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Prophecy Fulfilled Again

Editor(s): Susa Young Gates

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Guide Lessons.

LESSON I.

Theology and Testimony.

FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY.

BOOK OF MORMON LESSON.

PROPHECY FULFILLED AGAIN.

Our lesson in the March issue, 1918, considered the prophecy in II Nephi 10:10-14:

“But behold, this land, saith God, shall be a land of thine inheritance, and the Gentiles shall be blessed upon this land.

“And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles, and there shall be no kings upon this land who shall raise up unto the Gentiles;

“And I will fortify this land against all other nations;

“And he that fighteth against Zion shall perish, saith God;

“And he that raiseth up a king against me shall perish, for I, the Lord, the king of heaven, will be their king, and I will be a light unto them forever, that hear my words.”

In the March, 1918, lesson we told the story of Maximilian, the Austrian archduke, who attempted to found an empire in Mexico. We made record of the fact that Maximilian was the victim of a revolution that finally resulted in his execution, and that Napoleon III, of France, who inspired and sustained Maximilian, was forced to abdicate after the French defeat at Sedan.

It is scarcely nine months since that lesson was published, yet once again we stand face to face with the fulfilment of this very remarkable, and to the Latter-day Saints, this most heartening, prophecy during all these dark days of the present war.

A period of some 270 days only has elapsed, and yet it has been sufficient time for us to witness the overthrow of another combination which has sought to dictate and dominate policies in the new world—the land our heavenly Father designated as a Land of Promise. And this brings us to the special theme of today's lesson.

Francis Joseph, the brother of Maximilian, who touched the button that set into motion the military forces of Central Europe, died before the end of the war came; his throne tottered under the weight of a myriad of discontents of the many peoples who formed his empire, and the added sorrows of war.

The Austrian throne could not fall to Francis Joseph's son, for his son had met a tragic death; it could not fall to his brother's son, for he, too, had been the victim of a tragedy; it came perforce to his unfortunate grand-nephew.

No pomp nor ceremony marked his entry into place; one course only, his—"to take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing," seek to "end them."

The recent surrender of Austria to the Allied forces saw the once proud Austrian empire, that in her supreme hour had dominated Europe, break in pieces. It saw its Emperor, Charles I of Austria, the last of the Hapsburgs, a reigning house for 900 years, flee from the capital city with bag and baggage. A few days later, he returned to abdicate, and to beg to be allowed to live as a private citizen in Vienna. Yet this boon, poor as it is, may not be granted.

The collapse of the German empire followed that of the Austrian empire with amazing rapidity. On the 9th of November came the announcement that Kaiser William the II and Crown Prince Frederick William had abdicated. The 10th of November marked the flight of the former Emperor into Holland, and on the 11th, the signing of the armistice that marked the conclusion of hostilities between Germany and the Allies. Although William has sought refuge in Holland he must be ill at ease, and he appears to be a most unwelcome guest.

It is related that soon after William's accession to the throne he paid a visit to Oscar, king of Sweden. Oscar's chamberlain asked him later what he thought of the new monarch. The reply came, "He is a second Nero." Since the outbreak of the present war, William has often been compared with Atilla, the terrible Hun. A writer in the *New York Times* says, "Genius or paranoiac, the most hated ruler of modern times."

Thousands of people are clamoring today not that he be banished to St. Helena, as was Napoleon the Great, but that he be tried before a military tribunal, condemned and executed for his high crimes against justice and humanity.

The editor of a New York daily pays respect to Charles the I of Austria, and William the II of Germany, in the following language:

"As the Hapsburg vanishes, what regret, what good word can be called forth from anybody? Of the Hapsburg as of the Hohenzollern, his accomplice and master, master no longer, Shakespeare's Richard III is the best interpreter:

"My conscience hath a thousand several tongues,
And every tongue brings in a several tale,
And every tale condemns me for a villian.

Perjury, perjury, in the highest degree,
 Throng to the bar, crying all 'Guilty! guilty!'
 I shall despair, there is no creature loves me;
 And if I die, no soul will pity me;
 Pray, wherefor should they? since that I myself
 Find in myself no pity to myself."

And so once again are the sacred words of the Book of Mormon made to triumph.

"And I will fortify this land against all other nations:

"And he that fighteth against Zion shall perish, saith God."

We close this lesson with a sentence borrowed from our March lesson, 1918: "How sure are the prophecies of God, how complete their fulfilment!"

QUESTIONS.

1. Tell in brief the story of the fall of Archduke Maximilian. The *Relief Society Magazine*, March, 1918, gives a much more complete account than is given in this lesson.

2. In what way have the Central Powers, for over four years at war with the Allied powers, sought to impair the liberties of America?

3. To what does the word Hapsburg refer?

4. How many centuries have the Hapsburgs been on thrones in Europe?

5. What Hapsburg monarch died during the present war?

6. How came it that his grand-nephew ascended to the throne?

7. To what does the name Hohenzollern refer?

8. Tell the story of the fall of the last of the Hapsburgs.

9. Tell the story of the fall of Emperor William II, of Germany.

10. What traits of character in William II have led people to class him with Nero?

11. Show how the collapse of the Central powers, and the victory of the Allied Powers has again fulfilled Book of Mormon prophecy.

12. What is socialism?

13. How does socialism compare with Bolshivekism?

14. What is the United Order?

15. What can you say about the United Order as set forth in the Book of Mormon?