiet Talks on the Deeper Meaning of the War and Its Relation to Our Lord's Return by S. D. Gordon

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S. D. GORDON

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Meaning of the War

And Its Relation to Our Lord's Return

BY

S. D. GORDON



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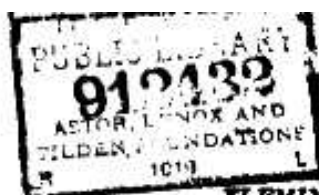
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Preface

THE world is trying to catch its breath. Such an upheaval, in extent and in intensity, has not occurred for centuries, at the least. Thoughtful men have been trying to sense its meaning. An interpretation that is sane, and sufficient to all the facts, has been difficult to get.

The interpretation I have ventured to suggest here came slowly through the long years of the fighting. The teachings of the Bible, with which it is coupled, came more slowly through longer years. It has all been dug out simply to answer my own questions. It is given here in response to strong pressure.

Regarding the teachings of the Bible here I have tried not to express any personal opinion. My task has been simpler. It has been to gather out such passages as seem, *in their first meaning*, to refer to things that clearly have not yet taken place, and so are distinctly future; and then to put them together in what seemed the logical, connected, common-sense order.

I would never have ventured on such a risky thing as seeming to forecast the future, but for a deep and deepening conviction that the interpretation given here is, in the main, accurate. There can be no question of the full depend-

ability of the Word of God throughout. It's wholly a matter of interpretation.

This is the third little book I have ventured to send out about Christ's Return. The studied limitations of each will indicate the distinctive difference of each from the others, and so the definitive scope of the present one. "*Quiet Talks About Our Lord's Return*" is confined to a detailed study of the New Testament teachings on the subject. "*Quiet Talks About the Crowned Christ of the Revelation*" is devoted wholly to a detailed study of the last book of the Bible. "*Quiet Talks on the Deeper Meaning of the War and Its Relation to Our Lord's Return*," in this division of its contents, is confined to a detailed study of the Old Testament teachings on the subject, *except* enough of a rapid review of the New Testament teachings to adjust the two groups of teachings together, and so get a summary of the teachings of the whole Bible on this subject.

The Scripture quotations are from the Revised Version, except where otherwise noted. Where they vary from the English Revision it is because the American is judged in those particular cases to be more nearly accurate. A number of times I have made free paraphrases so as to express more clearly and fully the *thought* of the language underneath.

S. D. GORDON.

New York City.

THE HOUND OF HEAVEN¹

FRANCIS THOMPSON

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.
Up vistaed hopes, I sped;
And shot, precipitated,
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmèd fears,
From those strong Feet that followed, followed
after.

But with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbèd pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat—and a Voice beat
More instant than the Feet—
“All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.”

¹The love of God, strong as a father's, tender as a mother's, eager as a lover's, undiscourageable as a true friend's, persistent as God's own only is, is so simply, exquisitely portrayed in this poem of Francis Thompson's that I have obeyed an insistent inner urging in giving it a fresh errand here. God's purpose, that is, Love's purpose, never gives up its eager pursuit of every man, and of the race, and of His ideal for both. And that is the story of this little book on the War and Christ's Return.