

Chapter Two

The Coming of the Man

THERE is in the hearts of men everywhere an instinctive consciousness that something in the nature of an overwhelming crisis is at hand. Something unusual in the immediate future is necessitated by the extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves to-day.

God has made provision for this unprecedented hour of the world's needs. He has One who can set the earth right, so that it will stay right. He has another Moses to send to this world.

The great lawgiver himself predicted: "A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you." Acts 3: 20-22. This promised leader is Jesus Christ. He is heaven's appointed leader and commander for the people (Isa. 55: 4).

The Hope of the World

He is the great physician who can heal all earth's maladies. The fulfillment of every need of humanity centers in Him. He is the hope of the world.

The Father has purposed to send Jesus Christ back to this earth as the great restorer. (Acts 3: 20, 21.) His return to earth is a necessary consummation to the divine program for "the restitution of all things." Nineteen hundred years ago the Father sent His blessed Son to this world, to live among men, to show them how to live, and then to die upon the cross to save them. We are now nearing the close of the Christian age, when the Father will send His Son back to earth the second time, to restore man to his primeval purity and perfection, and to bring the earth back to its original paradisiacal splendor.

The relief of the present degradation and desolation of the world lies in the coming of this divinely appointed Leader, to take the government upon His shoulder, to rule and reign in righteousness; for then, and not till then, will every world problem find its final solution. Whether men realize it or not, the coming of this Promised One is the only arrangement that



Christ is the hope of the world.

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can fulfill the world's needs. Nothing but the sifting, purging, regenerating power of His coming can ever heal our world of its moral leprosy and prepare it for the reception of the deathless, timeless kingdom of God.

The Advent Will Not Be an Accident

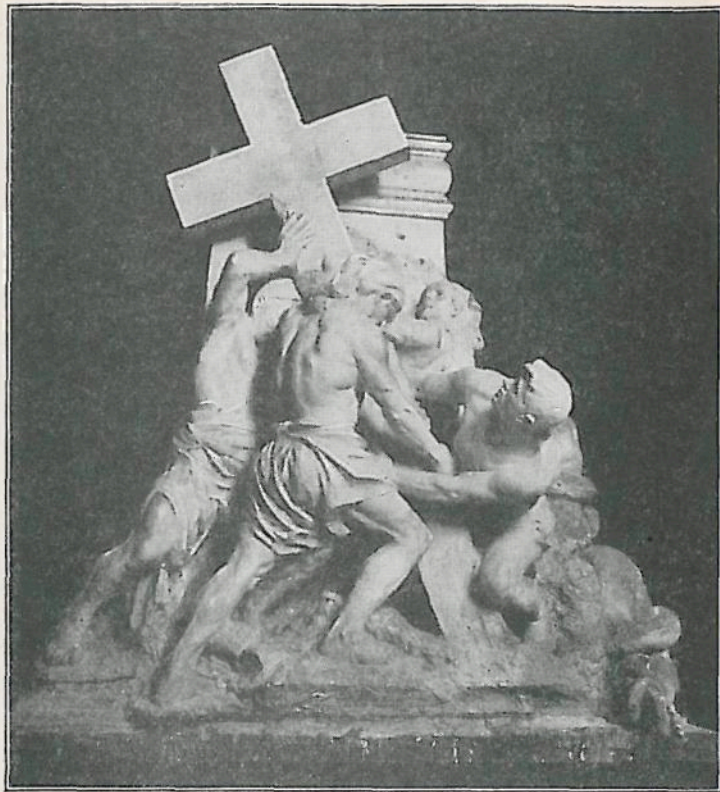
His impending return at this time is not an abnormality. His second coming will not be an accident or an interjection. It is the coming together of all the roads that have been cut through the centuries for the deliverance and salvation of His people. It is a part of the great panorama which delighted the eye of God on creation's morn. It is a part of the plans and specifications drawn by heaven's architect for heaven's glory and the world's redemption.

The first coming of Christ to this world was not some sudden, isolated, unexpected event. From the gate of Paradise to the manger in Bethlehem the centuries were preparing for the appearing of Immanuel. As the processes of creation prepared the earth for man, so all history prepared the way for the birth of the Saviour. God's hand was on the lever of circumstances. And "when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman." Gal. 4:4.

The Heralds of the First Coming

The century immediately preceding our Lord's advent was doubtless the most remarkable in all history prior to the Christian era. Everything was in a state of transition. Old things were passing away, and on the surface there seemed little prospect that the times would give birth to a better and brighter future. Yet there were strange rumors of coming relief afloat, and singular hopes stirred the hearts of men that some Great One was to appear and renovate the world.

Expectancy was in the air among God's people. "The people were in expectation and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not." Luke 3:15. They were living in expectation of some new and strange event. Though they may have been unable to tell the reasons, yet down in their innermost souls there was a feeling, a strong conviction, that some event of more than ordinary importance was impending, soon to take place.



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Wherever the cross of Christ has been raised men have seen hope.

History repeats itself. As it was in connection with the first advent, so it is concerning the second. There is a cherished expectation in the hearts of men, that our magnificent civilization of the twentieth century will produce a sublime leader, who will solve its problems, heal its maladies, and lead mankind from this world of perplexity, distress, bankruptcy, uncertainty, disorder, strife, and hatred into a state of abiding peace, security, tranquillity, plenty, prosperity, and lasting love. All eyes are turned to look for the coming man. And who is the coming Man of Destiny but Christ Jesus, the Desire of all ages, the Anointed of



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Polishing up the statue of peace in London. But the peace that the coming Man of Destiny will bring is no old, soiled theory.

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the Lord, He who said just before His departure, "I will come again"?"

Alexander, Julius Cæsar, and Napoleon were great leaders in their day, but when the time came for them to depart, not one of them ever said, "I will come again." There was only one man who ever trod this earth, that was great enough and big enough to say, "I will come again." And this Man of Nazareth is the man of destiny for this hour.

The Challenge of the Age

Our topsy-turvy, disordered world is throwing out the challenge: Where is the commanding figure that can step forward now, settle the perplexing international difficulties, solve the many distressing internal problems, and bring the whole race into one common brotherhood, where every man can sit securely under his own vine and under his own fig tree, with none to molest him or make him afraid? The return of Jesus Christ, to regenerate the world in righteousness and eternal happiness — that will be Heaven's response to the challenge of this age.

The great evils and perils of our day, afford no cause for pessimism and gloom, even though man is helpless to remedy them. They do occasion regret and sorrow to every heart that loves peace and righteousness; but it is sorrow commingled with joy. The dark to-day presages a brighter and better to-morrow. In the imminent return of Jesus Christ is the perfect solution, and the only solution of the political, and social, and industrial problems that now vex mankind.

No Worn-out Theory

A careful study of the doctrine of the advent will reveal that it is not some obsolete, worn-out theory or sterile theological formula. On the contrary it is the most practical, appropriate, and essential arrangement that can possibly be entertained to-day.

Christ's coming will usher in the dawn of that better day for which all humanity is longing. It will bring the fulfillment of that age-long dream of a golden era, when every trace of bondage and trouble will disappear, and mankind will be blest with universal and lasting peace and happiness.