THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

The Reaping Phase

This Will Be The Drama Of The Ages This tract will point out to you the most important event in the history of mankind. This is the most longed for event, and the most wonderful thing that could ever happen.

Let us see what it is by turning to Jesus' own words and promise. John 14:1-3: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." There you have the great event spoken by the mouth of Jesus Himself. He said, "I will come again." Men and women have been looking for that blessed event now for almost 2,000 years, and it will soon come to pass.

Let us read another statement of Jesus on this very subject. Matthew 24:29-31: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." These texts show that every man shall see Him come. The tribes of the earth shall mourn, for "they shall SEE the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven." According to this, His coming is not secret, nor is it just to Spiritual people, but to all tribes or nations of the earth.

There is another text that says this. Let us read it. Rev. 1:7: "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindréds of the earth shall wail because of him..." This says exactly what Matthew said. When the kindreds of the earth see Him they shall mourn, wail, or cry, because of Him.

The burden of the Holy Bible, from the opening verses of the Book of Genesis to the closing paragraph of Revelation, is the two advents of our Lord Jesus. There is no fact in the history of mankind so firmly established by many infallible proofs as the fact of our Saviour's first coming. He came then as the "Lamb of God" (John 1:29; Rev. 5:6,12 12).

Now we seek the return of Jesus not as a Lamb and Saviour but as King of Kings and Ruler-judge of the world. There is no future drama so frequently predicted in the pages of God's Word. Jesus shall come a second time, as a Bridegroom with His bride, (Rev.21:9-11;19:7-9) to gather His saints of all ages, as the Messiah for Israel, and to begin judgment of the nations.

Let us read another text showing how He will come. Acts 1:9-11:

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men (angels) stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

So Jesus is coming in *the* very same way, or manner as He went away, and this by the testimony of angels.

Just what will this second coming be like? Of course it is impossible to get a true conception of the infinite mind, but Paul does the best he knows how in I Thess. 4:13-18:

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For

if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Every one of the apostles of the New Testament confirmed this drama in clear and convincing language. There is to be the resurrection of the believing dead. the transformation of the living saints, which will be the ultimate climax of this drama. It will be the salvation and redemption of everyone that is a Child of God. We wait, according to Paul, "for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:23).

This great spectacle of our Lord's return has three significant relationships. First, to all the saints of all ages, second to Israel, and third to the nations of the earth. So then every individual will be involved in this drama. It is the only hope for people in these desperate days of apostasy, apathy, and atheism. We see the signs of the times very clearly now. The shadow of His soon return can he noted on every hand, and they make us very conscious of the curtain of this play opening up before us.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (I John 3:2,3).

"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col. 3:4,5).

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thess. 5:23).