

Jesus Is Alive

But Jesus is alive and at the right hand of God in the heavens. And through all the centuries since He ascended to His Father, His followers, in their trials, their afflictions, their hardships, their hunger, their persecutions, their martyrdoms, and their deaths, have been cheered and sustained by that word which He spoke before He departed from this world, "Let not your heart be troubled: . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself." John 14:1-3.

Through the ages of the past God's people have looked with eager longing for the fulfillment of that glorious promise. They have been able to endure their hardships and wrongs, because they have believed with profound and implicit confidence that Jesus is coming to make all things right. On that event their hearts have been fixed. All their hopes have been centered in that time when Jesus will come again. The second coming of Christ is the consummation of the hopes of the Christian church.

Jesus Will Come Again



THOSE who in all ages have believed in the literal, personal, visible coming of Jesus Christ the second time to this earth have not followed cunningly devised fables. This doctrine is one of the fundamental doctrines of Holy Scripture. It finds a larger place in the pages of Holy Writ than any other doctrine of the church, this glorious event being mentioned more than three hundred times in the New Testament, and fifteen hundred times in the entire Bible. To the devout believer in the Bible there can be no doubt that Jesus will come again.

The Testimony of Jesus

The faith of the believer in this doctrine is founded not on any theory of his own, but upon the clear and convincing testimony of the Sacred Writings, and especially upon the testimony of Jesus Himself, who repeated again and again to His disciples

the teaching that He would come the second time. An earnest and prayerful examination of the teaching of the Scriptures on this point will dissolve all doubts that may exist in the mind of one seeking truth regarding the second coming of Christ.

Just before His death Christ said to His disciples, "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." John 14:1-3.

Here is a clear-cut, unequivocal promise, the meaning of which there is no possibility of mistaking. In the same chapter He repeats this by saying, "I will not leave you comfortless ["orphans," margin]: I will come to you." Verse 18. And again He said, "I go away, and come again unto you." Verse 28.

To the unbelieving Pharisees and scribes, just before His betrayal, He said, "Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Matthew 23:39.

When instructing His disciples, in answer to their question, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3), Jesus said, "Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: . . . and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Verse 30).

And to His disciples again He said, "The Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels." Matthew 16:27.

When adjured by the high priest at His trial, Jesus answered, "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64.

And in the last chapter of the Bible this same Jesus repeats three times to His servant John this truth of His second coming: "Behold, I come quickly"; "And, behold, I come quickly"; "Surely I come quickly." Revelation 22:7, 12, 20.

This uniform testimony of the Saviour is enough to create conviction in every heart which accepts Him as its Guide and Teacher. There is no doubt here. Jesus is coming again.

The Testimony of Prophets

But there is other testimony in the Bible in addition to that of Jesus Himself. This truth of the second coming of Christ to establish an everlasting kingdom and judge the world has been known and taught from the earliest times. The ancient patriarchs, even before the Flood, believed and taught it.

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all." Jude 14, 15.

David, under the inspiration of God, sang of that time: "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall

appear in his glory." (Psalm 102:16.) And he said again, "For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth." Psalm 96:13.

And of this time David again said, "Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity." Psalm 98:7-9.

The prophets also teach the same truth of the second coming of Christ. Isaiah repeatedly referred to this subject. He said, "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us." Isaiah 25:9. "For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." Isaiah 26:21. "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you." Isaiah 35:4. "Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him." Isaiah 40:10. "For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind." Isaiah 66:15.

The Testimony of Apostles

This truth is also taught by the apostles. Paul said, "Every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

1 Corinthians 15:23. "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philipians 3:20. "Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven." 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10. "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" 1 Thessalonians 2:19. "To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." 1 Thessalonians 3:13. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels." 2 Thessalonians 1:7. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Hebrews 9:28. "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Hebrews 10:37.

And Peter's testimony was that of Paul, as follows: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you." Acts 3:19, 20. "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the

end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:13. "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." 1 Peter 5:4. "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." 2 Peter 1:16.

James, the brother of the Lord, gave a similar testimony: "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. . . . Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7, 8.

John testified to the same truth: "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." 1 John 2:28. "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." 1 John 3:2. "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him." Revelation 1:7.

So important is this truth of the Lord's second coming that the Father, at the time of the ascension of Jesus, sent two angels with a special message to the earth to tell His disciples that He would return. The record says:

"And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men 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." Acts 1:10, 11.

The Doctrine Has Been Discredited

This truth of the second coming of Christ is given in the Bible a prominence second, perhaps, to no other doctrine. It is evident that the men who wrote the Bible considered this doctrine of supreme importance. And it is because of this very importance that the enemy of our souls has labored so untiringly to discredit this doctrine in the eyes of the people of God. He has succeeded in surrounding this subject with so much fanaticism that the teaching of the Lord's return itself has been discredited and neglected. So many sensational predictions have been made regarding the second coming of Christ, and have failed to materialize, that unbelief in this great event is prevalent in the church, and the vital importance of this great subject is hidden.

But it is evident that if Christ is coming again to this earth, it is of the utmost importance that the inhabitants of the earth should be made acquainted with that fact in order that they may make such preparation as is needful for this wonderful event. If His coming is near at hand, as the Scriptures plainly teach, and there are certain indications and signs of God's own giving which prove its nearness, then the church has, in the preaching of the truth of His com-

ing, a most wonderful message to deliver to the world—a message which the church surely needs, for the obvious lack of something definite in present-day preaching is causing the church to drift upon the rocks of higher criticism and infidelity.

In this message of the second coming of Christ, God is calling to His church to renew her allegiance to Him; and just to the extent that the call is heard and obeyed will she succeed or fail in her great mission. This is equally true of individuals. Hence it is important that we make a thorough investigation of this great Biblical doctrine, and as we ascertain the truth, accept it and bring our lives into harmony with it.