

THE 2ND COMING OF JESUS AND THE END OF THE AGE

This is one of the most difficult subjects in the Bible, therefore we must be guided by the Holy Spirit's enlightenment of the Scriptures. It is the Blessed Hope of every Christian and will be the terror of every unbeliever when it comes, because it is "the great and terrible Day of the LORD" (Joel 2-31), and the Day of Vengeance of our GOD (Isa.61-2) It is also the Day when JESUS will come into His Kingdom, of which the dying thief spoke, and we must constantly keep this in mind.

The first to speak of it was "Enoch, the 7th from Adam, (who) prophesied saying Behold the LORD cometh with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment upon all" (Jude v14/15) He looked down 5,000 years of history to that Wonderful Day. It is called the "Day of the LORD" because it is immediately followed by the glorious 1000 year reign of Christ on Earth which precedes the 2nd resurrection and the final Great White Throne of Judgment as described in Rev. 20

Jesus made it plain in His synoptic gospel accounts that His coming again will be preceded by a time of judgment upon the world because of its unbelief and wickedness; - wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes and great signs in the heavens. He warns us, "watch ye therefore and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man": Luke 21-36. He makes it plain that there will be those who are ready and those who are not, as described in Luke 17-26/37 and in Mark 13-33/37. How important it is that we should be conscious of the soon coming of our LORD.

If we abide in Christ we shall be saved from the great time of tribulation that is coming on all the world to try it (Rev.3-10, Isa.26-20/21, Ps. 27-5) This is the ground for the teaching of the Rapture of the saints, and the later gathering in of those "who have come out of great tribulation, and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb" Rev. 7-v9 & 14. Thus there are great rewards for faithfulness, as it says in 1 Cor. 3-12/15. Rev. ch. 4 & 5 pictures under the symbol of 4 Living Ones and 24 Elders, a company of people who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation and made kings and priests unto GOD and who shall reign on the Earth, Rev. 5-9/10. This will be fulfilled in the Millennial reign of Christ on Earth. What can compare with the wonder of the high calling of GOD. Read 2 Cor.4-17/18, which speaks of "an eternal weight of glory".

So that you can read, study and pray about them for yourselves, I will list three groups of scriptures with brief notes covering the following:

1. GOD'S, PROMISES, REWARDS, & HIS COMING FOR HIS OWN..
2. THE DAY OF VENGEANCE - TRIBULATION & JUDGMENT UPON THE NATIONS & THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AS KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS
3. THE 1000 YEAR MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH & BEYOND

GOD'S, PROMISES, REWARDS, & HIS COMING FOR HIS OWN..

1. John 14-2/3 JESUS has gone to prepare mansions for us and to come back again.
Luke 19-13 We are to "occupy until He comes". (Read whole parable).

Matt. 13-3/23 We can bring forth fruit, 30, 60 or 100 fold. (and be rewarded accordingly)
1 Cor. 3-11/15 We can build on Christ Jesus, gold, silver, precious stones, or wood, hay & stubble. Those who produce the latter will have their works "burned up" and will only "be saved by fire" (perhaps thro' the great tribulation)

Luke 21-28 Our redemption draws nigh when (end time) troubles begin to come to pass.
Luke 21-36 We are to watch & pray that we be found worthy to escape the tribulation.

Rev. 4-1 & A door opened in Heaven and the call to "Come up"
Isa. 26-20/21 A promised place of refuge for God's people.

2 Cor.5-10 & We must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ for reward or
1 Pet. 4-17 rebuke e.g. the Laodicean Church Rev. 3-14/19

1 Thess.. 4-16/17 The promised resurrection and catching up of the saints.
1 Cor. Ch.15 The absolute necessity of the resurrection and the glory of it.
Phil. 3-20/21 When JESUS returns for us our bodies will be changed into His likeness.

THE DAY OF VENGEANCE - TRIBULATION & JUDGMENT UPON THE NATIONS & THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AS KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS

2. Matt.24, Mark 13, Luke 21 and ch.17-26/37 give our LORD'S discourses on the end times.
Joel ch.1 & Zeph.1-14/15 describe it as a day of darkness and gloominess and of wrath.
Matt. 13 lists 7 parables concerning the Kingdom of Heaven and the end times.

In studying the book of Revelation, ch.1-3 says, to read (study) and hear (meditate on and receive into our inner being) and keep (act on) the Word of GOD. Only thus can we be numbered amongst the overcomers. We need to keep an open mind and heart as we meditate on its actual and symbolic language, which describes the "Day of Vengeance" the Great Tribulation and the "time of Jacob's trouble". Attached are some brief notes made in 1980, since when the population of the Earth has grown by 50 %! In the first stage of the Tribulation, chaps.6-9 (covering an unknown period) the 7 seals are opened and in the ensuing judgments half the population of the Earth are destroyed. Chap.10 pauses whilst 7 Thunders utter their voices; altho' temporarily sealed (as in Dan. 12-9), I believe they are 7 mighty proclamations of Who GOD is and What HE is, and because man has rejected GOD they become sentences of condemnation on the unbelieving.

Chap. 12, a difficult chapter, gives an overview of the Church, the World and the Devil; the woman and the manchild could be a picture of the visible and the invisible church, in the sense of those who are wholly His, the manchild, who will be raptured to glory, and the outward body of the church which is left in the great tribulation. The Devil is cast out of heaven before becoming incarnate in the body of the Antichrist. In chaps.11-13, four significant events are described, each over a period of 3-1/2 years, briefly; in 11-1/2 the temple is measured and (those in) the outer court are left out and it is trodden down for 42 months (Moses Tabernacle consisted of 3 areas, the Outer Court, the Holy Place and the Most Holy). In ch.11-3/12, GOD'S chosen 2, witness for 1260 days; In Rev.12-6 the Woman Company is preserved for 1260 days; and in Rev.13-5 the 7 headed Beast from the sea (the Antichrist) is specifically given power for 42 months. (Note, not 7 years as so many say).

Following this comes the final 7 vials of GOD'S wrath, the total destruction of Babylon, the battle of Armageddon, and the triumphant return of our Blessed Lord and Saviour as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

There are also many other scriptures in both the Old & New Testaments on the subject, but these should suffice for now.

3 The 1000 Year Millennial Reign of Christ on the Earth.

The Millennium is the final stage of man's redemption before the Ages of the Ages; it is the prototype Kingdom in which the saints will be prepared to reign with our Blessed LORD, under the Father's supreme authority, over the entire Universe, to fulfil all GOD'S plans for Eternity. In Isa. 51-16 GOD says, "I will plant the Heavens". Can we with our finite minds imagine the immensity, majesty and glory of GOD'S Eternal Kingdom? 1 Cor. 2-9 says "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which GOD hath prepared for them that love Him".

The foretaste of this is in the Millennium. But first GOD, Who is absolutely thorough in all His Ways and is never in a hurry; whose ultimate aim is to have a Perfect Universe totally devoid of sin and anything and everything that defileth; will try man under the perfect conditions that will exist in the Millennium.

Before the creation of man GOD tried the angels for faithfulness and that great archangel, Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, led a treacherous and awful rebellion against our Most Holy GOD, was cast out of the higher heavens and became Satan the Devil, that old serpent, a liar, murderer and deceiver.

Likewise man has failed under every dispensation. Adam was created perfect but succumbed to the temptation of the devil; the descendants of the early patriarchs who lived in near perfect conditions for 900 years or more, within 1600 years had become so wicked and corrupt that GOD had to destroy them with a flood, sparing only Noah and his family. Yet within a short time the new race again turned from GOD and sought to build its "own tower to Heaven" causing GOD to confound their language and scatter them abroad over the face of the earth. Soon after GOD called Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, from whom sprang the 12 tribes of Israel. GOD made an everlasting Covenant with them, brought them out of slavery, worked great miracles amongst them, brought them into the Promised Land. but in the end had to cast them off because of their idolatry.

JESUS came and instituted the New Covenant of grace and the Church which started in glory, descended into the dark ages of a corrupt priesthood which denied the Bible to others and slew those who sought it. Under grace we have had many revivals, yet today the Church of GOD is split into a thousand pieces, with much false teaching and corruption, there has been falling away, and GOD'S call to us today is to remain faithful to His Word until the end and be "overcomers". In order for GOD to prove that apart from Him man is absolutely incapable of righteousness, (see Zech. 14) GOD will give Man one more test under a reign of perfect righteousness, justice and love, yet when Satan is loosed at the end of 1000 years, some will rebel and will be instantly destroyed, after which will come the second resurrection and the final great white Throne of Judgment., the end of sin and death. Rev. 20.

However let us look at the Glorious Kingdom in which JESUS wants us to have a part and to be kings and priests with Him. 2 important events will take place in connection with the establishment of the Kingdom, the Judgment Seat of Christ at which all believers must appear to receive rewards, 2 Cor. 5-10 & 1 Pet. 4-17, and the Marriage of the Lamb to His Perfect Bride, a Glorious Church, Rev. 19-7, Eph. 5-27 and Ps. 45. At the start of the Millennium the Earth will be released from the curse, Rom.8-19/33, (there will be no more thorns and thistles), rivers will flow in the wilderness, and the desert shall blossom as the rose Isa. 35-1.

Great convulsions will take place, the Earth will be moved on its axis and the year restored to 360 days with 12 months of 30 days, resulting in more moderate seasons and a great improvement in the climate, similar to what it was before the Flood

The following are some Scripture references to this great Day of the LORD.

Dan. 2-44/45, 2.Tim.2-12 & Rev.5-10 JESUS' Kingdom will fill the whole Earth and the saints shall rule and reign with Him over the nations left on Earth – Zech. 14-16/21 and Ps.149.

1 Cor. 15 & Phil.3-20/21 In the Resurrection we will have a new body like unto His Glorious Body, which will be unlimited in regard to place, speed or time.

Rom. 8-16/17 We shall be heirs of GOD and joint heirs with Christ.

Rom. 8-19/22 The Earth will be restored to its former glory before the Flood.

Isa. 11-5/9, Animal natures will be changed and all be herbivorous; they will love little children who will love them; none shall hurt nor destroy in all GOD'S Holy mountain

Isa.2-2/4 Mic. 4-1/3 JESUS will rule the World from Jerusalem, there the nations will come to learn the law of the LORD and to be in peace, beating their weapons into ploughshares.

Zech.14-4 & v.16-21 The nations will come to Jerusalem to keep the feast of Tabernacles.

Isa.65-17-25 Life will be extended for the nations left on Earth, it will be a glory time for them when love, joy, peace and righteousness are the norm, and the Earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea Hab.2-14 & Num. 14-21

Mic. 4-4 Every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree.

As all the Old Testament prophecies of JESUS 1st Coming were literally fulfilled, so will all the prophecies re His 2nd Coming be, of which there are many more.

At the end of the 1000 years Satan will be loosed to see if everyone had learnt submission to our Most Holy GOD, the final test of man before the Eternal Ages commence. All those who rebel will be destroyed and cast into the lake of fire with Satan the Devil, and then the second resurrection of all those who weren't in the 1st resurrection will take place and they will stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment and those whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire, and sin and death will be no more. This is the final stage of Redemption for the human race. 1 Cor 15-24. After this the Golden Ages of Eternity, a New Heavens and a New Earth, and activities and glory beyond our wildest dreams, for those that "wait for Him" Isa. 64-4. GOD will plant the Heavens Isa. 51-16, and the whole Universe will become filled with the Glory of the LORD.

For ever and ever we will always worship the Lamb that sitteth upon the Throne, we will never forget His great sacrifice, but love and adore Him without ceasing. Note that of the 32 references in the New Testament to JESUS as the Lamb of GOD, 28 of them are in the Book of Revelation. showing that His meek and lowly heart will never change, even though He comes back as KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS1 Hallelujah. Glory to GOD !!!

Study by Alfred Curtis.