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THE SECOND COMING—THE GLORY OF THE INCARNATION

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"But I would not have you 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 (go before) prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and 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 ye one another with these words" I Thess. 4:13-18.

We have been studying the Incarnation in its various phases. 1. The Divine Announcement. 2. The Divine Approval, 3. The Divine Demonstration, 5. The Divine Objective, 6. The Divine Triumph, and 7th., The Divine Glory.

When Christ sat upon the Mount of Olives He gave a preview of things to come, closing with the final Apocalypse. The New Testament closed with a very indistinct picture of our Lord's earthly career; but for the Book of the Revelation the whole picture would have been blurred and incomplete. The last Book unveils our Lord and brings out His glory by a marvelous kaleidoscope of the last days. The Jews made their fatal mistake in that they saw in the prophecies only His rulership and power; they did not see His humiliation and Atonement as a sin bearer. When He comes in His glory the Second time, they will acknowledge Him as their Messiah. His Coming will be the Blessed Hope for a sin-burdened world.

The Person of Christ has been a storm center from the days of His cradle humility; yes, a storm center of praise and worship on the one hand, and ridicule and criticism on the other. But the world has had to reckon with Him. What Pilate said on the judgment seat: "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called the Christ?" has to be answered by all the human race. All the world faces that question. The words of Julian the apostate are true, and will be some time universally true: "O Gallilean, thou hast conquered." The White Horse and his rider goes forth conquering and to conquer. All this triumph will not be realized until He descends from heaven with a shout and with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God. When He comes with His church and all His holy angels with Him, the glorious gemme for which the world has long waited in agony and tears; but at last comes the final victory.

We wish to outline in a very feeble way the meaning of the Coming Glory. Once when praying He said, "The glory that I had with Thee before the world was." We have no way of an-

alyzing the meaning of that glory; but it will be ushered in when His feet shall stand upon the Mt. of Olives.

First, it is going to be the glory of Universal Recognition. This He has already been entitled to, but never received. He has had full recognition by but very few. Millions utterly reject His claims as false. Many who sit at the table and partake of the bounteous provisions of His church give Him scant recognition, and some in high places presume to take the crown of Deity from His brow but at the same time use His church as a meal ticket. When their theory is reduced to its last analysis, Jesus is an impostor of worst type. He claimed to be the Son of God—equal with the Father. Then to call Him a good man and a great teacher is to insult high heaven, and to belong to the crowd who never let up in their persecution until they shouted him to the Cross. They are more cultured and polite about it, but none less they dishonor Him and take away His glory—the glory by authority of the Godhead—for "in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." All that for which He was reserved from the first day that He announced His Deity in the little synagogue in Nazareth. On that day He dumbfounded His hearers by announcing to them that the words He had read from the sixty-first chapter of Isaiah, were about Himself: "Today is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears." But the reaction was so bitter that they sought to destroy Him. During His ministry, when at the peak of His popularity, it was always: "Some believed, some doubted, and others said, 'we will hear Thee again'."

The next phase of this glory will be Supreme Rulership. "The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ." There is great glory measured in earthly estimates given a great ruler, even if only puppet with no natural facilities for rulership. A president, a senator, a governor, a king may be a moron—but he is honored just the same. He does not have to be a Julius Caesar, a Charlemagne, a Napoleon, or a Woodrow Wilson; his job gives him the honor. In like manner we have known mediocre preachers in a big pulpit to get honors for which they would have never been recognized but for the job in which fortune has placed them. To be a ruler even over a small part of this mundane sphere means human glory. No building could hold the multitude who would flock to see and hear some petty ruler of a petty kingdom, a king, a president, a great soldier. When the day comes that the Son of God, who created the world and redeemed it, will finally take over the nations; all the nations, tongues, and kindreds, will join in the acclamation of His Lordship.

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all,
Let every kindred, every tribe
On this terrestrial ball,

Join in the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all."

Once the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was pastor to Queen Victoria, preached a sermon on the Lord's Return. After the service the Queen sent for him. "What does your Majesty wish?" he asked her.

"O Pastor, how I wish He would come while I am alive," said the sainted queen, with tears in her eyes.

"Why does your Majesty wish Him to come while you are alive?" he asked.

"O," she exclaimed, "how I would like to take the crown of the British Empire and lay it at His feet." The good queen did not live to have this great joy; but when He comes it will not be just the crown of the British Empire, but all the crowns of all the empires will be laid at His feet. They will all ascribe to Him the glory and honor; supreme rulership will be acknowledged; He will hold the scepter of universal empire. "Every knee shall bow to Him, and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father." So the glory of the Incarnation will be when His feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives. It will be on the spot where He wept over Jerusalem when they rejected Him as the Messiah. The blind, unbelieving generation did not know the day of their visitation. We are having a parallel of this by many of His so-called followers.

Then it will be the glory of seeing all His enemies at last swept from the battlefield. The Arch Generalissimo who has led the fight, will be arrested and locked up in a bottomless prison house for a good long term, and there will be no probation board to remove any of the sentence. He will not only be locked but will be in chains, and all the imps of hell will be hurled to the shadows of oblivion.

This glory will be further enhanced when He enters the Banquet Hall with His blood-washed Bride at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and when He, like a happy bridegroom, seats His blushing bride and attends to her every wish.

"Then we shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story saved by grace."

—Midnight Cry.

4,000 ENGLISH CHURCHES HIT

Rev. William Cecil Northcott, home secretary of the London Missionary Society, reports that 4,000 churches of England have been destroyed or damaged by German bombers, but that the churches are facing the tasks of reconstruction in "a gallant and high-hearted manner." He listed the destruction of churches by denomination as follows: Church of England, 163 destroyed, 1,280 damaged; Baptist and Congregationalist, more than 800 lost or damaged; Methodists, 1316 lost or damaged; Church of Scotland, 9 destroyed, 170 damaged; Roman Catholic, 234 lost or damaged.—Watchman-Examiner.

We lie to God in prayer if we do not rely on Him after prayer.—David Livingstone.

Moses D Hillman, Jan 4