

Bible Study Lectures

“5. At that time the angels gather the saints. ‘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.’ Matthew 24:31.

“6. He comes to execute the great separation of the sheep from the goats, as recorded in Matthew 25:31-43; or the tares from the wheat, as recorded in Matthew 13.

“7. The seventh reason necessitating the coming of Jesus is that the crowns of glory are not given till He comes. 1 Peter 5:4 states, ‘When the chief Shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a crown of glory, that fades not away.’ In 2 Timothy 4:8, we find Paul speaking of his crown of glory ‘laid up,’ which he expected to receive ‘at that day,’ the time when ‘all them also that love His appearing’ receive theirs.

“8. He comes to receive the prepared tenants for the mansions He has promised and has prepared for them. ‘And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.’ John 14:13.

119. His coming means an end to active sin, and all who cling to it. ‘And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

A NEW EARTH

“10. Christ’s second coming is the initial step to the setting up of His glorious kingdom in the earth after the saints spend their millennial reign, 1,000 years’ post translation course in heaven. 2 Peter describes the destruction of this earth, and the promise of its being made new. Revelation 21 gives the picture of the new earth, following the millennium of the previous chapter.”

In view of the many necessary features of the plan of salvation depending on the second coming of Christ, Mr. Mitchell emphasized the supreme necessity of this most important event. By virtue of reasoning, if He were not to come, sin’s dark reign would continue, and mankind would never receive its eternal rewards. Though the gospel seed had been sown, the harvest would never be reaped. The sleeping saints would not be resurrected and gathered by the angels, nor would the crowns be distributed, nor the saints gathered to the mansions promised by Christ in His comforting words of assurance spoken before departing from this world.

The words of the following poem concluded the address:-

“If Christ did not come, what then?
If He failed in His promise to men?
If the prophetic Word Dishonored its Lord,
And Christ did not come, what then?”

“The grave on the hillside would keep
Its treasures, while lone hearts would weep
Over the dark, silent tomb With its changeless gloom
Through ages eternal and deep.

“Then sin’s crimson tide would roll on
And deepen with each coming dawn,
Till madness and rage Filled history’s page,
And hope’s last prospective had gone.

“And the story of love that has cheered
The soul in the grief it has feared,
Would all prove a lie,
And faith’s dream must die
In view of the home it has reared.

“If Christ should not come? Oh, in vain
Men question the gospel refrain!
The promise divine
From your Lord and mine
Declares, ‘I will come again’”