

Bible Doctrines

shadow and the figure of the Christian. society, can in fact be the shadow and figure of the Catholic Church alone.” – “Catholic Doctrine as Defined by the Council of Trent,” Revelation A. Nampion, S.J. (R.C.), page 62.

(h) The Papacy has a counterfeit Sabbath.

“We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (AD 336), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.” – “The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine,” Revelation Peter Geiermatin (R.C.), 1913, page 50.

4. The Counterfeit Unmasked.

The judgment-hour message of Revelation 14 calls special attention to the counterfeit system of Babylon, and calls upon men to heed “the everlasting gospel” and keep “the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”

Revelation 14: 6-12. A solemn warning against false religion.

Revelation 18: 1-4. God's people called out of Babylon.

Revelation 18: 5-8. Babylon's destruction.

MEMORIZE: Revelation 18: 4, 5.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How is Satan's work as a deceiver described in Scripture?
2. What message does Satan especially oppose and why?
3. How could Satan keep men in ignorance of the judgment work in heaven?
4. What does Paul say was working even in his day? What did he call the power that would later develop?
5. Describe John's vision of the mystery of iniquity. Explain the meaning of the symbol.
6. Besides being symbolized by a harlot, what else symbolizes the apostate church of the Christian era?
Explain the fitness of the symbol.
7. How may the Papacy be described in its relation to the Christian gospel?
What has it invented as a substitute of the true gospel?
8. Name the counterfeits of the true gospel that are found in the papal system.
9. What is declared by Roman Catholics to be a sacrifice of Christ's body?
10. Who is the high priest of the Roman Catholic faith?
What priesthood takes the place of the one in heaven?
11. How has Christ been robbed of His true position as mediator and as intercessor?
12. What takes the place of the heavenly sanctuary in the Catholic faith?
13. What is the true antitype of the earthly sanctuary and its services?
What does the Papacy teach is the antitype?
14. What does Romanism claim with regard to the Sabbath?
15. How is the counterfeit system of the Papacy unmasked in the last days?
16. What final call does God make to His people?

For Further Study

1. What is the doctrine of transubstantiation?
2. How does Hebrews 10: 12-14 prove the Roman Catholic doctrine of the mass to be erroneous?
3. Why should the Christian faith have no human priests?

34. THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO THIS WORLD

1. The Promise of the Second Coming.

John 14: 1-3. Before leaving this world Christ made a definite promise that He would return.

Acts 1: 9-11. The promise was repeated at the time of the ascension.

Hebrews 9:28. His return to this earth is spoken of as His second appearing. This shows definitely that Christ is not referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit, or to His

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- 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10. coming to the believer at death as some teach. Christians are to wait for the fulfillment of Christ's promised return.
Revelation 22: 20. Christ repeated His promise to the Apostle John some sixty-five years after His ascension.

Note. The doctrine of the Second Advent occupies a position of primary importance in the Bible, especially in the New Testament where it is estimated that there are 318 references to it in the 216 chapters of the Book. The hope of the advent of Christ in His glory was anticipated also by the saints of Old Testament times, centuries before the first advent. It has been the hope of the ages.

- Jude 14, 15. Enoch the patriarch prophesied of the coming of Christ to execute judgment.
Job 19: 25-27. Job looked beyond the grave to the time when he would see his Redeemer.
Psalm 50: 3, 4. David spoke of His coming.
Isaiah 25: 8, 9. Isaiah spoke of the rejoicing of God's people at the close of the age.

2. The Manner of Christ's Return.

- Matthew 24: 23-26. Christ stressed the importance of our knowing how He will return. Why?
Matthew 24: 27, 30, 31 Christ's coming will be of such a character that it cannot be mistaken or counterfeited.
Acts 1: 9-11. He will come personally and visibly in a cloud as He went away.
Revelation 1: 7. All who are living on the earth at the time will see Christ return.
(See also Matthew 24: 27.)

Those who crucified Christ will be raised just previous to His coming, in order to see Him appear as Christ told them at the time they condemned Him to death. Matthew 26: 64; Daniel 12: 2.
Matthew 25: 31 All the angels will accompany Christ. [Matthew 24: 31].
Matthew 16: 27; The Second Advent will be an event of magnificent [Luke 9: 26] glory.

3. Events Connected with the Second Advent.

- (a) The righteous dead will be raised. 1 Thessalonians 4: 16; 1 Corinthians 15: 22, 23. (b) The righteous living will be made immortal and caught up with

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(b) The righteous living will be made immortal and caught up with those who are resurrected to meet Christ in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4: 17; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-53; Matthew 24: 31.

(c) All unbelievers will be destroyed by the brightness of Christ's appearing. Luke 17:26-30;
2 Thessalonians 1: 7-10; Revelation 1:7; 6:14-17; 2 Thessalonians 2: 8.

(d) The earth will be devastated. Revelation 6: 14; 16: 17-21; Psalm 50:3-5; Isaiah 24.

4. Warnings and Admonitions in View of the Second Advent.

Matthew 24: 44. Be ready.

Mark 13: 32-37. Watch and pray.

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6. Let us not sleep in spiritual things.

1 Thessalonians 5: 23. Be sanctified, or holy in life.

MEMORIZE: John 14: 1-3.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did Christ assure us of His Second Advent?
2. What promise was made at the time of Christ's ascension?
3. What shows that Christ's promise to come again did not refer to the coming of the Holy Spirit?
4. How are Christians to relate themselves to the promise of Christ's return?
5. What is the last promise in the Bible? How did the one who wrote it respond to it?
6. Show that the doctrine of the Second Advent is a primary doctrine of scripture.
7. What statements were made by the following which show that they anticipated the Second Advent:
Enoch, Job, David, Isaiah?
8. How and why did Jesus stress the importance of knowing the manner in which Christ will appear?
9. What false views will some advocate concerning the appearance of Christ?
10. Describe the manner of the Second Advent.
11. What events will occur at the Second Advent?
12. What admonitions does Christ give in view of His coming? How does Paul give similar instruction?
13. How fully are we to be prepared for Christ's return?

For Further Study

1. Notice the prominence of the doctrine of the Second Advent in the Epistles to the Thessalonians.
2. Who are the "saints" referred to in Jude 14?
3. How is the destruction of the unprepared of the last days brought about?
4. Why is Christ coming again? Give Scripture support for your reasons.
5. What features of the Second Advent would Satan be unable to counterfeit?
6. How do you suppose men in the last days will be saying "peace and safety"?

35. SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN

1. The Nearness of the Second Advent Can Be Known

Although the exact day and hour of Christ's return to this world has not been revealed, the Lord expects His followers to know when His coming is near at hand. In order that His people may know when to expect His return, he has told them of certain events and conditions which they may recognize as omens