

## The Second Coming of Christ.

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John 14: 1, 2, 3.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there you may be also."

Now while I have seen ministers stand up in the pulpit and read this text like this, I go to prepare a place for you that where I am there ye may be also, leaving out all of the first part of the third verse, that would make it appear that his children would go where he went, now it would seem strange to every candid thinking mind how a minister could stand before God and his fellow-man and misconstrue God's word; yet we see thousands that are deceived by this false teaching and say, Do they not get their doctrine from the Bible? I answer No, not in a single instance. And may the Lord God of Israel direct my mind by his holy word that I may be able to instruct some poor deluded soul to the real teaching of God's word on the subject

of the Second Coming of Christ. The first thought that we will notice will be, where did he go, and what did he go there for? The text says, I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also. It is just as certain that he will come back to this earth, which would be his second advent into this world as it was that he went away, for he says If I go away I will come again. Then his own statement is sufficient evidence that he will come again and receive his people unto himself, then they would be with him when he came back. But he says to his little children, Yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me; and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go ye cannot come; so now I say to you. John 13: 33. Then it is evident that his children could not go where he went. Where did he go? Peter will answer this question, in speaking of Jesus Christ says, Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. 1 Pet. 3: 22.

This witness says he went to heaven. Luke testifies and says, And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them and carried up into heaven. Luke 24: 57. We might give you more testimony on this point, but this will suffice. They testify that Jesus went to heaven, and that he was on the right hand of God. And Jesus said, Whither I go ye cannot come. Then according to this evidence, his children could not go to heaven at the right hand of God where he was,

Then it is evident that he could not receive them unto himself there. Again, What is he there for? "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are a figure of the true; but into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God for us. Now, is he there as our king? No, but he is there as our High Priest, "Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made a high priest." Heb. 6: 20. And to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. Heb. 12: 24. Our High Priest, Mediator, to mediate between God as judge, and man as the offender. How long will he remain there as mediator? Listen to Peter, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord: and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you, whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3: 19-21.

Then we learn by this text that the heavens must receive him till the restitution of all things, then the Father will send Jesus Christ back to this earth. What is he coming for? Listen to Peter on the day of Pentecost, "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according

to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne. Acts 2: 29, 30. It is evident that Christ is not sitting on David's throne in heaven, for David's throne is not nor was not in heaven, but was in Jerusalem: and it is evident that Jesus did not sit on David's throne when he was here the first time, for Jesus said the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19: 10.

This was his first mission into the world. "And as they heard these things he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore: A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return." Vs. 11, 12. This text teaches us the second coming of Christ and this agrees with Dan. 7: 13, 14. What does he return for? And it came to pass that when he was returned, having received the kingdom. Vs. 15. Then his servants are called and he reckons with them and then his enemies, who would not that I should reign over them, bring hither and slay before me. Vs. 27. Then when he comes the second time he comes to take his kingdom and reign. And both classes are there. His servants to receive the kingdom that was prepared from the foundation of the world and was lost in Adam is now restored in Christ Jesus. This is the restitution and this agrees with Peter, and David said God would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; so Peter says, For David is not ascended to the heavens: No. But he saith himself, The Lord said unto my my Lord, Sit thou on

my right hand, where? in heaven. How long? Until I make thine enemies thy footstool. Acts 2: 34, 35. We have found while he is there he is our great high priest, our mediator. This is the time that intervenes between his first advent to seek and to save that which was lost and the time of his second coming when he will take the throne of his father David and reign over the house of Jacob forever.

How will he come? will he come secretly? or will every one see him come? The first evidence we will give you will be found in Acts 1. While he was talking to the eleven apostles something took place after his resurrection, so the apostle says. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld he was taken up; a cloud received him out of their sight." Acts 1: 9. Here are eleven witnesses that saw him taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight. But we have another witness who sees him in vision by the power of the Holy Spirit clear in heaven: I saw in the night vision and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of Days (that is God himself), and they brought him near before him. That is the clouds of heaven brought the Son of man to God, so the witness says. Dan. 7: 13. Then we have twelve witnesses that testify that he was taken up into heaven in a cloud.

Hear what two other witnesses say, "And while they (the eleven) 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 gaz-

ing up into heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up in heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." How was he taken up in the cloud? This is fourteen that testify that Jesus went to heaven in the clouds, and the same Jesus would come back in the clouds, by two witnesses. How many will see him when he comes back with the cloud? Behold, he cometh with clouds and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him (his enemies), and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so Amen. Rev. 1:7. Then it will not be a secret coming, will it? No, indeed; it will be openly. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God. 1 Thess. 4: 16.

Now, dear reader, is this your hope? is this what you are looking for? that you may receive him with gladness and joy. Then let me ask you, dear reader, are you praying; Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven? That you may be ready, when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all his holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory and before him shall be gathered all nations. Matt. 25: 31, 32. Dear readers, all will be there, and fill their place on one hand or the other. Which will it be? "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9: 28.

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