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I AM THE WAY

NONA L. BROOKS

I AM the Way. I Am is God's own name for Himself. He said to Moses, "When they ask who sent you, say, 'I Am hath sent me.'" It is a somewhat abstract name, but a beautiful one. The I Am is That Which Is. The Presence and Power That Is—hath sent me to do my work in the world of men. What is the Way? Where does it lead us to? The Way is the Path of Truth; and it leads to the Kingdom of God on earth. I Am, the full Presence and Power, leads me directly into the very heart of Divine Consciousness—God-Consciousness. This is Heaven.

I rejoice in the knowledge that it is not necessary for me to pass through the experience called death before reaching the Kingdom. We see by the light of Truth that the Kingdom is at hand; more than this, it is within us. There is a still greater vision which shows us that the world is included in God. Think of it! God shares His life with us each moment. This moment we are sharing the Life of God. Notwithstanding the appearance at this moment, the reality is that God is including the world. We are His Very Being.

The I Am hath sent me. The I Am of each of us is the presence of God incarnate. All that is now or can ever be is the presence of the Spirit of God. The love, power, goodness, beauty of the universe belongs to me now. "All mine is thine," saith the Father in His love. And truly it must be so to you and to me, if we think aright. Let us apply this great gift that is ours to the things that we are doing every day. There is in each moment the joy of knowing Truth, even though we know but little compared with the great revelations that await us. Still the joy of knowing what we know is marvelous; and I look to the future with special joy, since I believe in the eternal revelation of God Life to us.

Living is wonderful, because living means growing day by day. If we are living truly, seeing life as eternal progression, what we know becomes more real to us; what we do, we do better today than we did yesterday. That which was hard yesterday is easier today. I think again of the excellent illustration of this in the attitude of Mary Allen toward the children with whom she works. Her success speaks for itself, and proves the truth of the meaning of constant development in our lives. The child who came to Mary Allen with a piece of good work was commended; and she returned the next day with a piece of work, good but no better. In reply to the query of the child as to why she was not commended for a piece of work equal in quality to that of yesterday, her wise teacher answered, "Your work was satisfactory for yesterday, but

today's work must show something better than yesterday's before I can tell you that it is excellent." Are we living up to this great principle of progression? Are we doing something better today than we did yesterday? Are we knowing how to live more truly today than we did yesterday? God is expecting something finer from us each day; a stronger purpose, a truer attitude, a greater accomplishment.

A small lad heard me say that we must do our work better today than we did yesterday in order to live up to Principle. Soon after this he wrote a bed-time letter to his mother telling her how much he loved her. The next night his letter was longer, and he told her that he was trying to do what Miss Brooks had told him to; write a better letter than he did last night. That lad has caught a principle that will make his life a success. The principle of unfoldment leads directly into the heart of the great Principle of Life—God and God in action as our activity. Let us catch the same spirit that the lad did, and we shall unfold.

I am unfolding in Truth when I look out and see the Presence more clearly each day; when I see the I Am revealed in every experience. "How shall I attain this," do you ask? "How are you endeavoring," I ask of you. You must proceed by law. We are very fond of saying, "Law is Universal." Are you convinced of it? Do you know that nothing is too small to be included in law, from the tiniest flower that grows to the mightiest sun that shines in any solar system? Law prevails in the spiritual, the mental, the physical realms. I am speaking of three realms simply for convenience. There is only one. The Spiritual includes all. We know that the Law is perfect; it is purity and simplicity itself. We need not work with the spiritual; but in the mental there is much to be done. Are you as sure that law prevails in the mental as that it does in the so-called physical? Do we know what law means? Like produces like. Right thoughts produce right results. We cannot say, "I shall be as careless in my thinking and speak as negatively as I wish to today, but tomorrow I shall think and speak differently." We must not postpone. Law is cause and effect in action, in nature, in your life and in mine. When we fix our attention on the wrong appearance instead of upon the reality of the experience; when we are thrown from our spiritual balance by something confusing that comes into our lives; when our attitude toward life and our outlook upon living become beclouded by what happens in the outer, we are not emphasizing law in our lives.

To emphasize law we must know that although

the spiritual is pure and true, there is work for each one of us to do in the mental realm. This is our responsibility, and we must apply principle. Law means certainty, assurance of outcome. Every thought we think has its result. We think negatively easily. I feel that we have progressed just as far in Truth as we are able to think by principle. If we fear we are not far. Where is the result of fear thought? It colors our feelings and is out-pictured in our experiences. Our thinking determines our environment.

Think for a moment of the grouch. What does he find in life? Just what he gives. The one who indulges in ill-humor sees everybody with a vile temper. It is our attitude that decides our experiences. The reaction of life upon the pessimist is dark and without hope; but what about the optimist? He finds beauty in all places; he finds people wonderful and goodness toward him everywhere. Life as a whole is very rich to him. The optimist is so glad that he is alive. Life is such an opportunity. There is so much of beauty and goodness in the universe. There is a tremendous power in such living; and such a life constantly radiates the power that keeps the world moving. The life that is lived from the standpoint of Infinite Power, where decisions are made from this point of view, is the successful life—the life in which we find the clearer vision, the greater joy, the bigger consciousness.

Every thought clears or beclouds the vision of man. If the thought is based on evil, it reacts in the wrong way; this becomes evident to us in the experiences of the day. We cannot think wrong thoughts and have a day full of joy, light, and peace. We are continually deciding what our days shall be; what our experiences shall be. Every thought affects our experiences; we are making our tomorrow of experience with our thoughts today. Not that our wrong thinking can change the Truth—no, no! It beclouds our vision; and in one sense, when we are blind to the Truth, it is almost the same as if the Truth were not there; that is in so far as we experience. Our thinking cannot change Reality; but it can simply keep us out of the Kingdom of Reality. When I was a child my conception of God was different from what it is now. You and I had a different God perhaps even not so many years ago; but our wrong conception did not change God. Our attitude and knowledge of the universe has changed. The wrong belief about the world did not flatten the world. Those who believed the earth was flat reaped the fruits of their beliefs in fear. Their experiences were decided by their beliefs; for they were held in narrow limits, fearing to travel and progress.

Their beliefs told them that if they traveled too far they should fall off of this flat earth, and became the prey of the monsters that surrounded it. All of this time the earth staid true to itself and as God made it; and those who had the larger vision are responsible for opening to man the untold resources of the great Western Hemisphere.

Truth is so much bigger than anything we have conceived about it; and it remains the same, no matter what you and I believe. What we think about the body does not change the truth about the body. You say, "There are signs of age all around

me." These are the signs that follow a belief in age. Theoretically we have given up a belief in age; but practically we have conceded to this belief, and we show the effects. I do not fear to tell my age; there is no reason for being ashamed of the years. Each one is an opportunity for truer living. But when we tell our age, others think we are too old to do this or that, instead of seeing that the years, if we think rightly, bring richer experiences and are fuller of vigor. The meaning of the years as the world gives it implies limitation; let us see that the meaning as it lies in the consciousness of God is freedom.

If we wish to find the Way, we must be true to God-Consciousness. There can be no swerving, not even for a moment, if we wish to succeed. We cannot afford to let go. The habit of right thinking must be fixed by you and me; no one else can do it for us. There is great beauty in helping one another, but remember that the time comes when if we have not been true we cannot be helped by another. Each one must live his own spiritual life, and work out his own salvation from the complex of circumstances. It is a straight and narrow way, indeed. Mrs. Cramer used to say that there is just one who walks it. God! But in Truth the way is broad, for God is universal; he who walks with God includes the universe in his consciousness. It is the way to harmony, to peace, to power, to joy, to life eternal. Recognizing the I Am, God's Perfect Presence and Power is the way and the truth that leads into life.

Those who fix their attention on inharmony find everything wrong; complexity and confusion are everywhere. Why do we center our attention on the dark place in our environment, and expect it to become light? The darkness only grows denser. That to which we give our attention grows more pronounced in our lives. It grows clearer and more vivid. There are those who give only partial attention to God. We hear them say, "Yes, I am better today than I was yesterday, but there is still room for improvement." With this attitude you will become slowly better, but this is not the true method. Focus your attention fully upon God's Presence and Power, and your release from illness or any other limitation will be immediate. Our freedom depends upon the way we give ourselves to the Reality of the Universe. I do not wish the partial vision, the gradual release; I am determined to have the full vision and instant release. I wish to know that I am steadfastly connecting with God in thought, yes, even identifying with the Father. There should be no doubt about how to test myself then. I will ask myself, "Would God think this thought?" And I have the power within me to answer my own question, if I am true to what I know in Truth.

People say, "How can I identify my thought with God-Thought in the common work of the day? For example in making bread or in sweeping a room—in performing those duties to which we have given the name of drudgery. Is it so difficult to think with God in the small and seemingly unimportant things of life? No, not if we understand the meaning of God-Activity. Whatever God does, He does perfect perfectly: it is true, His ability is infinite. Let us learn to co-operate with this infinite ability. Did not God make the wheat for the bread, and the coal to bake it? God is the judgment, the wisdom

The Psychology of Christmas

TO understand Jesus and the Christmas spirit that prevails today, we have to go many centuries back of Jesus to the story of his race, a race that has stood as a power in the world,—because in its childhood it began to see some wonderful things and to believe in great truths. These people saw that God was the illimitable Father; and they turned to this Power for help and comfort. They wandered, sinned and suffered; but these times were followed invariably by the turning again to God and finding healing there.

This perhaps is the reason for the influence of this race, that, while children in development, there was yet this tremendous spiritual power; in spite of their many deviations there was strong faith; and from this impulsive, religious race there sprang many spiritual giants, Moses, Isaiah, and the prophets,—wonderful mountain peaks,—and they emphasized two great truths, two great truths that we are emphasizing today.

First of all they proclaimed that God was the healing power,—the real healing power, and the only giver of every good and every perfect gift; and then they emphasized this fact: That no one—whether race or individual—received (we should say today perceived) these blessings,—the blessings of healing and of supply,—no one received these, unless he were obedient, obedient to the Spirit, and unless he worshipped the one God.

The children of Israel were seeking God—seeking him even in the darkness—and there came to them a certain confidence; since their God was the great God, he was the God of healing and the God of comfort and the God of blessings. This God that was all powerful would bring to them salvation from their very weaknesses. And, following this great longing, and through this want, there began to arise in the race the first conception of a Saviour to come. Remember, they were children. The child is never abstract; is never subjective. He thinks in figures, always. And so their saviour was an individual; he was coming to save them from their sins. This idea took possession of the race; the poets, priests, prophets, and people, became engrossed in the one thought,—a Saviour,—the Restorer.

Imagine the power of such concentration. Their seers were uttering visions, their women were longing with a great hope for such motherhood, and their men were reverential,—a nation alive with this Great Expectancy—

You feel the power.

Into this race there comes a child,—born of strong and peculiarly spiritual parents,—a child that is keenly sensitive to spiritual influence,—a child in the home where he would be taught all the great spiritual truths; a child eagerly alive to the spiritual power, the spiritual love about him; a child that thought deeply. We know that from the touch we have of Jesus in the temple; a child that pondered upon the great realities until he came to know—he came to know God—the greatest knowledge that any soul can obtain,—and, knowing God,—with his soul alive with that consciousness,—there came another wonderful ideal to him,—that he was to bear witness to the world, to his people first of all, and to

the world,—bear witness of the God presence and power, all-presence and all-power. So in his life, in his teaching, living in his attitude of love, in his certainty of God's presence, he taught the people to see the meaning of God to man, and of man's oneness with the Father.

He laid hold of the eternal principles of the universe, and he gave them to the world as their salvation; and today, if we are to be freed from sickness, from sin, from death, it is by laying hold of the same principles and applying them in our lives. And if we are to be messengers to others of the saving power of God, it is because we, too, shall have pondered these things until we come to know God as Jesus knew God, to have the faith in God that Jesus had. To know God is to have faith in God; to see God as universal presence and universal activity everywhere means to see life and health and peace and power everywhere.

There is no lack in God's kingdom. The only lack in the world is in our consciousness of that kingdom. We do not yet know, we have not known, but we are coming to know, as never before, the presence and power of God as the absolute lifting of every burden from man's consciousness as the purifying Power, as the Spirit of Joy in the world.

And so, because we feel that there is this peculiar gift that Jesus brought into the world, this wonderful message of freedom, because more and more we are understanding the meaning of this word, do we celebrate this day, this day of his coming into the world. We rejoice in his message,—the greatest soul that has ever lived,—because he knew God best, because he loved man more than any one that we have ever known.

Now there is coming into the world today another vision; it is being stirred into activity in men's consciousness by the very extreme circumstances in which we are living. There is another vision coming which is taking possession of the living; it is going to have the same power that that vision had in that wonderful race in the centuries ago. This vision is a larger vision,—yes, larger even than perhaps the prophets had—it is the vision of another Saviour coming. This time, however, because we have outgrown the childhood stage, our Saviour is not formed into one person; but we can see that the world is rapidly growing toward the understanding of Unity, of Love. It is seeing the Fatherhood of God as a reality, the Brotherhood of man as the only true relation; it is coming to understand what is the meaning of being one and not many. We are beginning to see that a new life is coming into the world, a new realization of God's presence and power; and the Saviour that we are expecting now is a consciousness embodied not in one only, but a consciousness embodied in the race. It is coming; you and I feel its power, and its life.

We are thinking more deeply today than ever before; we are obtaining the larger vision and greater assurance of the final triumph of good. When this will be realized depends on you and me. Are we conscious of the same principles that Jesus embodied? Are we coming to love them without swerving?

Healing Department

"God Made Man in His Own Image and Likeness. In the Image of God Made He Him."

God made me in His Image and Likeness.

I came forth from Infinite Life—not death.

I came forth from Infinite Health—not sickness.

I came forth from Infinite Joy—not sorrow.

I came forth from Infinite Wisdom—not ignorance.

I came forth from Infinite Order—not disorder.

I came forth from Infinite Peace—not inharmony.

I came forth from Infinite Fullness—not poverty.

I came forth from Infinite Love—not hate.

I am *like my Source*, for Like produces Like.

When I *know* this I am healed.

If I suffer in mind or body I will ask myself, what have I been thinking? Have I clouded my vision by error thoughts of my body, which is changeless perfection, like its Source?

If I fail to realize supply, I will ask myself, am I doubting the Infinite Provider? Have I failed to unlock the door to God's Universal Storehouse with the key of faith, and claim my good gifts that are always ready for me?

If I fear, I will ask myself, Have I forgotten that the only Power over me is God, is Love? That as God is for me, nothing can be against me?

If I do not know how to make right decisions, I will ask myself, "Have I failed to realize that I am an individual center of the One All Knowing Mind, and that by claiming the knowledge within I shall be shown the way?"

"Though Man may be Lord of all, and *knoweth it not*, he differeth in no way from a servant."

"I will maintain the open vision that I may see.

The open ear that I may hear.

The open heart that I may believe."

TESTIMONIALS

A Truth student while cleaning her bath-room floor rose suddenly and struck her back against the basin. The pain was intense; but the thought of the Truth seeker turned immediately to the healing power of Truth. There is no sign of pain or injury, and the gratitude is very deep. God is truly a very present help in trouble.

Another student who was seeking earnestly for the Light of understanding found instant release from painful head trouble of long standing, in one treatment. There has been no indication of any return. Truly the work was done in the first declaration of Truth.

All correspondence will receive a personal reply. Be explicit in stating your case and know that all communications will be held in strictest confidence.

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IN GOD WE TRUST

Keeping Christmas

Once again the intense activity of the Christmas season has come upon the world. What has it meant? Has it been a mere commercial buzz? Has the gain been only to the sellers of gifts? What about the buyers of gifts? We believe the greatest and richest gains are to them.

It is good for everybody to give. With many people the intention of expressing love in the heart is indefinitely postponed and often subsides without fulfilment. But Christmas comes! a season given over to thinking of others. If one had an indifferent thought as to *not* observing it, that thought is swept away by the strong love-current that prevails at Christmas time, and he finds himself one with it.

Beginning at his own fireside, he thinks of how faithfully father has met the heavy demands of the year, of how unselfishly mother has given her best to all; how dear Janet is, and Alice and Bess; and John's good points strongly stand out to be revalued in the more generous Christmas spirit. So, very thoughtfully and joyously he selects just the right gifts for each.

Then comes the dear inner circle of friends and the simple gift or warm greeting is sent, fairly fragrant with and hallowed by the friendship for which it stands.

He who glows with the Christmas spirit cannot stop with love for home and friends. Beyond the close-in circles, the heart imbued with the Christmas spirit—which is the Christ spirit—goes searching for those who need a Merry Christmas; his love includes the farthest as well as the nearest; he cannot be happy until all are happy, and so his love and his gifts go out to them.

Yes, Christmas is a heart-warming time, a blessed time filled with peace and goodwill, a season wherein we breathe the air of the Kingdom of Heaven.

M. R. L.

The Only Message

All the great men are of one mind. Their message is simple—so simple that we put it by. It seems so childish to our cultivated intelligence to say—love God and love one another. The old prophets babbled that long ago. Yes, and the prophets to come will but repeat the same message in other forms. Truth always comes in the garb of absolute simplicity. Love God and love one another! Is that all? That have we known from our youth up. Yet is there anything else to say?—Richard LeGal-liene.

What Was Born On Christmas

The birth of the babe of Bethlehem was heralded with the message of Peace and Goodwill; a peace for the earth, a goodwill for all men. And this message burns in our hearts today with a new and a deeper meaning. We feel more keenly our opportunity and our responsibility to have our individual worlds radiate peace and goodwill.

As this message was preceded by the birth of Jesus the Christ so must our message be preceded by our birth into the Christ-Love, else our words of peace and goodwill will not ring true.

And we cannot be born into the Love-consciousness unless we first desire Love—yes, yearn for it and crave it at whatever the cost may be. There is no mental cost or physical cost too large to pay for the consciousness of Oneness with God and Oneness with Man, God's image.

God is Love.

You and I are born of Love.

Love conceived us, planned us, formed us, imaged us in the Mind of Love.

Love dwells in us and we dwell in Love.

To make these Truths real to ourselves and to live according to this realization is to have the Christmas Joy always.

The Christmas Joy is contagious. Even the misers spend at Christmas time; even the people who are content to sit in gloom at other times of the year try to spread joy at Christmas time; the old want to be with the young and want to be like them at Christmas time. There is not time nor place for gloom and selfishness at Christmas time. Practitioners will tell you that people almost forget to appear sick at Christmas time. The very atmosphere is vibrant with joy at the holiday season. Why? Because the doubt, the fear, the worry, the envy, the hatred are all put aside and Love rules supreme at Christmas time.—Alice R. Ritchie.

—Published in "The Truth."

A Joyous Occasion Before Us

New Year's evening this year has a special significance for our people. It marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of The First Divine Church of Denver. On this day twenty-five years ago Miss Brooks and a happy group first came together as minister and people. Praise notes will rise from the heart of every one of us on this glad night. We are thinking of it as a time of Holiness and of Wholeness. The get-together spirit is everywhere. The members of our congregation and our children are planning a love-offering to be given on this evening. We are hoping for the blessings of you, our friends far and near.

Here's to You a Peaceful Heart

And a Merry Christmas.

May Love glorify you and the gifts you give;

May Love magnify the beauties of your friends

And of the gifts you receive.

May your New Year's Day be

A Peace-full Pace-Maker

For 365 days to come.

—Elizabeth Towne.

A Background for the Study of the Bible

KEY-NOTE: ASCENDING REVELATION.

LESSON XXXIV.

HISTORY OF JUDAH

From the Division of the United Kingdom to the Call of Isaiah.

THE history of the Southern Kingdom was peaceful in contrast to the anarchy and revolution that characterized the Northern Kingdom. It is to this tribe rather than to the ten tribes of Israel that we owe a debt of gratitude for the transmission of basic principles that have had an important part in forming the ethical and religious concepts of the Christian world.

The elemental truths implanted by Moses, for the most part, found good soil in the descendants of Judah, and although at times the planting seemed to languish, new growth constantly sprang from the firmly imbedded living root. Never did there fail a man of the tribe of Judah and of the house of David to sit on the throne until the promised Messiah appeared whose spiritual reign shall never cease. Jesus was of the tribe of Judah and a lineal descendant of David.

In the study of the Southern Kingdom we shall see that back of the stability of this little nation was the co-operation of the throne and the priesthood.

During the first two hundred years, with the temple at Jerusalem as its center, the worship of Jehovah gained in popularity with the people. There was a steady ethical and religious advance. There was no great crisis, hence no great prophet. During this period, beginning with the year 937 B. C., when the Northern tribes revolted upon Rehoboam's accession to the throne, we have for the most part a succession of good rulers, prosperous reigns and contented people.

Rehoboam's reign was one of the most rash and unpopular of the whole period. He introduced foreign practices in the worship of Jehovah, built *high places*, set up asherahs "under every green tree" and permitted sacred prostitutes.

Following his rule, and the brief reign of his son, came the long and wholesome reign of Asa, in which the religious customs of David were restored and the Canaanitish abominations were put away—even to the destruction of the "horrible image" set up by the queen mother. Asa was no warrior and when hard pressed by Baasha, the Northern king, he made a league against Israel with Ben-Hadad, king of Aramea, buying his protection with the gold and silver treasures of the temple, thus securing immunity from attacks of both the Arameans and the Northern tribes during his life time.

Following Asa comes the good reign of Jehoshaphat, "who did not turn aside from that which pleased Jehovah." Under Jehoshaphat the old feud between Israel and Judah was healed for a time and both kingdoms united forces against their common foe, the Arameans. To strengthen this alliance Jehoshaphat's son was given in marriage to Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel—a disastrous move for Judah's peace. Athaliah's son, while visiting the king of Israel at Jezrul, fell a victim of

Jehu's zeal, whereupon the queen mother seized and destroyed (as she supposed) all the royal family, proving herself a true daughter of Jezebel. The story here reads like a fairy tale, for one of the little princes, Joash—a mere baby, was taken away secretly by his aunt (the wife of Jehoiada, the chief priest) and was kept in hiding in the temple for six years. Here he was trained after Jehoiada's own heart. When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada calls the military commanders together (probably the temple guard) and brings forth the little heir to the throne of David. They arrange for his coronation, which takes place immediately. Athaliah, in the palace near by, hearing the jubilant demonstration, comes upon the scene. Seeing the newly-crowned boy-king upon the improvised throne, she raises the cry, "Treason!" At Jehoiada's command she is taken outside the temple enclosure and slain. Then begins the long and interesting reign of Joash, with the able Jehoiada as his counsellor (II Kings 11 and 12).

Soon after the coronation the covenant between Jehovah and his people is renewed. With great zeal they proceed to the temple of Baal (which Athaliah had established) and destroy it with all the images and altars.

The most notable event of Joash's reign was the repairing of the temple at Jerusalem. After arranging for certain offerings to be used for this work, he finds that the funds have been used by the priests. He then takes personal oversight of the work, which goes on successfully. Late in his reign when Hazael, king of Aramea, threatens to invade Judah, Joash, following the example of Asa, strips the temple of all the consecrated treasures and buys present security. This display of weakness leads to a conspiracy which ended in Joash's assassination.

"It is very probable that soon after the priestly reformation in Joash's reign, a group of Judean prophets collected and combined those early traditions of their race which are now found in the historical books of the Old Testament. Their history began with the primitive story of creation (found in Gen. 2:4-25) and traced Israel's fortunes down to the accession of Solomon. * * * This remarkable history as a whole must have been a powerful force in kindling the patriotism and arousing the religious zeal and loyalty of the people of Judah. It reveals clearly the ethical and spiritual atmosphere amidst which such prophets as Isaiah and Micah grew up. This history is referred to as the "J," or Judean history.

(In the Northern kingdom a parallel history was compiled, which has been called the "E," the Elo-histic or Ephraimitish history. These two were later combined and form the narrative of the early Old Testament history.)

The important Judean record, made during Joash's reign, was henceforth a bible for the Judeans.

Amaziah, the succeeding ruler, was a king of action, but in a different field. Puffed up over conquering the Edomites (south of Judah), he sends a challenge to Jehoash, king of Israel, to match strength with him. Jehoash replies with the fable, "The Thistle and the Cedar," the import being, "Enjoy your honor and stay at home." But Amaziah insists and finally meets Jehoash in battle to his own crushing defeat and death.

The death of Amaziah closes a chapter in Judean history which contains but little outer display; however, during these two centuries the religious teachers have been quietly educating the people and "laying deep the foundations of their national character." At the close of this period the nation was ready to enter a larger world and to pass through the series of painful experiences which were to open the eyes of its prophets to those new truths which made their messages of universal importance to the world.

The accession of Uzziah (Azariaah) ushers in a new period. He was an exceedingly able and energetic ruler. Following up his father's victory in Edom, he fortified Elath and made it an important post of trade with Arabia and distant lands. He also took important strongholds of Philistia (to the southwest of Judah) and colonized them with Hebrews. On the east and south of the Dead Sea he extended the bounds of Judah, bringing in the products and also the customs of the outer world. He fortified Jerusalem, rebuilding the portion of the wall destroyed during his father's reign, and erected strong defensive towers. Also, he looked to internal resources, increasing the water supply by hewing out many cisterns, encouraging and protecting the shepherds and the vine-dressers.

Under these prosperous conditions new ambitions stirred the people. Not since the days of Solomon had Judah enjoyed such prestige. But under the influence of luxury unscrupulous desire for wealth possessed the ruling classes. Individual fortunes were amassed at the expense of the common people. The simplicity of former days disappeared and in its place came the complexity attendant upon an oriental life of luxury. Intent upon present enjoyment, they failed to see the portentous cloud forming in the East that was soon to envelop Judah, for Tiglath-Pilezer had usurped the Assyrian throne and set for himself the goal of gathering into his empire all the smaller surrounding nations. Judah lay immediately before him, and Judah's ruling class was corrupt, selfish and blind to impending danger.

It is just at this crisis that the brilliant young patriot-prophet Isaiah comes upon the scene. (Isa. 2:6-8 and 3:16-24).

LOVE IS THE REALLY BIG THING

Love is the only thing that matters, the one thing that counts. It is the one thing that tells in the long run; nothing else endures to the end. Love tells the whole story; love built my little theater; love puts on my plays; love guides my characters. Out of the depths of my experience, I can say that the longer I live, the more I despise the so-called material things and the more I see that love is the really big thing, the important eternal thing.—David Belasco.

I Am The Way

(Continued from Page 2)

that is acting through us, that is expressing by means of man. He who connects with God in thought goes forth into his daily life, and lives powerfully, efficiently, joyously, successfully. Acknowledge God in all thy ways; herein lies human efficiency. Use the great gift that is within thee to serve, and to do.

Home-making is the greatest of all arts. Live up to the best that is in you in realizing this. Cook meals worthy of the Divine Spirit that is expressing through you. Moment by moment watch your thought. It is the moment that counts; if we take care of it the hours will take care of themselves. If your thought is loving, all is well; God would think it. Every one may be a center of power. Are you that? Men are suns in the firmament of Heaven, and God is radiating His life through us. The work of suns is to shine radiantly. Are we true to our responsibility? There is joy when we realize wholeness; when we stand in the certainty that God and God in action is all there is.

How shall we carry out the principle of right thinking in our daily experiences? By looking through the appearance and seeing God. This method either changes the experience if it should be changed, or changes our attitude toward it. Our responsibility is not to work with people or with things; it is to work within ourselves. To identify with the love, power, freedom, peace, harmony of God. Let us possess our living in the spirit of love until our environment answers back in the same terms. Let us place our attention upon the I Am. This habit of thinking leads to the life that Jesus came to reveal to us. If we keep our thinking true to the Presence and Power of God, think of the meaning that our lives will have to our church, yes; to our city, greater still, best of all, to the world. This is the light that cannot be hid.

Make each day count toward knowing that all is God; there is no self apart from God; no life apart from the Divine Life. God includes all, and this realization of the Divine Life is the way, and the only way to Life Eternal—the Life that is unbroken, the life that is unlimited, the life that is rich and full and free.

The Psychology of Christmas

(Continued from Page 3)

As we do this now, under this stress, will there come a time when the world shall know Him from the least to the greatest, when the saviour of the world will be the Christ-consciousness of Life, the God present, immediate, in every soul. When this comes about,—and it is coming steadily, rapidly coming,—when it comes, then we shall realize what it means to celebrate an ever-lasting Christmas,—for this will be our eternal Christmas, the spirit of Love Universal.

God is ready and has always been ready. The Spirit never withdraws. It is speaking now the message of the Christ-Truth in the soul of every man.

(This interesting article came to the editor unsigned.)

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