

THE PROMISE AND CERTAINTY OF HIS COMING

Beloved of the Lord:

The scoffers in the "last days" ridicule the Christian doctrine of the imminent return of our Lord, saying - "WHERE is the promise of His coming?", believing that "all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation"-2 Pet.3:3,4. God exposes them as "willfully ignorant"; but the believer has many promises of Christ's return. Let us consider four leading promises only, each well known and enjoyed: -

1 - JOHN 14:1-3 - This is the greatest, from the heart and lips of our Saviour Himself, comforting His disciples in view of His departure back to His Father. His promise is - " I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto MYSELF" etc. It is written - "ALL the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him AMEN" - 2 Cor. 1:20. The simplicity and yet profoundness of these words are understood by the youngest believer, needing no study of systematic theology or seminary training to grasp. The intellectual scoffers need not trouble our hearts, for it is enough to rest in simple faith upon HIS promise. This promise is a DIVINE CERTAINTY!

2 - 1 THESS. 4:13-18 - By divine revelation the Apostle Paul gives similar words of comfort, when fellow believers depart to be "with Christ". This promise assures us of a blessed re-union with them at the Lord's coming. Here the Holy Spirit reveals HOW the Lord will gather "the dead in Christ" together with those "who are alive" when He comes; the manner in which our Lord will terminate HIS promise! No human intellect, no matter how intelligent, could conceive such a plan as this. It's magnitude is beyond the understanding of the "natural man" - (1 Cor. 2:14). To the believer this is a DIVINE CERTAINTY, for we welcome with gladness the ecumenical plan of the Lord to bring His church together in eternal unity that will be FOREVER displayed to His glory. Praise God for such a promise and divine certainty!

3 - HEBREWS 10:35-37 - Here we are exhorted to be "confident" and "patient", to continue in faithfulness our testimony for God, doing His will. Peter exhorts in 1 Pet. 5:7 to cast "ALL your care upon HIM" but in Hebrews we are told not to "cast away our confidence" in His coming, in view of the "great recompense of reward" v35. WHY? Because it will be only "a little while" and He will come! "He that shall come WILL come and will not tarry". The "little while" can be rendered "a little while, how little, how little". Compare the meaning in Isa. 26:20, with the words "hide thyself just for a little moment" - JNDTrans. They are words for the godly remnant during the great tribulation, Israel's spiritual and national crisis. For us the time of His return may seem long, but God says our waiting is "a little while". So, cheer up my fellow believer, when He comes He will not delay and it will be "in a moment" that it will happen, for it is a DIVINE CERTAINTY. Compared to a long eternity it is "a little while". We sing - "A little while the Lord shall come, and we shall wander here no more".

4 - REV. 22:7,12,20 - The first and last promise is given by our Lord Himself and the intervening two by His inspired apostle. This last one is a thrice repeated promise spoken by the Lord in the closing of Holy Scripture, the promise of His return! Note their sequence, what it means for the believer : - (1) - THE BLESSING - (2) - THE REWARD - (3) THE CERTAINTY. In each one He emphasizes the certainty of His personal return - "I COME QUICKLY" Beloved, take it in; these are His last spoken words to us! What a blessed way to close the revelation of Holy Scripture! We can only repeat John's prayer - "EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS"

"A little while" - Come, Saviour, Come -
For Thee Thy Bride has waited long;
O take Thy wearied pilgrims home,
To sing the new eternal song;
To see Thy glory and to be
In every thing conformed to THEE"

Faithfully yours in Christ,

