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The Second Coming of Christ

There are many beliefs current today concerning the Second Coming of Christ. Some people believe that the Second Coming of Jesus refers to His Coming in conversion. That, of course is true. He does come at that time into the heart of the believer. But that is not the coming to which the Divine prophecy written in chapter 24 of the Gospel according to Matthew refers. Conversions take place every day, but the Second Coming of the Lord is an event that will take place in one glorious day.

Some people say that Christ comes in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit into the life of the Christian, but after the Day of Pentecost the disciples continued to talk of the Coming of Jesus as an event still future.

It is also said by some that His Second Advent was fulfilled in the revealing of the spiritual sense of the Word of God. The prophecies

contained in Matthew chapter 24 have been fulfilled symbolically and spiritually but this sinful world will not be changed but will continue forever as it is. Jesus had come upon the earth to restore man so that he might be as perfect as his heavenly Father is perfect. When such perfect men multiply there will be changes in this world. It is the purpose of God's providence to restore the sinless world after conquering satan by the fulfilment of the Second Advent. If this sinless world should continue forever, what would be the point of His Coming again?

Others believe that Jesus comes from heaven with a shout with the voice of the arch-angel and then God's people shall be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

At the time of Jesus some people believed that the Messiah would come in the clouds according to the book of Daniel. "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the ancient days and was presented before him. And to him was given domination and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed." (7:13-) Some people insisted that Jesus did not come in the flesh as others. John warned them, "For many deceivers have gone out into the world, men who will not acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh, such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist." (II John 7-)

We must remember that signs and miracles were always performed when people did not

believe in God nor accept the Kingdom of heaven like a little child. If Jesus comes from heaven in a cloud with the archangel's call and Christians are caught up in the clouds to meet Him in the air how will the verses contained in Luke 17:24 be fulfilled. "For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of man. They ate, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."

If He comes in such a manner no one would dare to deny and reject Him, and how will he suffer first? "When the Son of man comes will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8) This verse will not be fulfilled, because everybody will worship Him and glorify Him. Neither will Matthew 7:21 be fulfilled. "Not every one who says to me, Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers." This verse will not be fulfilled, because everybody will recognize Him and repent and submit themselves to Him when He appears in the air.

The early Christians expected His near return during their lifetime and looked daily for His Coming. Since then there have been many guesses concerning the date of His Coming again.

So far a number of people have prophesied the date of His Advent and none of them have proved true. On the other hand there are some people who think it useless to speculate on the time of the Advent. Because it is said in the Gospel according to Mark: "But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (13:32) If Christ is actually coming again there must be a set day for it, and it will be revealed when the time of His Coming is at hand. If there are definite signs which indicate that the time of His Coming draws near God will let His people know it. At the time of Jesus' first Coming it was not known until the time of His birth was near, but when the time came Mary and Joseph were told. The announcement was made to the shepherds and Wise Men from the East. Anna and Simeon were told about His Coming. When the time of His Second Advent is near the Father will let the Son and His angels and His saints on earth know it.

Some people believe that the manner of His return will be like that of His going. He went in a cloud and He will return in a cloud. (Acts 1:9,11) He went bodily and visibly and He will return bodily and visibly. (I Thess. 4:16) He went from the midst of His own people (Luke 24:51) and He will return for His own people and meet them in the air. (I Thess. 4:16,17) He will unveil Himself to His saints at His Coming in all His splendour and glory. Regarding the effects of the Second Advent they have different opinions from each other.

Reading the same Bible Christians in various denominations hold many divergent beliefs respect-

ing eschatology and the Second Coming of Jesus and yet they all think they have firm ground in the Word of God and would not give in to one another.

To these divergent beliefs I want to add another possibility regarding the way in which He will come again. This possibility is also suggested in Scripture and can explain the Scriptural verses which cannot be explained otherwise. The great hope of Israel was the coming of Messiah, but even greater expectation was the coming of Elijah. Because it was prophesied by Malachi that Elijah should return again as the forerunner of Messiah. (Mal. 4:5) So they believed that Elijah would come again in the same way as he went up in the flesh by a whirlwind into heaven.

When Jesus a carpenter of Nazareth suddenly manifested himself as the Messiah, a great sensation arose. His disciples met hard questions wherever they went. "If your master is the Messiah, why did Elijah not come? Finally they brought the question to their master. (Matt. 17:10-13) "And the disciples asked him. 'Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?' He replied, 'Elijah does come, and he is to restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come and they did not know him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of man will suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist." Jesus pointed out that John the Baptist was no other than Elijah. It was not only unbelievable but also sounded like arrogant sophism of Jesus to make himself the Messiah. Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "And if you

are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (Matt. 11:14) "And this is the testimony of John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." (John 1:19-) As John denied that he was the Elijah Jesus now looked a liar and a great hindrance was placed in the way of Israel coming to Jesus. They injured Jesus because they only looked into the sky expecting Elijah to come again. But his advent was realized in such an unexpected manner by the appearance of John.

There is the possibility that the Second Advent of Jesus will be fulfilled in the same way as the case of Elijah and John the Baptist. Jesus regarded Elijah and John the Baptist as one person and not two, because the latter came to succeed and complete the work of the former and from the standpoint of God's dispensation they were one.

Moses' course of Exodus is the representative course which indicates the course of Jesus. This is suggested in the gospel according to John. (5: 19) If this were so Moses's course plainly suggests how the Lord will come again to complete His work. When God set up Moses, He promised to lead him and his people into the land of Canaan flowing with milk and honey. Despite such a definite pre-determined blessing and promise of God, Israel complained in faithlessness and rebelled against God. Eventually Moses broke the tables of stone and struck the rock twice contrary to God's will when he gave water out of the rock.

On account of this mistake of Moses and the unbelief of his people God did not allow Moses or them to enter into the promised land but to die in the wilderness. When Moses could not accomplish God's dispensation He set up Joshua and Caleb to succeed and complete the Divine mission. God's pattern of setting up particular figures for particular missions has been always in this way.

God created man in His own image and likeness that man may become the substantial object to God and receive His love and joy and return the perfect beauty of creation to Him. On the other hand, God created man as a medium of conjunction of the two worlds. Therefore man is the means by which the visible physical world is conjoined with the invisible spiritual world. Owing to the fall of the first man, the invisible and visible worlds lost the means and medium of connection and the way of give-and-take was cut off between these two worlds. The universe lost its Lord and the Subject with whom the created world might have the relation of give-and-take. Therefore St. Paul said, "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies." (Rom. 8:22-) The loss of man caused great grief to God because He could not have the substantial object with whom the relation of give-and-take could be maintained. Thus the loss of man due to the fall of Adam and Eve caused great grief to God and the deep groaning of the whole creation, as well as the misery and death of man.

The sole purpose of God's providence is to restore the true living man and a sinless world, the Garden of Eden on this earth. Jesus was the restored Adam through whom God intended to accomplish the Divine Providence of restoration. It was possible for Jesus to fulfil this universal task of God because He alone came upon the earth as the incarnation of the Word of God, the substantial temple and the visible body of God. Hence He was called God's only begotten son who manifested God in fulness. Death was brought into the world by the first man Adam, and the second Adam Jesus came to restore man and the world to a perfect state of life. Through this true man Jesus the connection of the invisible and visible worlds could be restored and by grafting He was to restore fallen man to the state of perfection and reconstitute the Lordship of man over the whole creation.

However the chosen nation rejected the Son of God and by crucifying Jesus they caused Him to fail in accomplishing the entire restoration of the whole universe and the perfect salvation of man both in spirit and body. Through the victory on the cross Christ only accomplished a spiritual salvation for man and the physical redemption and the restoration of a sinless world were left unaccomplished. To complete this work He must come again.

According to the law of indemnity and restoration life can be indemnified by only life, eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. The loss of man can be made indemnity and restored by man alone. For this reason God repeated the dispensation of restoration by setting up men like

Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and others, because they all failed to accomplish God's will. God must do this work through man. This is the reason why Jesus was born as a man and lived as a man and subjugated satan as a man and triumphed on the cross of Calvary as a man. Here is his victory. In this way Jesus restored spiritually what was lost by the fall of man. But He left the physical restoration unfulfilled.

To accomplish this task He must be born again as a man and live as a man and subjugate satan completely and restore the entire universe as a man. This is the victory and glory to God. When Job passed through all tests and triumphed over them as a lone man satan surrendered him and God blessed him with twice as much as he had before

When the Lord comes again in the flesh those who were looking into heaven to see the Lord come in the clouds will deny Him and reject and persecute Him in all sorts of ways. Because He comes in such an unexpected manner the Christians who stick to the traditional faith will condemn him as a heretic. In such case the verse "When the Son of man comes will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8) will be fulfilled. No matter how many years they served God or how wonderful miracles they performed, they were rejected by Jesus when they denied Him.

Likewise at the time of the Second Advent they will be rejected by Him if they deny Him because He was born on the earth. But when His time is full and He appears with justice and glory of the Father He will judge and sentence them saying, "depart from me, you evildoers".

In this case alone Matthew 7:21-23 will be fulfilled. "Not every one who says to me, Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers." (7:21-)

"The kingdom of God is in the midst of you." (Luke 17:20) If the Lord comes in the clouds from heaven every one may see the kingdom of God. But he said "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; now will they say, 'Lo, here it is! or there! for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'" (Luke 17:20) The kingdom of God was in the midst of those who recognized Jesus first and followed him no matter how the world treated him. Likewise at the time of Advent those who recognize the Lord first and follow him will be the most blessed, and they receive the kingdom of God first.

Although the Jewish people waited for the Messiah for centuries, looking into the heaven they failed to recognize him when he was born as a person. "Then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; and he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call and they will gather his elect from the four winds from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt. 24:30-) Who will not believe in Him who comes in the clouds with his angels with a loud trumpet call? There

will be no difficulty to believe in Him. But these words will be fulfilled symbolically and not literally. Those whose spiritual eyes are open can see these things take place.

"Behold he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him." (Rev. 1:7) These who pierced him were Roman soldiers. Those sinners will not be raised until the thousand years are ended after the Second Advent and cannot see him. Taking it symbolically, it means the people of this generation who will reject the Lord. (Rev. 20:5) Then the word 'cloud' in the passage also should be interpreted symbolically. Cloud is vaporized water. According to the book of Revelation the waters symbolize the people of the world. "The waters that you saw, where the harlot is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues." (Rev. 17:15) Then clouds signify regenerated saints. According to the Letter to the Hebrews clouds signify multitude and glory. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us also lay aside every weight." (Heb. 12:1) Coming with the clouds means to appear in glory out of the multitudes of regenerated saints.

When the disciples of Jesus asked about the place of his coming He said to them, "Wheresoever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together." (Luke 17:37) This suggests that spiritually life movement arises and regenerated saints gather together, His Second Coming will be known there. When the time of the Second Advent is full God will let His true children all over the world know it by revelations and signs. But only those

who have ears to hear and eyes to see will know and receive them.

Then why did Jesus say that He would come in the clouds? Jesus had many things to say to His disciples but He could not convey them because He knew that they could not bear them at that time. (John 16:12,13) He then promised to send the spirit of truth who would reveal them all in the due course of time. The things He spoke to them were mostly symbolic. It is quite true that our Lord will come again from heaven in the clouds but symbolically and not literally. He could not reveal such important things in naked truth, but only covered as it were in a veil.

If His Second Coming as a man was revealed plainly to them His precious life and crucifixion would have little meaning and people would anticipate His Second Coming only and neglect Him and would not worship Him as the saviour and the sole visible God. This would destroy the whole providence of God with Jesus and afterwards.

Moreover if His second coming in flesh had been revealed clearly there would have been numerous antichrists and a great confusion would have resulted in the Christian Church. It was the Divine providence to make Christians have hungry and thirsty spirits for righteousness and His kingdom until the time of His Second Advent is full and it is revealed from God. The Scriptures predict that many in the last days will say: 'I am Christ' and shall deceive many. (Matt. 24:5) This prediction is being fulfilled in these years. In America there are some who claim to be the Messiah, and there are some in the Middle-East and India. There are several in Korea.

Since satan seized the initiative in the history of man evil always comes first and good follows later, before truth appears falsehood stalks ahead. The antichrists must appear before the true Christ comes. It is wrong to laugh at those who claim to be the Lord of Advent but we must watch the signs of the time and see how God's providence will develop. Some say their claims to be Messuah are all baseless. It is explained in detail in the chapter of Resurrection how one receives revelation that he is the Lord when he reaches to the highest degree of Growth stage. This does not mean that he is the Lord of Second Advent, but only the recognition that he is restored to the Lordship over all creation. Not knowing the entire providence of God one could be easily confused and make the mistake in regarding Himself as the Lord to come. Although they received God's revelation in claiming it they are antichrist because they are not the true one to come. Therefore those who receive such revelation must wait humbly for further revelation that God is giving. He is revealing Himself in these years to His children all over the world and giving revelation concerning the Second Coming. Since the time of His Coming draws near those who claim to be the Lord will and must appear more frequently in the West and East.

This is the time that God is fulfilling His promise given at the time of Pentecost. "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yea, and on my men-servants and my maidservants in those days I will

pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day." (Acts 2: 17-20)

Christ at His first advent was denied and crucified by God's chosen people and their leaders who fasted, prayed, offered tithe regularly, prophesied in the name of the Lord, faithfully served God and anticipated the Messiah to come at all cost throughout their long suffering history. They rejected the Messiah who came to their land.

When Saul consented to stone Stephen to death he had certain ground and sure evidences to do so. Saul who had been loyal and faithful to God would not do anything against God's will. To Saul Stephen deserved to be stoned by the law of God and Christians should be persecuted and eradicated because their Lord Jesus was cursed by God because He had profaned the Word of God. When Jesus revealed Himself to him on the way to Damascus he realized the very one he persecuted was his Lord and his God. Saul had sure evidences and certain ground to stone Stephen and eradicate Christianity, and Paul also had more sure evidences and certain ground to surrender to Jesus, and worship and serve Him as God sacrificing all his life for Him.

We cannot blame the Jewish people of old times. If we had lived then and seen Jesus with our eyes we could hardly have believed in and worshipped Him. Jesus appeared while Elijah was not seen. Jesus appeared to abolish the law and

prophets. Who could believe in the virgin birth? He was an illegitimate child to them if Mary had told them of her conception by the Holy Spirit. None of His brothers recognized Him, neither did His neighbours approve of Him. His friends were harlots, tax-collectors, and sinners and His disciples were uneducated fishermen and publicans. He himself had been a poor carpenter in Nazareth. He did not appear as great as John the Baptist or St. Paul. It would have been very questionable to regard such a figure as the Messiah if any one believed the Old Testament literally. It is no wonder the whole nation rejected and crucified Him and even His disciples did not follow after him to Calvary. Only a few women and John stood to see Him die. This was the Jesus whom many Christians today profess to serve and worship.

We cannot laugh at the Jews who are still waiting for the Messiah to come. What caused their blindness that they could not see the Messiah. It was the letters of the Old Testament which was the Word of God. They were so loyal and obedient to the Word of God which blinded them and led them to reject and crucify God's only begotten son. Who can say, that the letters of the New Testament will not blind the believers of today and with the Word of God they will not condemn the Lord at His Second Advent as a heretic. Jesus predicted that when the Son of man comes no faith will be found. To

To understand this chapter, the reader must read closely the previous chapters, I, II, III, IV, V, and VIII, especially, the Principle of Creation, the Purpose of Messiah's Coming and the Necessity of the Second Advent.

X

The Dispensation of Restoration
after Jesus (2000 years)

Preface

The development of the history of mankind has resulted in several spheres of civilization. In dealing with the course of restoration after Jesus, the Principle of restoration can only apply to the people and history developed in the sphere of Christian civilization. The making of human history is not entirely in man's hands but God and Satan have moulded it as well. By neglecting this fact no historian could see the true purpose of history.

A period of 2000 years elapsed between Adam and Abraham laying the foundation for restoration and in the next 2000 years the foundation was expanded from an individual to a family, from a family to a tribe, and from a tribe to a nation. By sending Messiah God intended to close the history of Satanic dominion over mankind and develop a new world under God's rule. Nevertheless this

providence could not be accomplished and was prolonged again as Israel did not recognize Jesus as their Messiah, consequently the 2000 years' period, the nation of Israel which was the expanded foundation, and Abraham the basic unit were all nullified. So God has been expanding for 2000 years the foundation of a new Israel recommencing with Jesus as the basic unit of a higher degree than Abraham.

The new Israel will not be the Jewish nation but Christians. In the history of Israel God caused them to die in the wilderness when they would not obey His will. When this happened they were unable to enter the promised land. Likewise the nation of Israel who crucified the Messiah cannot be allowed to enter the promised world of restoration, but Christians who are the successors of the Israelites will enter.

The Materials used in the study of the providence of restoration are the Old and New Testaments. As the Old Testament contains Laws, Prophets, Sacred Literature, and the history of Israel, so the New Testament contains Gospels, prophecy (Revelation), Sacred Literature (the epistles), and Acts the history of Early Christianity to which the history of the Christian church for 2000 years should be added. With these the Divine providence of restoration should be studied. The following scope becomes the main theme of the Divine providence of restoration in the history of mankind, and all that happened after Jesus' time is the repetition of the former in a broader scope.

- (1).400 years slavery in Egypt
- (2).400 years' period of Judges
- (3).120 years' period of United Kingdom
- (4).400 years' period of Divided Kingdoms of Judah and Israel
- (5).70 years of exile
- (6).140 years' period of returning
- (7).400 years of preparation for the Coming of Messiah

- (1).4 centuries' persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire
- (2).4 centuries of Church Patriarchs
- (3).118 years' period of Christian Empire
- (4).397 years' period of Divided Empires of East and West
- (5).70 years' period of the exile of popes
- (6).142 years' period of returning to Vatican and the Reformation
- (7).400 years of preparation for the Second Coming of the Lord

1. The Persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire (4 AD - 397 AD)

Israel suffered for 400 years in Egypt to indemnify 400 years lost on which Abraham stood until he made the mistake in his offering, so the Jewish people in Cains stand did not receive or obey Jesus Christ who was in Abel's stand, and to make indemnity Christians suffered nearly 4 centuries under the Roman Empire, a heathendom and an Egypt on a world wide level.

This gives the reason why the righteous who believe in God have always suffered on earth.

The blood of the wicked must be made indemnity with that of the righteous and good, and God allows the righteous to shed blood in order to indemnify evil on earth.

When the 400 years' period of indemnity was full Moses led his people out of Egypt and they obtained freedom to worship Jehovah God. Then God gave Israel Ten Commandments which was the core of the Old Testament, and orders to build a tabernacle which was the symbol of Jesus, the substantial temple. Similarly following the period of persecution the Christian Church decided the Apostles' Creed and canonized the New Testament after several conferences. In this period Athanasius and Augustine appeared among other great leaders and especially Augustine's teaching had a great influence on the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church and the leaders of the Protestant Reformation. Thus by the 4th century the Christian Church was well organized on a firm foundation to worship God, just as the Israelites had made a tabernacle to offer sacrifices to God.

2. The Church under the leadership of the Patriarchs (397-800)

After the Israelites entered into Canaan Judges ruled them for a period. Likewise the Christians led by the Patriarchs in the Roman Empire evangelized the Germans who subsequently overran the Roman Empire in the 4th century. The patriarchs gradually united the churches, and in the Western churches the patriarch or the bishop was called the pope and rapidly gained power. On the other hand, monasticism became popular aided by ascetic

ideals. The judges of Israel undertook a combined ministry of priest, prophet, and ruler. But later on the three ministries were divided. Likewise the patriarchs undertook the integrated ministries, and later when a Christian Empire was established monasteries undertook the ministry of prophet, popes undertook that of priest, kings undertook that of ruler solely.

3. The Period of Christian Empire (800-918)

In the period of the united kingdom of Israel the ministries of prophet, priest, and king were separated. Similarly when a Christian Empire was established the monastery undertook the ministry of prophet, the pope, that of priest, and kings accepted the will of Christ as their mission. The Israelites served God as a nation, so Christians established an empire and served God as one nation. In the 9th century by crowning and anointing Charlemagne of Frank, Pope Leo III gave his kingdom the title of the 'Holy Roman Empire'. This event was similar to Samuel anointing Saul to be king of Israel. It was the first time a pope crowned a king and henceforth the Frankish Empire became theocratic like Israel. Moses' tabernacle gave way to the Holy Temple in the time of the United Kingdom under Solomon. Charlemagne attempted the ideal of a Christian kingdom as outlined in "The City of God" by Augustine in all possible ways in his kingdom. In this Frankish kingdom the feudal system fully developed. The economic foundation which is the lower strata of the feudal society was maintained by serfs. The political foundation, the middle strata of

this society was maintained by the barons and knights. The upper strata of this society was the churches ruled by the popes, and they maintained the spiritual field of the society.

4. The Divided Empires, East and West (918-1305)

In the later years of King Solomon's reign he and his people were not one with the Temple. They brought in heathen dieties and the kingdom was divided into Judah and Israel after being established for 120 years. The Frankish kingdom ended in 118 years and was divided among East Franks, west Franks, and Italy, but later East Frank succeeded the Holy Roman Empire and annexed Italy. Thus East and West were divided and the Holy Roman Empire (East Frank) played the main part, just as the Southern Kingdom was regarded as being more important than the Northern kingdom in the history of Israel.

With the crowning of Charlemagne by Leo III of the Western Church the Greek Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church were divided and the Greek Church became related with the Eastern Roman Empire while the Roman Church was related to the kingdom of Frank. The main object of the Divine providence hereafter was the Roman Church and the Frankish kingdom.

The Vatican could give orders down to serfs through barons and knights and it was possible to practice Christian ideals in that whole society. As the kings of Israel obeyed the command of their priests, so the emperers obeyed the command of the popes. For example, Gregory VII (1073-1085) expanded

the papacy as a divinely appointed universal sovereignty to which all earthly sovereigns were responsible, for their spiritual welfare and their temporal government. Innocent III (1198-1216) compared the relation of the pope and king with that of sun and moon.

When Israel was not one with the Temple God gave warning and chastisement internally and externally. God sent prophets to give internal warning, while external warnings were given by the Gentiles invading the northern kingdom Israel and the chief men of the kingdom assassinated their kings. In spite of this Israel did not obey God's will, and He finally gave the people of Judah over to Egypt, Chaldea, Assyria and Babylon. Similarly under the divided empires the popes were corrupt and unable to rule the Church in accordance with God's will. The monastic orders (in place of the prophet) strove for reformation of the hierarchy at the Vatican.

The monasteries developed a reform movement from three separate aspects. Thomas Aquinas and other scholastic monks wrought in the intellectual field, Thomas a Kempis in the spiritual field, Francis of Assisi and other friars in the practical field. In spite of this, the popes became more corrupt than before and in order to chastise them, God handed them over to a heathen nation. This was the providential reason for commencing the Crusades.

From 1071 onwards, and later when Jerusalem was captured by the Seljuk Turks, Christian pilgrimages were impossible and the holy place was desecrated. To recapture the holy land the popes organised seven great Crusades over a period of

nearly 200 years. Meanwhile the popes were aroused to correct some of the evils of the papacy but they did not become completely one with God. When they finally failed to restore the holy land, the Christian Empires divided into East and West and were eventually destroyed by the Mongolian invasion.

In the Crusades the church in the Middle Ages suffered much from a heathen nation and this was God's method of chastisement. These battles brought the civilizations of Christianity and Mohamedanism into contact with each other. The Crusades failed, papal power lost prestige in Europe, and zeal and devotion to the church waned. Many barons and knights who participated in the Crusades died in battle or lost their lands and property. Thus the feudal and manorial systems were destroyed. Geographical knowledge was broadened and the way opened for navigation and exploration, and the discovery of new continents. The mental horizon of the Western world was immeasurably expanded. The period saw the highest theological development of the Middle Ages - that of Scholasticism, the development of universities. With an influx of Hellenism into Europe humanism sprang up and this became the primary motive for the Renaissance. Thus the spiritual, political, and economic foundations (the three stratas of the feudal society) in the divided Christian Empires were all overthrown and a new world appeared on the horizon.

5. The Babylonish Captivity of the Papacy (1305-1375)

Israel suffered in Babylon as exiles for 70 years and returned in 140 years, and thus a new foundation was laid. Similarly when the popes did not correct their evil ways despite many warnings and chastisements from God they were removed to Avignon as exiles and lived there for 70 years under the control of Philip the French king. It was the period of humiliation of the Vatican and the whole Christian world as well.

6. The Period of Returning (1375-1517)

After Israel's captivity in Babylon, Persia conquered Babylon. When the 70 years captivity was full Persia permitted Israel to return which they did in three periods over 140 years. Similarly when the 70 years' captivity was full the papacy was divided in two, in Rome and in South France and later it was divided into three. These three were finally integrated into one and the papacy returned to Rome. During the captivity the Israelites were greatly affected by heathen thought and life. Likewise after the Christian Empire had collapsed Christians were greatly influenced by foreign thought. This was the Renaissance.

The causes of the Renaissance were the founding and growth of universities, the introduction of Saracenic culture, the progress of human knowledge, the popular desire for free research, the migration of eastern scholars to Italy who intro-

duced Greek classics. The main thoughts in the idea of the Renaissance were humanism, individualism, realism, the emphasis on the judgment of things by human reason against the blind acceptance of the authority of the papacy, the emphasis being placed on man's present life, beauty, and satisfaction. This was the reaction to the views of life and the universe based on the asceticism, the other-worldliness and collectivism of the Middle ages, through the study of the Greek classics and the rejection of Hebraism. The outcome of the Renaissance caused a spirit of research resulting in the inventions of the compass, gunpowder, printing, and the discovery of Copernican theory. New continents were discovered and all these together caused a sudden change in the views of life and the universe of the middle ages. The tendency to realism and epicurism led the people into corruption and political justice became debased.

The Renaissance led Christians to discover the following: (1) It was a scientific way of thinking. Christians discovered that God who created the universe according to the principles of creation is the God of Principle, Order, and Rationality. So man must understand God and the created universe with his reason as well as intuition. It is not wholesome to neglect to use our reason. (2) Christians discovered the value of the individual, the significance of the present earthly life and the ideal of freedom, the beauty of nature which the collective, other-worldly, and ascetic Mediaeval Christianity had lost sight of. The purpose of God's providence is the entire redemption of man and the universe and not just the spiritual side. The Renaissance made them realize

the value of the lost half namely physical life which is just as important as the spiritual.

(3) The Greek language became popular and Christians read and translated the New Testament easily and came to know the teachings and heart of our Lord Jesus better.

This fact caused them to see the corruption of the popes and the Roman Catholic Church, which had drifted far from New Testament Christianity. This state of affairs made the Reformation possible and comparatively easy to attain.

On the other hand as the result of the Renaissance scientific views of the universe, humanistic views of life, the supremacy of human reason were established and all these led to Deism and the philosophy of enlightenment and later to Marxist Materialism which developed and endeavoured to eradicate Christianity.

7. The Period of Preparation for the Second Advent (1517---)

If the fall had not taken place and Adam and Eve had attained perfection they would have become Living Spirits and the foundation of the Divine Four Positions would have been laid, and an ideal world would have been realized by them from then onwards. Spiritual and natural sciences make the way of living happy and easy and the Arts teach man the way of returning beauty to God. The lower strata of society in the ideal world is the economic foundation whose main role is production. Atomic production, the culmination of the natural science, will provide maximum benefits for physical life. The middle strata will be the political

life and it will function to maintain the economic system parallel with the upper strata which is the Divine law and ethics causing man to return beauty to God. Owing to the fall, however, the spiritual sciences and arts have not fully developed and the communication with the world of spirits ceased while a Satanic order usurped the place of the Divine law and Order.

The 400 years from Malachi to Jesus was the period of the total indemnity of 4000 years of providence. During this period there was no prophet amongst them and they suffered a great deal under Persia, Greece, Egypt, and Syria as colonies. After a short period of independence under the Maccabees Israel became a colony of the Roman Empire and during this long period they waited for the coming of Elijah and the Messiah.

The 400 years after the Reformation is the preparation period for the Second Advent. This is the period of the total indemnity of 6000 years and also the period of the indemnity of 400 years from Malachi to Jesus. As Israel suffered under the heathen nations in many ways, after the Reformation Christian churches scattered in many countries have suffered in similar ways, politically, economically, socially, philosophically, and religiously and are waiting for the Second Advent.

The Renaissance accelerated the progress of natural sciences resulting in an improved standard of living. The spiritual view of life which directs the purpose of man's life must run parallel with this progress to prepare for the new dispensation age. The Reformation was God's providence to prepare for the new age to come.

The struggle between the Roman Catholics and

the Protestants lasted for^a hundred years, and the thirty years' war between the Catholics and the Protestants in Germany ended in 1648. The Protestants prevailed in northern Europe where the Teutons dwelt while the Catholics triumphed in southern Europe among the Latin nations. From this time on God's providence was wrought through the Protestant Church who was in Abel's position while the Catholic Church was in Cain's position.

Modern philosophy which derived from the progress of physical science and Greek philosophy endowed human reason with the authority and materialism which prevailed all over Europe. Deism arose first in England and it became Materialism in France and appeared in Germany as the Enlightenment Movement. This trend of thought destroyed superstition and developed man's intelligence and reasoning and modified the laws of the various countries. Deism, materialism, and evolutionary theory which Darwin, Voltaire, Marx, and Engels held established atheistic and satanic views of life on the plea of science which greatly disturbed men's minds and hindered them from turning to God.

On the other hand Pietism in Germany, great revival movements in England and America led by the Wesleys, Whitefield, George Fox, and Jonathan Edwards, the great spiritual experiences and revelation of Emmanuel Swedenborg, similar movements in the Catholic Church, and Kant in the field of philosophy made great contributions in establishing a spiritual and Christian view of life. As the last days drew near Satan mobilized all his people to destroy the divine dispensation while God awakened people's minds and prepared their spiritual life for a new age to come.

It was the Divine providence to make great Britain a powerful nation through the Industrial Revolution and all European nations to obtain colonies, and thus Imperialism arose. By allowing Christian empires to control non-Christian countries the gospel of Christ was preached widely and quickly. The Divine providence allowed North America to be prosperous to succeed the mission of Great Britain in evangelizing among the eastern countries to prepare for the new age of Second Advent. It was also the Divine providence to establish Democracy through the French Revolution and develop it in other nations gradually in fulness.

The 40 years since the World War I is the contracted period of the 400 years since the Renaissance and represents the contracted period of 6000 years of human history. This is the most confused and chaotic period in all history. Through the two Great World Wars Satan endeavoured to destroy God's providence of restoration by mobilising the nations inclined to Satan's side, but God prevented them by using the nations inclined to righteousness.

Satan's final reviling against God is seen in the Communistic bloc particularly the Soviet Union since the Russian revolution. Satan seized the initiative in history and evil and falsehood come first while good and truth follow later. The communist bloc go ahead imitating what God will realize in His restored world.

Thus, through the utmost progress of physical science and political system the preparation for a new age is rapidly developing. Unless Satan submits and surrenders voluntarily to God another large military conflict is inevitable.

The aftermath of this conflict will bring to

light the upper strata of human life namely the unity in the spiritual life of mankind. To achieve this purpose the denominations in the Christian Church must be united and the different religions must be gathered in unity. Recently the large denominations in the Protestant Church are moving toward unity of the Churches through the Ecumenical movements, International Missionary Council, Student Christian Movement, Y.M. and Y.W.C.A., and other similar interdenominational and cooperative movements and activities. The spirit of unity and cooperation amongst the denominations is keener today than in all past history, and they admit the necessity for unity^{is} felt more intensely now than ever before amongst Christians all over the world. This is the universal spiritual trend pressing men on earth and compelling them to feel that way. As it is explained in detail in the chapter on Resurrection, for the unity and unification among the sects and denominations and also among different religious groups our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the whole hosts of heaven are working by pouring out the Holy Spirit and giving special revelations. In the speediness and the sense of real unity, this outpouring will excel the political unity among denominations for which Christian leaders are striving today. Knowing this Satan is now working to thwart God's dispensation of the Last Days in every possible way. The signs of the Last Day are seen everywhere and in each event of history. "Let them hear who have ears to hear and see who have eyes to see."