

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST PART ONE

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The Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It is so necessary that each one of us fully realizes the need to be fully prepared, so that we will be among the very few people (considering the world population as a whole) who will be ready to meet Jesus when He returns at His Second Coming.

The seat of sin and the great delusion that Satan has convinced people with (resulting from the fall of Adam) is that man can get along in this world without God, and that he (man) can restore the earth to ideal conditions without God's help. The many other things that we call sin are only the fruits of that great sin of Adam.

The seat of sin, (the place where sin got started) and the cause of all sin, is to shut God out of our lives in this present life and try by our own efforts to make our life here ideal and perfect without God.

Man has gone to every extremity spiritually, passed every kind of law—perhaps at least 500 bills passed by our city, state, and the federal government in a given year--- there is no end to them in trying to bring peace and safety to the world.

However, he has failed miserably, and world conditions are worse than they have ever been. The most serious part is, conditions will become worse and worse until finally the end will come, and the Great Tribulation will begin. The Bible clearly tells us that it will be a time of far more trouble and

calamity than there has ever been in the world. There is no peace, no protection, and the vast majority of people in the world today, including professing Christians, live in constant fear for their lives. Thus, in today's world we see the number of people carrying guns for protection (even amongst so-called Christians) has increased dramatically. More and more people are using security cameras, Ring cameras, alarm systems, insurance plans, and so on to try to protect themselves and give themselves more peace. Others are living in gated communities, or putting up their own fences and getting a dog for protection. The truth is though, as we just read, conditions are going to continue to get worse.

On the other hand, it is very encouraging to realize that God and God alone can make our lives what they ought to be and make conditions ideal right where we are living. We do not have to move to the suburbs to find peace and protection. We can enjoy our Blood-bought right to full and perfect protection over ourselves, our loved ones, our homes, our vehicles, and everything else that matters to us without using any alarm systems, surveillance cameras or any other device or plan that man has devised for protection.

God is permitting man (and it is the only possible thing to do) to have a chance to see what he can do, and as he fails, miserably and utterly, and destroys himself and the world, it will be time for God to step in and show, after the destruction

and ruin of man's efforts, what God can do.

The Millennium, or the ideal conditions of the Garden of Eden restored, is the answer, or the example, that God is going to give. Man has had his chance for six thousand years, yet God will only take seven years --- three and a half strictly speaking. Jesus is coming back to this earth then. Jesus has been invested with all power and authority in Heaven and in earth, and He is just waiting till man proves to himself, and to the earth and everything under the earth, without the shadow of a doubt, that man is a total failure. Not until then can God do anything.

It is just the same way that God deals with us in our own lives. We have had ideals or conceptions of what should be a real Christian life, and we

have tried our very best, in our strength and wisdom, to live up to it, but many times it has ended in complete failure or worse; and we will find out the cause of any failure in our lives is the human element, whether the human element is apparent, or not.

If God did help us while we were using human or carnal methods, it would take us farther from Him and deeper in Adam's sin than ever before. The only possible thing that could happen when we are using our own plans and wisdom is a most miserable failure, just as Joseph failed to get out of prison when he tried to get out with the butler's help. That was hindering God from restoring to Joseph the things he had lost through Adam's sin. When they were out of the way, laid aside forever, then God's

hand could work freely, and God made Joseph's life a Garden of Eden.

We may have noticed that when we thought all was lost, when we were a failure and thought there was no hope for us (we have been fortunate if we have had that experience!) God has stepped in when we felt hopeless and showered down His richest blessings upon us. God always sends His greatest blessings after man has utterly failed.

The greatest failure humanity ever made was when they murdered God's Son under a cloak of religion, claiming to be God's children. Nothing could be more desperate, or more wicked. Yet God turned it into the greatest blessing this world has ever had and used it to wipe out the very sins of His murderers. Their worst deed

was turned by God into the greatest blessing that He ever gave.

The failure of man in their pride, arrogance, and disregard for others--- never more exalted than they are today, never thought more of themselves, never boasting as much about themselves in all types of occupations, businesses, or social classes of life, even trying to be superhuman and as near to divine as they can be--- is going to end in a terrible catastrophe.

Nowadays so many want to show that they have talent; so many desire fame and fortune or to put their names in the record books. Others are using LinkedIn and other social networking services to promote themselves by posting up to date resumes as they seek a higher paying job so that the

world speaks more highly of them, and they can live a life of comfort and ease. Millions or perhaps billions have turned to cosmetics, jewelry, surgeries, weight-loss drugs, or special diets and exercise to try to look good and have others notice them and compliment their appearance. Everybody wants attention. God's Word says, 1 Timothy 4:8 "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." 1 Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." 1 Peter 3:3-4 "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of

apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1

Corinthians 6:19-20 *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"*

However, as we read earlier, it is going to end in terrible catastrophe--- universal war, famine, pestilence, and great destruction that no human being can live through. God is going to use this trouble, the result of man's efforts, to usher in the greatest era of blessing that this world has ever known

since the Garden of Eden. That is the way God works.

All God asks is that we get “sick and tired” --- “sick and tired” of trying by our own efforts and failing miserably and be completely delivered from that idea that we can do everything or be everything without God.

God does not want this merely for His own glory; but God wants the job of making things perfectly ideal for us. It certainly brings glory to Him, but that is not His object; God knows that the only place of perfect happiness, perfect protection for this life and eternity is found in laying aside everything of ourselves and having everything divine.

That is the only possible way we can have it---to utterly fail in everything that we try in our own strength, then we are ready to let God work. Sometimes it

has to be a desperate failure, sometimes a complete wreck, like Job, before we will ever allow God to work. Others are like Cornelius, lay aside their human works at once.

Some people think that there is something about them to please God---something worthy of His love; but after a while God will work perfectly, gently, firmly and truly, and with the greatest tenderness and love to bring us to the place where we will absolutely see we are helpless--we are nothing, and God is everything---, and if God does not do something, we will never have anything done.

A happy place that is--- lacking power, total helplessness---it is the place where God does the great and mighty things for us. This illustrates exactly what God’s plan is for the world, and the only possible way God can

restore the world to the ideal condition it was in the Garden of Eden.

Next, we will consider the plan of the Lord's coming --- with the plan of Jesus coming back to the earth. In 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, we have it brought out very clearly that Jesus is not coming all the way to the earth. There are two parts to the Second Coming often spoken of as only one. The first part is called the Rapture, and the second part is called the Second Advent, the real Coming to the earth.

The first part, the Rapture, is, that Jesus is only coming in the air. He is going to bring with Him all that died in God's will. Jesus will change all His living true children and make them immortal without dying. Our bodies will be changed to be like His, from mortal to immortal

and from flesh to a spiritual body. The Bible does not tell us what our body will look like; it may be something like we appear now, but instead of our body being flesh, bones, and blood, it will be a spiritual body.

1Thessalonians 4:13-18 tell us about the Rapture. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump

of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

That was a special revelation from God, direct. Paul was very exact. Anything that was Paul's best sanctified opinion he tells us that it is such, but anything direct and positively from God Paul declares it to be so.

"That we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." (verse 15)

The word "prevent" in this verse does not bring out the proper meaning from the original. This word "prevent" means "precede." We will not go before or precede those who

have fallen asleep in Christ.

"For the Lord, Himself, shall descend from heaven with a shout."

That means to tell us where He is. "To meet the Lord in the air." We need to keep before us the fact that all of us do not have to die. Nowhere in the New Testament are we told to look for death. We are to look for Jesus to come in the clouds, and with a trumpet call and not only bring with Him those who have died in Christ, but to change us and to take us up to meet Him without dying, just as Enoch and Elijah were taken up.

In 1 Corinthians 15 in speaking of the resurrection of the dead, Paul closed it with splendid account of the Rapture. He said we were "not to sleep;" we will not all have to be brought back with Jesus, nor to die before He comes back, but he said, "we

