

THE IMMINENT RETURN OF CHRIST

Beloved of the Lord:

The crowning event for the Church is the coming of Christ FOR HIS SAINTS! In a dateless and signless moment the saints will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air - 1 Thess. 4:16,17. Though we look not FOR signs in connection with this event, we can look AT some existing conditions.

1. CONSIDER MANY CHRISTIANS - believers scattered throughout the world, who definitely expect the imminent return of the Lord. Are they mistaken? Absolutely not! At Christ's first Advent saints expected Him and were not disappointed - Luke 2:25-38. Simeon, Anna and others in Jerusalem were looking for Him - Luke 2:38. Today, there is a multitude of believers who in the midst of suffering, sorrow, sickness and a multitude of difficulties, pray "Even so, come, Lord Jesus". - Rev. 22:20. Many dear saints are fixing their gaze on the Lord's return - Titus 2:13. Are they wrong or deluded? Never!
2. CONSIDER ISRAEL - Their history has been reversed! First, they were scattered. NOW, they are gathered, even though in unbelief. By a divine miracle God preserved His earthly people. They have been kept for their land. God also kept the land for them. Why?

Read Luke 21:29-33. "The fig tree" is Israel. - See Jer. 24 - "All the trees" are the surrounding nations, which are increasedⁱⁿ their hatred of the Jews - Matt. 24:9. God's purpose is preparing them for "the great tribulation" - Matt. 24:15, their greatest spiritual crisis as a nation. - Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1,2. Through all their dispersion, a remnant has never lost sight of the promised Kingdom under their Messiah.

3. CONSIDER THE NATIONS - Nations are breaking up. The world has rebelled and cast aside all moral standards and a true recognition of social and family relationships. Rulers have NO remedy for the serious problems and changing conditions in the social, political and economic world, demonstrating their inability and powerlessness by the failure of their many schemes they devise to improve the world. The whole world seems to have lost its reason, rushing hopelessly to destruction, giving room for Satan to manifest his Satanic trinity - Read Rev. 13.
4. CONSIDER THE CHRISTIAN PROFESSION - There is a false profession to be spued out of the mouth of the Lord - Rev. 3:10. This will certainly be done by the Rapture of the saints. As predicted by the Lord and His Apostles, apostasy from the truth of God fills the professing church - Read 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Tim 4:1-4, 2 Peter Chapter 2. At the Rapture, the SALT will be gone and the SEDUCERS will have things their own way! The final apostasy of 2 Thess. 2:3-12 will appear, ending in divine judgement. This is inevitable and from all past history, apostasy from God and His truth has been the story of human failure.

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look UP, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" - Luke 21:28.

Faithfully yours in the blessed hope

