



OUTLINE STUDY ON SECOND COMING OF CHRIST



Note:—Because of limited space only a few references can be given. Read and ponder these. Then from your reference column add others, as many as possible. Best of all use Schofield's references and notes. Inexpensive copies of Schofield's Bible can be procured.

Note 2:—At points there is room for difference of interpretation or opinion or judgment. To avoid dogmatism, we have put most points in the form of questions. These are put under three main heads. The fourth is our own gathering up as to the order of the main events, gathered from the completed study.

I. THE FACT OR CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S PRE-MILLEN-NIAL RETURN IN PERSON

1. What is the meaning respectively of Pre-millennialism, Post-m., Pro-m., A-m. or No-m. and Now-m.?

Pre-m. holds that this is an elective dispensation; that the Church will become more and more corrupt and the world more immoral and irreligious up to a point; that the Jewish race or Israel will be restored to Palestine and reestablish themselves as a nation; that a unified World Power will develop, with Anti-Christ-a man-at the head, supported by a False Prophet and a corrupt Church, called a Harlot; that terrible judgments are to be poured out on the world; that Christ's departed saints will have their Resurrection and return with Him and His "elect" living saints will be "caught up"-Rapture-and go away to meet Him in the air and return with Him when He descends to earth; that He will destroy Anti-christ at Armageddon; that He will descend to Mt. Olivet and set up His KINGDOM on earth and reign in bodily presence as absolute Dictator for 1,000 years; and that His Parousia or presence is imminent now. "Thy kingdom come," "Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus." His Epiphany or bodily manifestation will occur some years after the Parousia and Bridal. Post-m is almost the reverse of all this. Pro-m. is non-committal-agnostic-for the Millennium if there is to be one. The others can be understood from the prefixes.

2. Is this an important matter to be clear on? It certainly is—incalculably so. See what Christ says, Mt. 24:40-51, Lu. 21: 34-36; and Paul, I Thes. 5:3-7.

3. Does the New Testament emphasize the Pre-m. Return of Christ? Acts 1:10, 11; Mt. 24:30, 31, 36-42; Lu. 17:34-37 and 21:27, 28; Mt. 26:64; I Thes. 4:13-17; I John 3:1, 2; Rev. 22:7, 20, etc.

4. Does the O. T. harmonize with the New on this? II Sam. 7:10-13; Pss. 2, 72, 110, 132:11-18; Isa. 11 and 60-66; Zech. 12-14; Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45 and 7:13.

5. What are multiple-reference Prophecies? Those having more than one fulfilment. There are many of these, as Ps. 2, cf. (compare) Ac. 4:25-28; Joel 2:28-32, cf. Ac. 2:17-20; Christ's proph-

ecy in Mt. 24 and 25, covering the destruction of Jerusalem, His Second Coming and the End of the world.

6. Why do men oppose Pre-m.? Ignorance, I Thes. 5:1-5; Scepticism, II Pet. 2:1-3; Worldliness, Jude 12-23, Lu. 21:34-36, Mt. 24:48-51; the Chiliastic follies of the past, beginning in Thessalonica in Paul's day, see II Thes.; Desire to spiritualize everything, which is the genius of Modernistic interpretation; and lastly, the foolish notion that Pre-m. is pessimistic.

7. What are outstanding passages showing Pre-m? Ac. 1:6, 7, 10, 11; Mt. 23:39, 24-30, 25:31; Mr. 14:62; Lu. 17:24; Phil. 3: 20, 21; Thes. 4:14-17; Rev. 22:7, 12, 20.

8. What are Christ's Offices in Redempton? PROPHET, foremost wihen He was on earth; PRIEST, foremost from His crucifixion through this Dispensation; KING, foremost when He returns to reign during the Millennium.

II. CHARACTERISTICS AND PHENOMENA ATTENDING THE SECOND COMING.

1. What is the relation of the Church and the Kingdom? "Church" is those called out during this Dispensation, the Body of which Christ is Head. See Eph. 1:22, 23 and 5:25-27. "Kingdom" is the fruition of the Davidic Covenant in II Sam. 7; began with the preaching of Christ and reaches perfection in the Millennium, the Kingdom Age, when He will rule over all. See Schofield. In John 18:36 Jesus meant His Kingdom was not of earthly origin. Dan. 2 and 7.

2. Will there be a Restoration of the Jews to Palestine? Foretold everywhere in the O. T. Prophets. Ezek. 37; Ac. 1:6, 7; Rom. 11. See especially Hosea, Amos and Isaiah. Zech. 9-14.

3. Is Church Apostasy to be expected? Mt. 13:33; Lu. 18:8; I Thes. 5:6, 7; II Thes. 2:1-6; I Tim. 4:1, 2; II Tim. 3:1-5, 13; II Pet. chap. 2; Jude; Rev. 3:14-22; Mt. 24:12. That is the meaning of the second Cleansing of the Temple.

4. What are the Parousia and the Epiphania? Parousia means Presence, and refers to the beginning of the Second Coming, when the First Resurrection and the Rapture take place and Christ's Marriage to His Church (Mt. 22:1-14). Epiphania means Manifestation, when He is visible, when He actually descends to Mt. Olivet, Zech. 14:4; Ac. 1:11; II Tim. 4:1, 8; Tit. 2:13. Both are combined in II Thes. 2:8. Apocalypse or Revealing is applied to both, II Thes. 1:7; I Cor. 1:7; I Pet. 1:7, 13, 4:13.

5. What is the First Resurrection? I Cor. 15:52; I Thes. 4: 13-16; Rev. 20:4-6.

6. What is the Rapture? I Cor. 15:51, 52; I Thes. 4:13-17; pointed out in Mt. 24:31 and in the parable of the Ten Virgins, Mt. 25:1-13; Lu. 17:34, 35.

Note:-The Transfiguration-a prophetic Tableau of the Parousia-points out five classes. The Triumphal Entry-a prophetic Pageant of the Parousia—indicates three groups. Find them and study them. From this we find the Rapture in the third Vision of the Sixth Seal, Rev. 7:9. Indicated also in the Plagues in Egypt and in the Conquest of Canaan.

7. What is the Bridal of the Lamb? Cf. John 3:29; Mt. 9:15; Mt. 22:1-14; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-9; Rev. 21:2 (Symbol).

8. How explain "The Day of the Lord (Jehovah)", "The Day of Christ," "The Day of God"? "The Day of Jehovah," Joel 2:28-31 and so often in O. T. Prophets, ending with Mal. 4:5, (See all of Zephaniah), and referred to in Rev. 1:10. Everywhere it is a time of disaster and judgment. "The Day of Christ," I Cor. 1:8; Phil. 1:6; II Thes. 2:2 is the time of Christ's Epiphany and the Millennium. "The Day of God," II Pet. 3:12 and cf. Rev. 16:14, is the General Judgment and after.

9. What are the facts about Anti-christ? Nimrod is a Type, Gen. 10:8-12. Dan. 8:23-25, adumbrated by Antiochus Epiphanes. A blasphemous, reprobate World Ruler, II Thes. 2:1-12; Rev. 13 and note ver. 17. Read carefully Ezek. 38 and 39.

10. What does 666 represent in Rev. 13:18? In mystical Numerology or numerical Symbolism in the Bible, 6 in the Santanic number, or the number of Sin. There has been much juggling with this number 666. It is "the number of a man" and will represent Anti-christ when he comes.

11. Can Satan work miracles? By God's permission, Yes. See Deut. 13:1-5; Mt. 24:24-26; Rev. 13:11-18, especially 13-15; Rev. 16:14.

12. How then, are we to escape being led astray, as many are being today? Consistency with the revealed Scriptures is the final test. Note again Deut. 13:1-5 and Mt. 24:24-26 and see Gal. 1:8, 9; Is. 8:20; II Tim. 3:16; John 16:13; I John 2:27; Rev. 1:3. Then be as the Beroeans, Ac. 17:11. Read I John 2:28.

13. How do we explain Daniel's Seventieth Week, Dan. 9: 25-27? Read the context. Evidently the last seven years of this Dispensation and of "The great and terrible Day of Jehovah." Cf. Mt. 24:22; Rev. 12:1-6, 13-17. Anti-christ makes a league with the Woman — Jewish race — at the beginning of the Week and breaks it in the middle and tries to destroy her. Forty-two months, 1,260 days and "time, times (two times) and a half" are all the same and mean the last three and a half years of this Dispensation.

14. What is the time of "Jacob's trouble" in Jer. 30:7? Evidenlty this last three and a half years of this Dispensation.

15. Who is the Woman in Rev. 12? Obviously the Jewish race. The man-child is probably the 144,000, Rev. 7:3, 14:1. Query: Are England and America the two wings of an eagle given to the Woman, by which she escapes?

16. Who are the two Witnesses in Rev. 11:3-13? For answer compare Gen. 5:21-24; Heb. 11:5; II Kings 2:11; Mal. 4:5 (note time); John 1:21; Mt. 17:10, 11; Heb. 9:27.

17. What of Judgments and Remnants? As to Judgments, there are three series in Rev., namely Seals, Trumpets and Vials or Bowls, making twenty in all, adumbrated by the Ten Plagues in Egypt. Portrayed less specifically by Christ in Mt. 24, Mr. 13 and Lu. 21. The Remnant of Israel described often as small, definitely one-third in Zech. 13:8, 9. As to mankind, one-fourth destroyed by War, Famine, Pestilence and the "beasts of the earth" (mostly insects, no doubt), in Rev. 6:8. Another fourth is destroyed under the Woe Trumpets, Rev. 9:15-18. The last earthquake, hail and Battle of Armageddon will reduce still more. Perhaps a third of mankind will be left at the Epiphany.

18. Who is the Harlot of Rev. 17? Note the harlot and adulteress symbolism in the O. T. Prophets, as Ezek. 23 and Hosea 1-3. Cf. in N. T., James 4:4 (RV). Comports with the marriage symbolism used throughout the Bible. She is evidently a universal, corrupted, Ecclesiastical body cooperating with Anti-christ (note the Scarlet-colored Beast and that red is the chosen color of Communism, Sovietism, the Third Internationale). Verse 9 indicates Rome as her seat or See. Not simply the Papacy, but a united, pretended Christianity, under which are joined all the false cults, as Buddhism, Spiritualism, etc. Modernism is preparing Protestantantism for that Fellowship. The Harlot is the Bride of Anti-christ, just as the true Church is the Bride of Christ.

19. How much of Christianity does Satan simulate? All he can. He tries to mask as an angel of light, II Cor. 11:14, 15; he has a Trinity (Dragon, Beast and False Prophet); works stupendous miracles as already shown in No. 11; has the Harlot for Bride. Nearest he can come to the Virgin Birth is to have life given to the image; the nearest he can come to the Death and Resurrection of Christ is the wounded head. See Rev. 13:3. Many minor particulars.

20. What is Armageddon? Joel 3 and Rev. 14, 16 and 19. The last great war in this Dispensation, ending with a terrific Battle in Palestine and destruction of the forces of Anti-christ.

21. Is the Epiphany a definite fact? Ac. 1:11; Zech. 14:4; Mt. 25:14, 31; II Thes. 2:8; I Tim. 6:14; II Tim. 4:1, 8; Tit. 2:13; Rev. 19:11-20:6.

22. What Judgment at the beginning of the Millennium? Joel 3:11-16; Mt. 25:31; I Cor. 6:3; Rev. 20:4. A Judgment on the Nations, Mt. 25:32; but Christ's account has double-reference, as shown by Mt. 25:46. Ps. 2 evidently refers to same.

23. When is the General Judgment? Mt. 25:46; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15. This is after the Millennium and after the Battle of Gog and Magog, Rev. 20:7-10.

24. Is the Millennium a Symbol? Nothing to indicate it. Described as a definite fact in Rev. 20:4-6. Foreshadowed by the settlement of Canaan under Joshua. Everything cumulatively points to a definite Period of 1,000 years. A Dispensation of authority, the Sabbath of earth's redemptive History. See Ps. 72; Is. 11; Mt. 19:28, etc.

25. What will be the Capital and the character of Christ's Reign? Ps. 2; Ps. 72; Is. 11 and 60-66; Dan. 2:44, 45 and 7:9-18; Joel 3:18-20; Amos 9:11-15; Mic. 4, 5, and 7:7-20; Zeph. 3:8-20; Zech. 12-14. Pick out and jot down the facts revealed. Find many other references and do likewise. Jerusalem is obviously the Capital.

III. SIGNIFICANCE, IMPORTANCE AND WARNINGS.

1. Is it important to be informed on this matter? Mt. 24: 43, 44, and 25:10-13; Lu. 12:40, 17:22-35, 21:34-36; Mt. 24:45-51; I Thes. 5:6-11; Mr. 13:33-37. Find and note the seven "Blesseds" in Revelation, beginning with 1:3.

2. Is it something to desire? Universal Peace, Progress and Prosperity. Note the facts in 25 above.

3. How will Christ rule? As an absolute and perfect Dictator. Ps. 2; Rev. 19:11-16.

4. Is the Pre-millennialist a Pessimist or Optimist? He is neither; he is a Meliorist. He sees the storm clouds ahead, but looks on to the splendor beyond. We "love His Appearing" and try to hasten it, as well as pray for it.

5. How about Salvation after the Parousia and in the Millennium? No salvation between the Parousia and the Epiphania, because the Holy Spirit—the Restrainer—is withdrawn in his Redemptive work when the Rapture takes place, same as He was given on the Day of Pentecost. There will be a spurious Harlot religion with plenty of show, but no reality. Better get yourself, your children, your friends saved now. No time for vacations. Lu. 13:24-30. During the Millennium probably most people will be saved, but not all. See next.

6. Will there be a residue of iniquity during the Millennium? Ans. in Rev. 20:7-10.

7. When will Satan be bound? At the Epiphany. Rev. 19:18 -20:3.

8. Who will be caught up in the Rapture? Certainly not all church members. Possibly not all saved people. An interesting question that seems strangely ignored by students of Prophecy. Some light is thrown on it by the following passages:

1) Mt. 24:31. "His elect," seemingly a specially chosen number, not God's elect. Cf. verses 22 and 24. Have you made your calling and election sure?

2) I Thes. 5:6-10. Not those "asleep" (apathetic), nor "drunken" (chasing pleasure). Are you working "out your salvation with fear and trembling"?

3) Mt. 24:36-51. Are you "ready," "watching"?

4) I John 3:1-3. Have you a "hope" of Christ in His Second Coming that makes you purify yourself as He is pure? 5) II Tim. 4:8. Do you "love" His appearing? How do you show it?

6) Heb. 9:28. Do you "expect" Him?

7) Mt. 25:1-13. Have you the "oil" (obviously the Holy Spirit)?

9. Can any dates be fixed? We are not authorized to fix any dates. About fifty signs are given, and some are mentioned as just preceding the Parousia. Christ said "after a long time," Mt. 25-19. It has been a long time. The cumulative effect or convergence of the signs is the significant thing. The fig-tree is putting forth its leaves. If the "seven times" of Lev. 26 is prophetic and hence equivalent to 2,520 years, then, figured from B. C. 606—the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity—it brings us to 1914 (significant); or if figured from the destruction of the Temple in B. C. 586, it brings us to 1934. That only means reestablishment of the Jewish kingdom—the fig tree with its leaves put forth. If the Millennium is the seventh thousand years, we can't determine how near the end of 6,000 years is, but it is close.

10. How long between the Parousia and the Epiphania? Different views. I think it is 40 years, indicated by the Wilderness Wandering and Judgment.

11. What is the "Sign of the Son of Man"? A mystery. Possibly "HIS star" of Mt. 2:2, reappearing.

12. Will the "Elect" be saved from all judgments? The Israelites, God's elect in Egypt, suffered from the first three Plagues. By analogy the "elect" of Christ will suffer from the first six Seals.

13. What is the meaning of the First Seal? Probably the vindication of the truth of God's Word.

14. Are things any different from the past? Surely are, socially, politically, religiously, and terrestrially, the four fields to which most of the signs belong. There are no siderial phenomena till the Sixth Seal is broken.

15. Where are we now? Probably the first five Seals have been broken. They overlap. When the sixth is broken all will know it. As indicated before (III. 12) the Parousia, First Resurrection and Rapture will take place in the Sixth Seal.

IV. ORDER OF EVENTS TO BE EXPECTED. MAIN MATTERS.

1. False teachers and pretenders. 2. Increasing disorders. 3. "Falling away" or apostasy in the Church. 4. Apathy and spiritual "drunkenness," or "Having the form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof," "Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God," Laodiceanism. 5. Complete vindication of God's Word, chiefly through Archeology. 6. War, famine and pestilence in extreme forms, united with the beasts of the earth, chiefly insect pests, probably. 7. Persecution of believers. 8. Probably a great Revival of religion, as per Joel 2:28. 9. Worse earthquakes and finally an

extreme one at the breaking of the Sixth Seal. 10. Many Jews converted to Christianity. 11. "The Sign of the Son of Man." 12. The Archangel's Trumpet blast. 13. Resurrection of departed Saints. 14. Rapture of living Saints. 15. The "Restrainer"-Holy Spiritwithdrawn. 16. The Bridal of the Lamb in the skies. 17. Spurious religious unification, 18. Political unification-Communistic-under the fore-runners of the Lawless One or Anti-christ, 19. The Seven Trumpets. 20. Anti-christ and his Trinity. 21. His league with the Jews. 22. Breaks his league, three and a half years before the end. 23. The Two Witnesses, Enoch and Elijah. 24. "Jacob's Trouble." 25. Beast falls out with and destroys the apostate harlot Church. 26. Babylon (Rome perhaps) destroyed by divine vengeance. 27. Seven Vials or Bowls of God's wrath. 28. Armageddon. 29. Christ descends bodily to the Mt. of Olives. 30. The Beast and False Prophet cast into the Lake of Fire. 31. Satan bound and shut up in the Abyss. 32. Summons of nations to judgment for way they have treated the Jews. 33. Rearrangement of Palestine. 34. Kingdom established for the Millennium. 35. After the Millennium Satan loosed. 36. Battle of Gog and Magog. 37. Second Resurrection. 38. The General Judgment. 39. All evil cast into the Lake of Fire. 40. The earth purged with fire and new heavens and a new earth, "in which dwelleth righteousness."

Prepared by D. J. B., 120 South Broad, Clinton, S. C.



