

The Bible Speaks

time. Many carelessly put off till the beginning of the Sabbath little things that might have been done on the day of preparation. This should not be. Work that is neglected until the beginning of the Sabbath should remain undone until it is past. This course might help the memory of these thoughtless ones, and make them careful to do their own work on the six working days." - E. G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, page 296.

16. What special name is, therefore, given to the sixth day of the week?

"Now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathaea went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus." Mark 15:42, 43. "That day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on." Luke 23:54.

17. While God indicated specifically how the Sabbath should be kept, for whose benefit was the day intended?

"He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27.

18. If we observe it as God intended, what joy shall we find in its sacred hours?

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24.

6. Earth's Greatest Moment

Man's Only Hope

1. FOR what purpose did Jesus come to dwell among men?

"The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

2. As He hung on the cross, what triumphant claim was the Son of God able to make concerning His earthly mission?

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:30.

3. Since His return to heaven, what further phase of His work has occupied Jesus?

"We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens." Hebrews 8:1. "He ever lives to make intercession." Hebrews 7:25.

4. By what act will the great plan of salvation be consummated?

"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.

NOTE – "The whole of history before Christ gravitates towards His appearance in time. That is the watershed of world history. Since the life of Christ on earth, the world moves on to its climax in the Second Coming of Christ, when He will exercise judgment and wind history up. From zero to the appearance of Christ in Judea; from the appearance of Christ as a man in Judea to His reappearance at the consummation of history as Lord and Judge of all mankind-that is the real clue to world development."-D. R. Davies, On to Orthodoxy, pages 143, 144.

5. What solemn promise to this effect did Jesus give His disciples before He left them?

"I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:3.

6. How long has the hope of the Lord's coming in triumph been cherished by His people?

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

NOTE-Actually the hope may be traced back to Eden, for the promise in Genesis 3:15 is of the

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triumph of Christ.

7. Of what was job confident?

“Though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God!” Job 19:26. See also Job 14:14, 15.

8. For what did the psalmist look?

“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people.” Psalm 50:14.

9. What hope did the followers of Jesus entertain while He was yet with them?

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6.

10. What assurance were the disappointed disciples given immediately after the ascension?

“This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.” Verse 11.

11. What became the keynote of Paul’s message to the world?

“For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” Hebrews 10:37.

12. What has the second advent thus been to the church through the ages?

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13.

“The church must preach the Second Coming of her Lord in power and final judgment of history. These despised and neglected dogmas must be given supreme prominence.” - D. R. Davies, *On to Orthodoxy*, page 196.

“No doctrine, not even the fundamental doctrine of justification by faith, has assigned to it in the inspired word so large a place as the doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ and His kingdom. It is not confined to a few isolated passages, it is not the subject of one or two books of Scripture, but it pervades the whole Bible. In the apostolic churches the hope of Christ’s coming was the joy and strength of Christians. They realized that they belonged not to this world or age. They waited for their absent Lord; and the martyrs were able to suffer and die with joy unspeakable and full of glory, because they held fast the promise given to all that overcome, and they looked forward to the glory of Christ in His kingdom. Primitive Christians were unworldly, because they were otherworldly, citizens of the age to come.” - Adolph Saphir, *The Lords Prayer*, pages 174-176.

13. Into what experience should a realization of the imminent advent of Christ lead us?

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Verses 12, 13.

Will Christ Really Come?

1. WHAT solemn promise did Jesus give His disciples?

“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 you may be also.” John 14:2, 3.

NOTE - If the value of a statement or doctrine is to be measured by the number of times repeated, then, since from Genesis to Revelation, in every form of human language the Second Coming is proclaimed, is stamped upon almost every page of the Bible, is inwrought with every fiber of truth it finally presents. Since in the New Testament alone it is mentioned directly and indirectly more than three hundred times, as there is no other theme in the Bible that approaches it in frequency of repetition, it should seem

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that this event and doctrine of the Second Coming with all its promises and certified consequences should easily be of supreme and all-compelling importance. Should you cut out every reference to the Second Coming, its cognate truths and all the events to which it gives emphasis, you would have but a fragment of the Bible. And the Book upon which faith is founded, from which hope casts its glances heavenward, sees light in the grave and immortality assured, would be but as a broken reed, a garment of beauty torn and shredded, or as a harp whose main chord had been snapped asunder.” - I. M. Haldeman, *Why I Preach the Second Coming*, pages 48, 49.

2. What assurance was given at the ascension that Jesus intended personally to return?

“While they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:10, 11.

3. What terms are applied to Christ’s return which clearly indicate that it is an actual moment in history?

a. The last day. “This is the Father’s will which hath sent Me, that of all which He hath given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.” John 6:39.

b. The day of the Lord. “Yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.” 1 Thessalonians 5:2.

NOTE - I cannot emphasize too strongly that the Second Coming is not a process-but will be an EVENT. No one will seriously argue that the birth of Christ in Palestine was a process. It is agreed that it happened in time and space. Equally so will be the Second Coming, which, by means of the last judgment, will bring history to its conclusion. The symbolism of it-clouds, angels, etc-emphasizes its historic character. It will be an event in history-the last event.” - D. R. Davies, *On to Orthodoxy*, page i5S.

4. How real will Christ’s coming be?

a. He will “appear.” “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:2.

NOTE-This word means literally, “a shining upon.” All the spotlights of heaven will indeed be focused upon Jesus in that day. There will be no mistaking the chief figure in that last great pageant of time.

b. He will be “revealed.” “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.

NOTE - This is the word used in the title of the last book of the Bible and may literally be rendered “unveiling.” When our Lord came to earth at His first advent, His glory was veiled in human flesh. When He comes again, there will be nothing between. He will stand unveiled in all the majesty of His heavenly glory.

c. His “presence” will be manifest. “To the end He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming [presence] of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.” 1 Thessalonians 3:13.

NOTE - The remaining expression used of the return of Jesus is generally translated by the word “coming.” The original word here is *parousia*, or “presence.”

First-century papyrus documents use this word to indicate the personal visit of a king or other personage. Among other uses of the term we find in one papyrus: “The repair of what has been swept away by the river requires my *parousia*.” “We await your *parousia*,” writes a man to his brothers. A legal document makes reference to an individual swearing in the *parousia* of the bishops. The historian Polybius speaks of the “*parousia* of Hannibal.” The word always has reference to an appearance in person.

5. Against what false advent teachings did Jesus warn His disciples?

“Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not.” Matthew 24:26.

NOTE - From time to time suggestions have been made that Jesus will appear in this or that remote place, and temples have been built for His reception. All such hopes are vain. The reference to the “secret chamber” undoubtedly has reference to the secrecy of the spiritualist seance. But Satan, not Christ,

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will be found there.

6. Where will He appear?

“The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

7. By how many will He be seen?

“Behold, He comes with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kingdoms of the earth shall wail because of Him.” Revelation 1:7.

8. How spectacular will His coming be?

a. With fire. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 1:8.

b. Like lightning. “As the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:27.

c. In power and glory. “They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory!” Verse 30.

9. On what occasion were the disciples given a miniature picture of the second advent?

“It came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, He took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as He prayed, the fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistering.” Luke 9:28, 29.

10. How did Peter later recall this preview of the advent?

“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.

11. By what glorious retinue will He be accompanied on His return?

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory.” Matthew 25:31.

12. Besides being seen by all, what audible accompaniment will herald His approach?

“The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

13. What will be brought to a sudden end by the appearance of Christ?

This present world order. “As He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world [age]?” Matthew 24:3. “Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” Galatians 1:4.

14. What will at that time be ushered in?

“And tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come.” Hebrews 6:5, R. V.

15. How unexpected will the coming of Christ be to the wicked?

“Yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.” 1 Thessalonians 5:2.

16. Who will not be taken unawares by the Lord’s return and why?

“You, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” Verses 4-6.

NOTE “Man lives in two worlds and when he tries to make his home in one alone something goes wrong with him. Our race, like that of the migratory birds, cannot live and perform all its functions in one climate but must undertake a periodic flight to another homeland.”-H. Richard Niebuhr, “Towards a New

Other-Worldliness,” in *Theology Today*, Volume 1, Number 1, Page 78.

Is the End Near?

1. SITTING with His disciples one day on the Mount of Olives, looking across at the city of Jerusalem, to what sorrowful thoughts did Jesus give expression?

“When He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from your eyes.” Luke 19:41, 42.

2. What fate did He pronounce upon it?

“For the days shall come upon thee, that your enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee. And they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knew not the time of thy visitation.” Verses 43, 44.

3. With what did the disciples associate the predicted fall of Jerusalem?

“As He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Matthew 24:3.

4. How did Jesus correct this wrong impression and dissociate the two events?

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Verses 4-8.

5. What vicissitudes would the church have-to face and endure?

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for My name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Verses 9-12.

NOTE. SEE study, “Through Tribulation to Triumph,” page 583.

6. What reward would endurance bring?

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Verse 13.

7. Returning to the first question the disciples asked, how did Jesus forewarn them of the destruction of Jerusalem?

“When you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.” Luke 21:20.

8. To what prophecy was He here drawing attention?

“When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (who so reads, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.” Matthew 24:15,16.

9. Taking the fall of Jerusalem as the starting point again, what further details did He supply of the interim period between this catastrophe and the end of the world?

“Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be.” Verse 21. Compare verses 9-12.

10. How perilously near to extinction would the church come?

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s

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sake those days shall be shortened.” Verse 2.2.

11. Upon what internal perils of the church through the ages did Jesus next enlarge?

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.” Verses 23-25.

12. With the close of the persecution what period in earth’s history would be reached?

“Some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.” Daniel 11:35.

13. What spectacular signs in the natural world would be associated with this momentous period?

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” Matthew 24:29.

NOTE - See study, “Dissolving Empires,” page 576.

14. What signs in the earth would further proclaim the imminence of the advent?

a. International upheavals. “Upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.” Luke 21:25.

b. Universal fear. “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Verse 26.

NOTE. “At the bottom of the political unrest lies our wounded soul crying for salvation and peace. Behind the longing for social and economic security of the masses you may sense a nostalgic cry of a homeless human heart for protection from the perils of chaos and selfishness. An atmosphere of fear, suspicion, distrust, and prejudice weighs heavily upon human souls everywhere.” - Joseph L. Hromadka, “One Year Later,” in *Theology Today*, vol. 4, Number 1, Page 34.

c. Widespread moral depravity. “As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the Flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:37-39.

d. World-wide evangelism. “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Verse 14.

NOTE-See study, “What Do These Things Mean?” page 629.

15. By what event will the end be ushered in?

“Then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Verse 30.

16. Why did Jesus give His disciples this outline of history?

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh: so likewise you, when you shall see all these things know that it is near, even at the doors!” Verses 32, 33.

17. Is the precise time of Christ’s return revealed?

“Of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Verse 36.

18. In what state of preparedness, therefore, must the church be in the last days?

“Therefore be you also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes.” Verse 44.

19. What feelings will possess the believers as they see, by the fulfillment of prophecy, the advent drawing near?

“When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh.” Luke 21:28.

20. On the other hand, what tragic fate will befall those who have failed to prepare to meet God?

“If that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delays his coming; ... the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looks not for him and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites.” Matthew 24:48-51.

21. How assured may we be of the certainty of the prophetic word?

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.” Verse 35.

7. God's, Outline of the Future

Can We Understand Prophecy?

1. How has God provided for our instruction and development in spiritual matters?

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16.

2. What forms a large part of all Scripture which is to be studied and understood?

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise.” 2 Peter 1:19.

NOTE-It is not generally realized how large a part of the Bible is taken up by prophecy. If we think only of the definitely prophetic books we find that there are no less than eighteen amounting to almost one quarter of the total text of the Bible. But there are also many prophecies in the other books of the Old and New Testaments, so that we may say without exaggeration that about one half of the Bible is prophecy. Obviously, then, if we neglect the prophetic word we are necessarily setting aside a large part of Holy Writ.

3. Were the prophecies of Daniel intended to be understood?

“He came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.” Daniel 8:17. See also Daniel 9:22, 23.

4. What significant name is given to the last book of the Bible, indicating that it is to be understood?

“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.” Revelation 1:1.

NOTE-It would surely be ludicrous for God to designate one of the most important prophetic books in the Bible as a “revelation” or “unveiling” if it were not to be understood.

5. What specific injunctions are given to the readers of this prophecy to understand its meaning?

“Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” Verse 3.

6. What example of study did the prophets themselves set?

“Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you.” 1 Peter 1:10. See also verse 11.

NOTE-Daniel, in captivity in Babylon, seeking to understand God's purpose for Israel, betook himself to the study of the prophet Jeremiah and “understood by books” that the period of desolation of Jerusalem was almost expired. Daniel 9:2.

7. Is human wisdom adequate for an understanding of prophecy?

“The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14.

NOTE - As divine aid is necessary to unveil the future (Daniel 2:20-23), so spiritual understanding