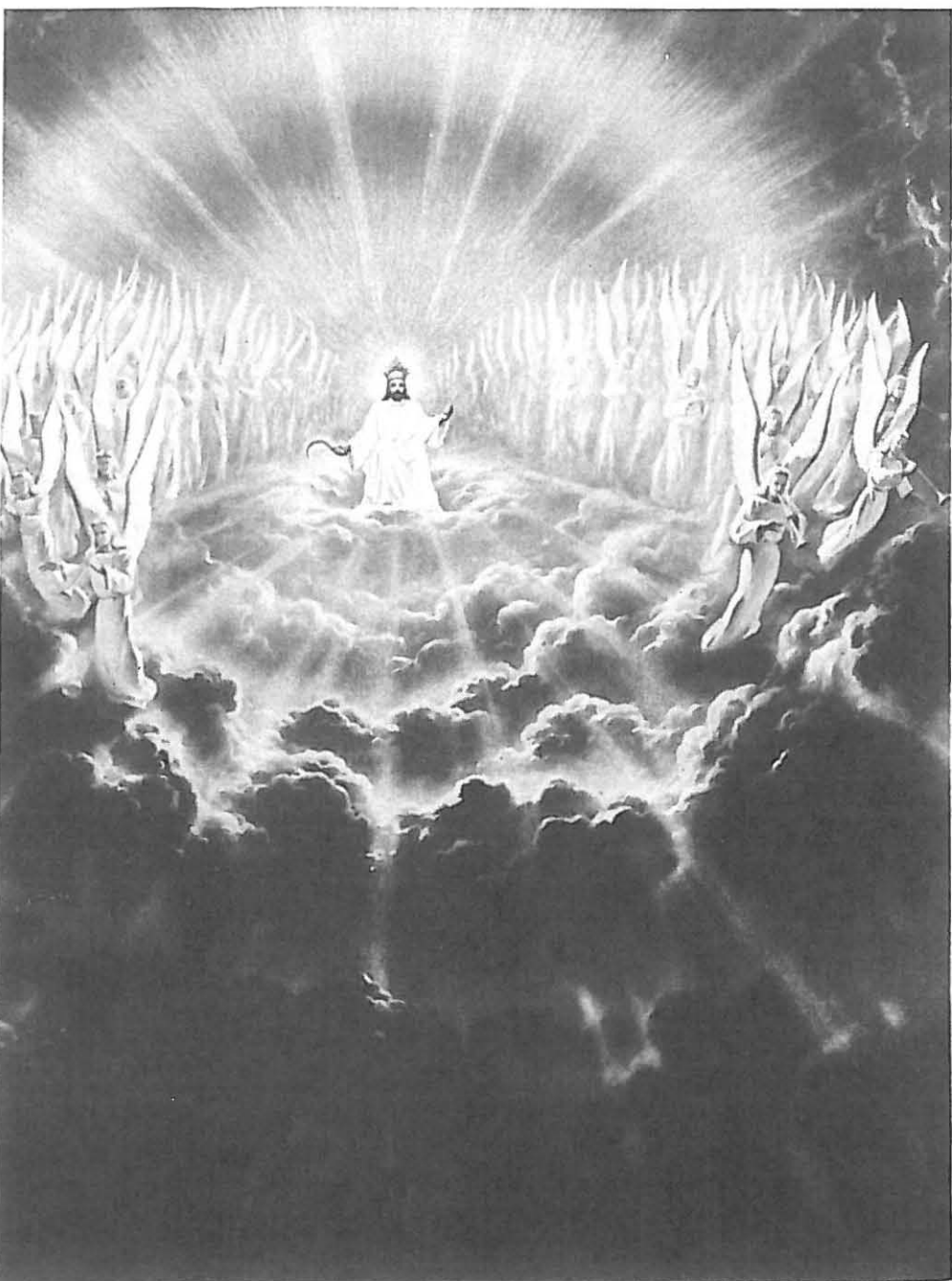


The Manner of His Coming



THE prediction that Christ's second coming will be counterfeited is made in several places in the New Testament. In this connection let the following passages be considered: "Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:5. "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 shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. 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." Verses 23-26. "Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ." Luke 21:8.

From these passages it is clear that the Bible teaches that the coming of Christ will be preceded by



The second coming of Christ will not be in secret.
"Every eye shall see him."

the appearance of a false and spurious christ; that great multitudes, not having studied the Scriptures regarding the manner of the coming of Christ, will be led astray by this false christ; but that there is sufficient truth in the Bible regarding the manner of Christ's coming to guard the people of God from being carried away by this delusion. "Behold, I have told you before."

A False Christ

The appearance of this false and counterfeit christ must of necessity, in order to deceive, be very much like the appearance of Christ Himself. The appearance of the deceiver has been described by a deep and qualified student of the Scriptures in a book from which we here quote, which for profound understanding of the prophecies of the last days cannot be surpassed, a volume which we earnestly commend to the reader of these pages. It can be secured from the publishers of this book.

"Persons will arise pretending to be Christ Himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing, and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures.

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great de-

ceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. (Revelation 1:13-15.) The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. . . . This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying, This is 'the great power of God.'"—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*, pp. 624, 625.

While multitudes will be swept off their feet by this final deception of Satan, those who have made the Word of God the man of their counsel need not be deceived. Christ said, "Behold, I have told you before." Therefore it is clear that by a study of the Bible one can so completely understand the exact manner of Christ's return to this earth that he will not be deceived by any attempt to counterfeit it.

Concerning the manner of Christ's coming, the Bible declares, "Unto them that look for him *shall he*

appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Hebrews 9:28.

Attention is directed to this word *appear*. Christ, when He comes the second time, will come in an open, public manner; there will be nothing secret about it; there will be nothing hidden from the eyes of men; He will "appear." That is, He will be seen by the people dwelling on the earth. The prophetic Word makes it clear that "every eye shall see him."

A Personal, Visible Coming

Notice, too, the following expressions: "Looking for that blessed hope, and *the glorious appearing* of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

"When Christ, who is our life, shall *appear*." Colossians 3:4.

"When the chief Shepherd shall *appear*." 1 Peter 5:4.

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall *appear*, we may have confidence." 1 John 2:28.

"We know that, when he shall *appear*, we shall be like him; for *we shall see him*." 1 John 3:2.

"Be found unto praise and honour and glory at the *appearing* of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:7.

"Until the *appearing* of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Timothy 6:14.

"Who shall judge the quick and the dead at *his appearing* and his kingdom." 2 Timothy 4:1.

"And *they shall see the Son of man* coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:30.

Surely these passages are sufficient to settle the point forever that when Christ comes the second time, His coming will be a literal, personal, visible, public coming.

And it must be pointed out in this connection that this appearing of Christ is a worldwide appearing. He will be seen and will appear to all the world, not merely to a certain class which may be expecting Him, not merely to the church, not merely to the righteous, but to every living soul on the earth. This is very clearly stated. "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. "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and *every eye shall see him*." Revelation 1:7.

The idea, then, that Christ will come secretly, taking one here and one there, and that this information will become known to the rest of mankind only by the absence of those who have been taken away, is untrue.

The coming of Christ will be accompanied by such a demonstration of power and glory that nothing in all the annals of history will compare with it. The Lord will not even come in silence, for we read, "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.

And His coming will be visible: "As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:27.

His coming will be overwhelming in glory and majesty. We read, "They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven *with power and great glory.*" Verse 30. "The Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him." Matthew 25:31. "He shall come *in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*" Luke 9:26.

In Like Manner

A description of the exact manner of the second coming of Christ was given by the angels who spoke to the disciples at the time of Christ's ascension. The record is, "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.

Notice the expression "in like manner as ye have seen him go." He went away visibly; He will return visibly. He went away personally; He will return personally, "this same Jesus." He went away literally; He will return literally. He went away with clouds, "a cloud received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9); "behold, he cometh with clouds" (Revelation 1:7),

and "they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matthew 24:30).

He Will Come With Wrath

And when Christ comes the second time, He will come with wrath to destroy His adversaries. He will not come to reign as king over a world that has been converted, and which has laid down its arms. His wrath will blaze forth against unregenerate men, and they will be consumed by the brightness of His coming and overwhelmed by the glory of His presence. When wicked men see Him coming, they will call for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth upon the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. (Revelation 6:15-17.)

And this will take place because "the Lord hath a controversy with the nations." (Jeremiah 25:31.) We are not left to vague conjecture and speculation regarding the reason for this controversy. It is a controversy between right and wrong. The world will be unconverted when Christ comes, and will be found fighting against God. Scripture makes this fact clear and explicit.

"The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood." Hosea 4:1, 2.

Sin, then, is the cause of the controversy between God and man. The transgression which first interrupted the harmony existing between Creator and creature brought a curse upon this revolted province of the divine dominions and a curse upon the rebellious race. And that curse has continued and has been the cause of all the woe, the unrest, and the death, both of nations and men; and it will finally overwhelm this world.

Anciently it was the custom of the king to inflict the death penalty on criminal characters by a cup of poison, and in speaking of God's dealings with the nations, the prophet Jeremiah uses this figure: "For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me." Jeremiah 25:15-17.

The Wine Cup of God's Fury

The prophet then enumerates by name the nations of that time who were treated as guilty criminals, deserving of God's wrath. Then his vision widens and covers unknown nations and empires of the future until it involves all the earth, for he says:

"And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, *and all the kingdoms of the world,*

which are upon the face of the earth. . . . Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, *and fall, and rise no more,* because of the sword which I will send among you. And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink. For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: *for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the Lord of hosts.* Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, *against all the inhabitants of the earth.* A noise shall come *even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword,* saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth *from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.*" Jeremiah 25: 26-33.

This prophecy covers the record of the entire con-

trovery between God and man, forewritten by Jeremiah. The judgments of God which began upon Jerusalem and Israel and the surrounding nations because of their rejection of His authority and truth were to overspread all the earth. The noise of this conflict is to "come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations."

And the outcome of this great conflict is very clearly revealed in the words, "He will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword." God's wrath "shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked," and this work of desolation will take place "in the latter days." (Jeremiah 23:19, 20.)

The Tempest of the Wrath of God

As a result of this great tempest of the wrath of God, which is to come "in the latter days" upon "all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth," the earth from end to end is to be strewn with the slain of the Lord, ungathered, unlamented, unburied. It was at this time that the prophet saw the earth, "and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. . . . The fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger." (Jeremiah 4:25, 26.) This prophecy is descriptive and graphic.

Thus the Lord will close His controversy with the nations. This will be Armageddon. When the nations of the earth unite against God, then "the Lamb shall

overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings." (Revelation 17:14.)

Armageddon

God will fight in the Battle of Armageddon. Hence it is called "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:14. In Revelation 19 is a wonderful picture of the way in which Jesus will come and fight with the nations. The heavens will open, and down the parted skies the white war horses come marching. The great Captain of salvation marshals the hosts of the Lord. Like a flame of fire are His eyes. Following Him are the warriors of heaven all clothed in spotless white. They go forth to decide the controversy of God with man. The King travels in the greatness of His strength. "Out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:15, 16.

The army that fights for God at Armageddon is described as:

"A great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing

shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: and the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" Joel 2:2-11.

The Millennium



IT IS at the coming of Christ that the thousand years of the millennium begin. At this time Satan is bound so that he will be unable to deceive the nations. After the millennium he will be loosed from his bondage and will again enter upon the work of deception for a short time. The only passage in the Bible which makes definite reference to the thousand-year period of the millennium is as follows:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: