

XIII.

Second Advent.

LESSON CI.

PROPHECY.

1. Divine prophecy is the foretelling of events to take place in the future. John 13:19; Amos 3:7; Rev. 1:1.
2. Things revealed through prophecy are given for the benefit of man in coming time. Deut. 29:29; 2 Peter 1:19.
3. Prophecies can be understood, otherwise they would be of no use to man. Matt. 24:15; Dan. 9:2; Luke 4:17-21.
4. Some prophecies are conditional and may not be fulfilled if the conditions change. Jer. 18:7-10; Jonah 3:4-10.
5. Prophecies relating to things in nature, such as the darkening of the sun, falling of the stars, earthquakes, etc., are unconditional, and will always be fulfilled. Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:12, 13.
6. The unbelieving or wicked often fulfill prophecies, and do not know it. In betraying and selling Christ for thirty pieces, etc., they unwittingly fulfilled prophecy. Ps. 41:9; John 13:2, 18, 19; Zech. 11:12, 13; Matt. 26:15; 27:9, 10.
7. The present extensive preparations for war are an unconscious fulfillment of prophecy. Joel 3:9, 10; Rev. 16:13, 14.
8. When God's people fulfill prophecy, they know it. Matt. 3:1-3; Luke 4:17-21; Acts 1:16-22.
9. When the time comes for an unconditional prophecy to be fulfilled, no power on earth can prevent it. Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:2-5; Luke 9:22; Matt. 27:61-66; 28:2-6.

Remark.—Symbolic prophecies will be considered in succeeding lessons.

QUESTIONS.

1. What is divine prophecy?
2. Of what benefit is divine prophecy?
3. Prove that prophecy can be understood.

4. Give an example of conditional prophecy.
5. Which prophecies are always unconditional?
6. Who unwittingly fulfills prophecy? Give examples.
7. How are the prophecies relating to war preparations being fulfilled?
8. Are the promoters of war preparations conscious of fulfilling prophecy?
9. Who fulfill prophecy, and are conscious of it?
10. Can the fulfillment of unconditional prophecies ever be prevented? Give an example.

LESSON CII.

SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST.

1. Christ has been here on earth once, and he has promised to come again. John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 9:28.
2. The following proves that the Old Testament writers taught the coming of Christ in glory at the last day:
 - (a) Enoch prophesied of Christ's coming in glory. Jude 14.
 - (b) Job believed in the coming of Christ at the last day. Job 19:25-27.
 - (c) David spoke of Christ's coming to gather his saints. Ps. 50:3-5.
 - (d) Isaiah spoke of Jesus' coming to save his people and to destroy the wicked. Isa. 25:8, 9; 66:15, 16.
3. The following texts in the New Testament teach the second advent: Matt. 16:27; 24:27; 25:31; Luke 9:26; 1 Thes. 4:16; 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8, etc.
4. Christ's coming will be personal and visible. John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Luke 21:27; Rev. 1:7.
5. He will come in the clouds with power and glory, and every eye shall see him. Matt. 24:26, 27; 26:64; Mark 13:36; 14:62; Luke 9:26; Rev. 1:7.
6. All the angels will come with him, and they will gather the saints. Matt. 25:31; 24:30, 31; 13:39.
7. Only those who love and prepare for his appearing will then rejoice and be saved. 2 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 9:28; Isa. 8:17; 25:9.
8. The righteous are then taken to heaven, where he has pre-

pared a place for them. John 14:1-4; 1 Thes. 4:16, 17; Rev. 19:1-3.

9. All the wicked will, with anguish, behold Christ coming in glory, when they will all be destroyed. Rev. 1:7; 6:14-17; 2 Thes. 2:8.

QUESTIONS.

1. Give two texts proving Christ will come the second time.
2. Name four in the Old Testament who prophesied of Christ's coming in glory.
3. Which other texts in the New Testament teach the second advent? Name three texts.
4. Prove that his coming will be personal and visible.
5. How will he come, and who will see him?
6. Who will come with him, and for what purpose?
7. Who only will then be saved? One text.
8. How will the wicked feel in that day?
9. What will become of them?

LESSON CIII.

SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING.

1. The disciples asked Jesus what would be the sign of his coming, and of the end of the world. Matt. 24:3.

2. He answered and said that there would be signs in the heavens, the sun and moon would be darkened and the stars would fall. Luke 21:25-27; Matt. 24:29.

3. The sun was to be darkened after the days of persecution were shortened by the Reformation, but before they ended. Matt. 24:29; Mark 13:24.

Note 1.—The Bible speaks of 1,260 days (years) of papal persecution, which date from 538 A. D. and ended in 1798. But these days were shortened by the Reformation through edicts granting religious toleration.

4. The sun was darkened by a supernatural cloud (Eze. 32:7) on May 19, 1780, after the Reformation, but before 1798. The darkness began in the forenoon (Isa. 13:10), and at noon it had the appearance of evening and night. Amos 8:9.

5. As a consequence of the sun being supernaturally darkened,

the moon, though at its full, was also darkened on the following night. Mark 13:24; Rev. 6:12. The darkness began between 9 and 10 in the forenoon, and continued until the following midnight.

Note 2.—In Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, edition of 1885, on page 1604, is the following on this point: "The dark day, May 19, 1780—so called on account of a remarkable darkness on that day extending all over New England. In some places, persons could not see to read common print in the open air for several hours together. Birds sang their evening song, disappeared and became silent; cattle sought the barnyard; fowls went to roost, and candles were lighted in the houses. The obscuration began about 10 o'clock in the morning, and continued till the middle of the next night, but with differences of degree and duration in different places. For several days previously the wind had been variable, but chiefly from the southwest and the northeast. The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known."

The author of *Great Events of the Greatest Century* devotes pages 40-47 to this remarkable phenomenon, which he denominates "the wonderful dark day—1780." The following are some of the head lines to this chapter: "The northern states wrapt in a dense black atmosphere for fifteen hours. The day of judgment supposed to have come. Cessation of labor. Religious devotions resorted to. The herds retire to their stalls, the fowls to their roosts and the birds sing their evening songs at noon-day. Science at loss to account for the mysterious phenomenon," etc.

Herschel, the astronomer, says: "The dark day in northern America was one of those wonderful phenomena of nature which will always be read of with interest, but which philosophy is at a loss to explain." *Ibid*, page 40.

6. The next sign from heaven predicting the second advent of Jesus was the falling of the stars. Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:13.

Note 3.—The stars were to fall from heaven like a figtree casting her figs when shaken by a mighty wind. This was literally fulfilled according to the prophecy a few years after the darkening of the sun and moon, and occurred on Nov. 13, 1833. In the work cited above, *Great Events of the Greatest Century*, will be found a whole chapter devoted to this great star shower, on pages 228-235. Space permits only the head lines to this chapter: "The most grand and brilliant celestial phenomenon ever beheld and recorded by man. The whole firmament of the universe in fiery commotion for several hours. Amazing velocity, size and profusion of the falling bodies. Their intense heat, vivid colors and strange, glowing beauty. Unequaled in every respect. Cloudless serenity of the sky. The people wonder-struck. Admiration among the intelligent. Alarm among the ignorant. Conflagration of the world feared. Impromptu prayer-meetings. Prodigious star shower at Boston. Myriads of blood-red fireballs. The display at Niagara Falls. Blazing heavens, roaring cataracts."

7. The following prophecies relating to the last days have been and are in the process of fulfillment, thus proving that the end is near:

- (a) Increase of knowledge. Dan. 12: 4.
- (b) Great preparations for war. Joel 3: 9-13; Rev. 16: 13-16.
- (c) Increase of ungodliness and crime. 2 Tim. 3: 1-5, 13.
- (d) Increase of riches and oppression of the poor. Jas. 5: 1-8; Mal. 3: 5.

8. The fulfillment of the above and other prophecies (to be studied in following lessons) prove conclusively that we are living in the last days. Luke 21: 28.

QUESTIONS.

1. Which question did the disciples ask Jesus relating to his coming and the end of the world?
2. What was his answer? Give reference.
3. What was the first sign in the heavens? The second sign?
4. Between which events was the sun and moon to be darkened?
5. When and how were these signs fulfilled? See note.
6. When did the stars fall? See note.
7. Of what is the increase of knowledge a sign?
8. What mean the great preparations for war?
9. What does the increase of crime indicate?
10. Of what is the increase of riches, of millionaires, a sign?
11. What may be concluded from the above signs?

LESSON CIV.

SECOND ADVENT MESSAGE.

1. In ages past God has always sent messages to warn the world of coming events. Amos 3: 7.

2. The following will illustrate this:

(a) Noah warned the antedeluvians of the coming deluge. 2 Peter 2: 5; Matt. 24: 37-39.

(b) The angels and Lot warned the people of the cities of the coming judgment. Gen. 19: 1, 12-15, 24, 25.

(c) John the Baptist preached the first advent of Christ. Matt. 3: 1-3; John 1: 29.

3. A message will likewise be preached before Christ's second advent to warn the world of his coming. Matt. 24:42-47; 25:6-10; Amos 4:12.

4. The second advent message will be preached after the signs of his coming have been seen, and the message will be based upon the fulfillment of these prophecies. Luke 21:25-28; Matt. 24:29-33, 42-44.

5. Some believe this advent message, prepare, wait and long for Christ to come. 2 Tim. 4:8; Heb. 9:28; Isa. 25:9.

6. That generation which lives and sees "all these things," including the last sign from heaven, the falling of the stars in 1833, and hears the second advent message will live until Jesus comes. Matt. 24:29-34.

Note.—Evidently some of those who lived when the stars fell will live till the end of the world.

7. While all may know that he is near, even at the door, yet none know the day and the hour of Christ's second advent. Matt. 24:36.

8. On the other hand, many ministers and people will reject and oppose the advent message. Matt. 24:48-51; Jer. 18:18; 2 Peter 3:3, 4.

9. While the righteous rejoice when Jesus comes, the unbelieving will lament most bitterly. Rev. 1:7; 6:15-17.

10. Those who have believed the message and have prepared for the coming of Jesus are gathered at last by their guardian angels. Matt. 24:30, 31; 25:31-34.

11. The wicked are all destroyed at the second advent of Christ. Matt. 24:48-51; 25:41; 2 Thes. 1:7-10.

QUESTIONS.

1. Of what has God warned people in ages past?
2. Did he send the flood before he warned the people of it?
3. Who warned the people of the coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah?
4. Who preached the first advent of Jesus?
5. What message will be given before the second advent?
6. Upon what will this message be based, and when will it be preached?
7. What will those do who believe this warning message?

8. Which generation will live till Jesus comes?
9. What may really be known of his coming? Paragraph 7.
10. Will all believe the second advent message?
11. What will they say about it? Give text.
12. How will the righteous receive Jesus when he comes?
13. How will the wicked feel, and what will they say?
14. Who only are saved?
15. Who gather the righteous? Give one reference.
16. What becomes of the wicked? Give one text.

LESSON CV.

ANGELS:

1. Angels are created moral beings. Eze. 28:14, 15.
2. As created intelligences, they are subject to law, and punished when they sin. Ps. 103:20; 2 Peter 2:4.
3. There are various orders of angels—cherubim and seraphim. Eze. 28:14; Isa. 6:2, 6.
4. Angels seem to be corporeal beings, yet of a higher organization than man, as they have the power to make themselves visible or invisible. Heb. 2:6, 7; Gen. 18:1, 2; Num. 22:22-31.
5. The leader of the rebellion in heaven is called Lucifer (margin, "day star"). Isa. 14:12.
6. When he was banished from heaven, he took with him about one-third of the stars, angels. Rev. 12:3, 4, 9; see lesson XXIV.
7. There are still 10,000 times 10,000, and thousands of thousands, at least 101 million, of loyal angels in heaven. Dan. 7:10; Rev. 5:11.
8. Angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to the saints, and are therefore interested in man's salvation. Heb. 1:14; Luke 15:10.
9. Each child of God, old or young, has a guardian angel. Matt. 18:10; Acts 12:15.
10. There is reason to believe that angels make a faithful record of all our words and actions. Mal. 3:16; Eccl. 5:6.
11. Angels have been sent to deliver God's people (Dan. 6:22; Acts 12:7-11), and to comfort them. Acts 27:22-26.

12. Angels are sent to execute the judgments of God upon the wicked. Isa. 37:36; Revelation 16.

13. At last each angel will gather each saint whom he has guarded during life, and present him to Christ. Matt. 24:31.

QUESTIONS.

1. Who are angels?
2. Are they subject to law, and why?
3. Is there more than one order of angels?
4. Are they corporeal beings? How are they compared with man?
5. What was the leader in the rebellion in heaven called?
6. How many angels were banished from heaven?
7. How many are still loyal to God?
8. To whom do they minister and in whom are they interested?
9. What has each child of God? Give one text.
10. Who are supposed to record all our words and acts?
11. Give examples of where angels have been sent to deliver and comfort God's people.
12. Prove that angels execute God's judgments.
13. Which angel will gather each saint?

LESSON CVI.

REVIEW QUESTIONS ON LESSONS CI TO CV.

1. What is divine prophecy? Lesson CI, paragraph 1.
2. For whose benefit is prophecy given?
3. What may be said about conditional and unconditional prophecies? *Ibid*, paragraphs 4, 5.
4. Give examples of such as unconsciously fulfill prophecy. *Ibid*, paragraphs 6, 7.
5. Who knowingly fulfill prophecy?
6. Is there any power which can prevent the fulfilling of prophecy?
7. Give two texts proving that Christ will come the second time. Lesson CII, paragraph 1.
8. Name three in the Old Testament who taught the second advent.

9. How will Christ come? *Ibid*, paragraphs 4, 5.
10. Who will come with him, and for what purpose?
11. Who alone will be saved?
12. What will become of the wicked?
13. What signs did Christ say would indicate that the end was near? Lesson CIII, paragraphs 1, 2.
14. Mention the signs in the sun, moon and stars, and show when and how fulfilled. *Ibid*, paragraphs 3-6.
15. Mention other prophecies which are now being fulfilled and which prove we are in the last days. *Ibid*, paragraph 7 (a) to (d).
16. What may be concluded from the fulfilment of these prophecies?
17. What message will be given to the world to prepare it for Christ's coming? Lesson CIV, paragraph 3.
18. When will this message be given? *Ibid*, paragraph 4.
19. Which generation will see the coming of Jesus? *Ibid*, paragraph 6.
20. How many classes of people will be living when Jesus comes, and which will be saved?
21. Who alone will be saved, and why?
22. What are angels, and what is their work? Lesson CV, paragraphs 1, 8, 11.
23. How many fallen and how many loyal angels are there?
24. What has each child of God?
25. Which particular angel will gather each saint at last?