

The Lord's second coming foretold

Matthew 24 vv.29-31.

Matthew 25 vv.31-46.

Rev.20 vv.11-15.

Rev.21 vv.1-27.

You have already heard many references to the Day of Judgment have you not? On that Day the Lord Jesus shall come again in the clouds of heaven. Yes, that is something you know of by now. But perhaps some of you are thinking: "What will really happen then? How will it take place?"

I will certainly tell you something about it, but to describe everything precisely is something no man can possibly do. The Lord Jesus, sitting upon the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem tells something about it, and that is why I can do so too, but you will have to listen very carefully, for it is difficult.

When that great Day shall come, nobody knows. Even the angels in heaven do not know that. Only God knows it. But the Lord Jesus shall come again suddenly, when no-one expects it. The Lord shall not come alone however, O no, thousands and thousands of angels shall also leave heaven. These holy ministering spirits shall accompany Him. It shall not take place so that none shall realise what is happening. On the contrary, everybody upon the earth shall see it.

In the Bible it says that Jesus shall come "with power and great glory".

You will understand that I cannot tell you exactly what shall then take place, for that is hidden from us. But all men, all the nations of the earth shall see Him. They shall tremble and shake. The wicked shall cry out and weep in anxiety and fear.

Not only the living shall witness this, but the dead also shall be raised up. Every single person who has lived from the beginning of the world until the last day, shall live. The graves shall be opened. How many have perished in the sea? ... Yet the sea shall also deliver up her dead. Just think about that for a moment. What an innumerable multitude shall stand in that Day upon the earth. Old and young, small and great. The earth shall be filled with people. The sound of trumpets shall echo.

That same Jesus, who here on earth was rejected; who was born in a cattle shed; who lived in despised Nazareth; shall then sit as King upon a great white throne, upon the clouds of heaven.

The Jewish chief priests, the Pharisees and Scribes who berated Him here upon earth as a deceiver and a ~~xx~~ seducer, shall then see Him also. Here on earth they would not believe that He is the Son of God, but then they will have to believe it, for then they shall see it.

It shall be a terrible, horrifying day for all the wicked. For Jesus, the King of Israel, shall not only come as a King, but also as a JUDGE. Every One of us shall be judged. All men without exception are sinners. All have forsaken God. Yet all those people shall be separated into two groups. The angels shall do this at the Lord's command.

One group shall be placed at the right hand of Jesus. The other group will be found upon His left. On the right hand come the children of God, the elect. On the left hand come all the wicked.

Why this difference? Well, the Lord Jesus has taken upon Himself the sins of God's people. He has borne the punishment for those who are His. He was nailed to the cursed wood of the cross, and has removed the curse from His people. Jesus suffered the pains of hell in His soul, and therefore they are preserved from them. They shall be pronounced "Not guilty". Not because they are better, but because Jesus, their Saviour has paid the debt for them. Jesus has borne the punishment which they deserved. They shall enter eternal bliss. Not for their good works, but through grace alone.

O children, those who are saved and those who are lost, now live mixed together. But soon, in the Judgment Day the separation shall take place. Then perhaps you will see your God-fearing father, mother, grandfather or grandmother placed on God's right hand. In God's Word we read that the sheep shall be divided from the goats. By the sheep we are to understand God's people; by the goats, those who remain unconverted. Give this your solemn consideration.

When you call your mother, now, she comes to you, though it be in the middle of the night. Now she cares for you and helps you. But in the last great Day, if you remain unconverted, though you then call ever so loud, she will not come. If you have a God-fearing mother, she will then curse you. How terrible that will be. Now your parents pray for you, but then they shall no longer pray. Then the day of grace will be over.

The righteous shall be acquitted in that day for Christ's sake. And the pronouncing of the sentence for God's people shall be thus "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." What Kingdom shall they receive? ... Well, the Kingdom of heaven, the realm of eternal glory. There, sorrow and sighing shall flee away. There, God shall wipe away the tears from their eyes. There shall none ever say "I am sick". There shall be no more night. There they shall sing, sing for ever the glory of God, the honour of their Saviour, who bought them with His blood.

But the wicked, the unconverted, shall also be judged. The books shall be opened. That means: all their sins, evil thoughts, sinful words, wicked deeds, shall be brought back to their minds. Their consciences shall be awakened. Oh, they shall tremble and shake. To a thousand questions they shall be unable to give one answer. But moreover they have ignored the voice of God. They did not WANT Jesus as their King, as their Saviour. They were enemies of the Lord Jesus. No, for them the Lord Jesus shall not step in as a Mediator, for they have never learned to know Him as their Surety and Saviour.

And the pronouncement of the sentence of the wicked shall resound: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Do you hear that? "Depart". And that is for ever and ever. The wicked shall be tormented eternally in both soul and body, in hell. They shall for ever be separated from God, from the angels, and from God's people.

This is not intimidation. It is absolutely true. I cannot, I must not put it any other way, because so it IS. That day, that great Reckoning Day shall come, and no man knows when.

For you too that day is coming. Believe it, boys and girls, that day is coming, it cometh speedily. Are you now yet as goats, or in other words, are you still living unconverted, in a life of sin? ... Poor children, it is so dangerous to live as a goat, as one unconverted. Each day could be our last. You also shall stand in the Last day before the judgment seat of the Lord Jesus. You also shall be judged. But ... shall your sentence also be "Not guilty"? ... That can only happen if the Lord Jesus has been made known to you as your Saviour.

Plead then with the Lord to remove the enmity from your heart. Beseech Him through His Spirit to awaken you out of spiritual death.

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So you see, thus it was that the Lord Jesus spake to His disciples. Silently and solemnly did they listen to Him. They probably longed for that Day ... but ...

"The end," says the Lord, "is not yet." For first, He tells them, He must suffer and die. First He must, through His death, work out salvation.

The Lord Jesus then arises and walks through the fast falling darkness to Bethany, to His friends.

His disciples follow Him in silence. Their faces are sober and saddened. They will not, they cannot miss their beloved Master, and yet that must and shall take place. That is why they are sad. That is why they are anxious. They cannot comprehend it. They still do not realise that Jesus MUST die, in order to obtain salvation even for them also. Only later shall they understand that completely.

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