

LESSON 1

THE COMING OF THE LORD

FOREWORD

OUR Lord's long-promised Return appears to be at hand, so far as we can ascertain from the prophecy of the New Testament. We are not warranted in giving a date, as some unwisely have done, yet we are told that when we see certain events beginning to come to pass, we are then to lift up our heads, for He is near. From a careful reading of such portions of the New Testament which describe the state of the world in "the last days," we find the startling truth that everything predicted is now abundantly evident.

What a state this poor world is in! Tribulation, lawlessness, wickedness, misery, sorrow, distress and perplexity abound on every hand. And the Christian is by no means exempt from the present trying circumstances of our surroundings.

To-day, particularly, there is shining in the darkness this bright Hope of the Lord's Coming the Christian's complete deliverance from "this present evil world." For the comfort and cheer of the Lord's dear people we have written the following pages.

The author of this material is the Late Franklin Ferguson

THE LORD IS COMING

"Thou art coming! Thou art coming!
We shall meet Thee on Thy way!
Thou art coming! We shall see Thee,
And be like Thee on that day!
Thou art coming! Thou art coming!
Jesus our beloved Lord!
Oh, the joy to see Thee reigning,
Worshipped, glorified, adored !"

YES this very same Jesus who died for our sins; who was raised from the dead for our justification; who ascended to Heaven as our Great High Priest and our Advocate with the Father; this blessed One is surely coming again. The New Testament abounds with references to this glorious event. Everything points to the fact that it is now at hand.

Faith can almost hear His footfall
On the threshold of the door."

Our purpose in writing is not to give a detailed statement of all coming events, but rather to present the Scriptures concerning the Hope of the Church, which is the Coming of her Lord to receive her unto Himself for ever. Though we look for great events foretold by prophecy, yet first in order is our Lord's return which closes the present "day of salvation" a period unmarked by dates, a break in the prophetic stream of time. After His Coming for the Church, prophecy is resumed in its relation to the Jews and the nations on earth. But this one bright Hope is held up before the people of God, with naught else between Christ's Return any day, any moment! It may be "at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning" (Mark 13:35),

"That Jesus will come in the fulness of glory,

To receive from the world His own !"

Let us now consider a number of passages unfolding our precious subject:

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THE LORD'S PROMISE.

GO to prepare a place for you. . I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14: 2-3). "A little while, and ye shall not see Me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see Me, because I go to the Father" (chap. 16:16). "And ye now therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you" (verse 22).

TWO events are here stated: (1) "I go;" (2) "I will come again." More than nineteen hundred years have passed away since He went back to the Father, and still He has not come. Truly the Church has waited long; but He has promised to return, and will surely keep His word. It may seem long to us, but the time is short to Him in the joy of gathering in the lost ones to make up the number of His redeemed, and in the joy of preparing the place for them, so wonderfully perfect and glorious as it must be.

"Saviour, we are waiting, waiting,
Waiting, blessed Lord for Thee,
Waiting for the calling upward,
With our Lord to be;
Long and lone hath been the pathway, Oft our hearts have failed with fear;
But the guiding star of morning
Heralds Thee as near."

A little child was sauntering along the street of a city in England, repeating to itself, "At ten o'clock, at ten o'clock !" A kind gentleman accosted the little one and sought to gently draw forth what was the meaning of the oft-repeated monotone, "At ten o'clock !" Ah, it was this: Mother had gone away early that morning and had promised to be back at ten o'clock. To the child she was everything, and in its little mind her return was the uppermost thought.

Shall we not let a child teach us? Are we daily humming to ourselves, "A little while, and ye shall see Me!" (John 16:19), as we look for our beloved Lord, longing, oh so much, for Him to come? What a picture of delight would be that child's face when mother was seen coming in fulfilment of her promise! What joy would be in the mother's heart to clasp in her arms her little waiting one!

"Oh, the blessed joy of meeting All the desert past!
Oh, the wondrous words of greeting
He shall speak at last!
He and I in that bright glory
One deep joy shall share;
Mine, to be forever with Him;
His that I am there !"

HIS FAITHFULNESS.

"**THE** Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward,

not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3 : 9). "Let us hold fast the confession of our Hope, that it waver not; for He is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23, R.V.). "For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (verse 37). "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly" (Rev. 22:20).

OUR Lord Jesus is called "The Faithful Witness" (Rev. 1 :5), and He declares Himself "The Truth" (John 14:6). How could it be possible that He should not keep His word? If He did not keep His word, He would lose His character! How it strengthens the heart's confidence as we are told it is "impossible for God to lie" (Heb. 6:18).

Firstly, let us notice the explanation the Spirit of God gives the Lord's "long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish" (2 Pet. 3 :9). Secondly, let us remember how time in the light of eternity, even nineteen hundred years, seems a mere moment. So instead of thinking the time is long, very long, let us stir up ourselves and confess the Hope of His Coming, and waver not. We read, "Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it . . . Be ye also patient, stablish your hearts, for the Coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (Jas. 5:7,8)

"Keep us, blessed Saviour, waiting,
Clinging to Thy precious word;
Every footstep of the journey,
Waiting for our Lord;
Waiting till within the mansions
We behold Thy glorious face,
Singing all the wondrous story
Of Thy matchless grace !"

THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH.

"**UNTO** them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin (apart from sin, R.V.) unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28). "For our conversation (citizenship, R.V.) is in Heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). "Waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:23). "Waiting for the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7). "Looking for that blessed Hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). "To wait for His Son from Heaven" (1 Thess. 1:10).

THESE scriptures show what is the real Hope of the Church, that is, what we are looking for. We look for a PERSON to come from Heaven. All that concerns our future is linked up with this Coming One. The Hope is not that when we die we shall go to Heaven. If we die, we shall certainly go there. Neither is the Hope the glorious Millennium. This will come in its due time, and we shall then reign with Christ. What then, precisely, is our hope? Just this: the personal Return of the very same Jesus who came into the world in lowly form to suffer and to die for our sins, "the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Pet. 3:18). It is indeed the Lord Himself who is coming; not Michael the Archangel on His behalf. The Heavenly Bridegroom comes for His Bride and to conduct her home to be evermore with Him. The Thessalonian believers had "turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from Heaven" that heartening, delightful, and sanctifying prospect with nothing between! We look and wait for Him. After we are gone, the ungodly world will await the appearing of the Man of Sin, the Antichrist; and such fearsome things as the Great Tribulation will follow on. What a striking contrast between the Christian's Hope and that of the un-believers left

behind!

"Have I a hope, however dear,
Which would defer Thy coming, Lord,
Which would detain my spirit here,
Where naught can lasting joy afford?
From it, my Saviour, set me free,
To look, and long, and wait for Thee.
Be Thou the Object, bright and fair,
To fill and satisfy my heart;
My hope to meet Thee in the air,
And nevermore from Thee to part;
That I may undistracted be
To follow, serve, and wait for Thee !"

TEST 1 THE LORD IS COMING

Place a T (True) or F (False) for your answer at the beginning or end of the question;

1. There are not too many references in the New testament about the Coming of Christ.
2. The close of the day of salvation will be the Coming of Christ.
3. The Lord's promise is in the Gospel of Mark.
4. The Lord delays His coming until He has prepare a place for His own
5. Our Lord is called "the Last Witness"

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

6. The Lord is not _____ concerning His promise to come again.
7. James says, "The _____ of the Lord draweth _____"
8. Believers are _____ for the adoption, the redemption of their bodies.
9. We are looking for a _____ from heaven.
- 10 After the church is gone the _____ will appear.

Name:

Questions & Comments:

If I have made corrections that you do not understand, please write me for an explanation

If you do not hear from this test in two days please write inchrist@ca.inter.net

Do you have a friend that would like to do these Lessons? If so, send me their user name and I will send them my list.