

THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

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Heb 9:27-28 “And just as people are appointed to die once, and then to face judgment, 28 so also, after Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many, to those who eagerly await him he will appear a second time, not to bear sin but to bring salvation.” NET



The bible says that Christ will return to this earth a second time to bring salvation to the waiting subjects of his Kingdom. The Second Advent of Christ is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament an average of one verse in twenty. To find out about the Second Advent we should read what Christ Himself said concerning it.

John 13:36; 14:1-4. “Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.”... “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also” NET

Peter asks the question ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to prepare places for them in His Father’s house *in Heaven*. This is because God’s people will live in Heaven. One day Christ will return to this earth to gather His people together to take them to His Father’s house. Christ says that where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you shall follow me afterwards. And where I am going there you will be also. The context of this passage is clear, that when Christ said that His disciple’s would be where He is, He meant that they would be in Heaven where He is going. No Christian is in Heaven yet. We will not be going to Heaven until Christ returns to take us there.

Jude 14-15 “Now Enoch, the seventh in descent beginning with Adam, even prophesied of them, saying, “Look! The Lord is coming with thousands and thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all, and to convict every person of all their thoroughly ungodly deeds that they have committed, and of all the harsh words that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” NET

Jesus will return with ten thousands of his holy ones to execute judgment upon all. These thousands of holy ones cannot be God’s people because they are not in heaven yet. So who are these saints that accompany Jesus on his return?

Matt 25:31 ““When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.” NET

The thousands and thousands of his saints spoken of by Jude are the angels of heaven. They will accompany Jesus on His return to the earth to execute judgment on all.

Luke 24:36-43 “While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37 But they were startled and terrified, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 Then he said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; it’s me! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones like you see I have.” 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still could not believe it (because of their joy) and were amazed, he said to them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42 So they gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in front of them.” NET

After the resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples. He was not a spirit as they mistakenly assumed but a physical flesh and blood person. To prove this to them He eats some food in front of them. It was the physical body of Jesus that rose from the dead not a disembodied spirit. This is the physical Jesus who will return to the earth.

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Acts 1:9-11 “After he had said this, while they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 As they were still staring into the sky while he was going, suddenly two men in white clothing stood near them 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven.” NET

This physical Jesus departed from this earth on a cloud. This same Jesus is to return to this earth in the same manner that he left it. On a cloud in a physical form and visible so that His disciples can see Him.

Matt 24:3-5 “As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign of your coming [parousia] and of the end of the age?” 4 Jesus answered them, “Watch out that no one misleads you. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will mislead many.” NET



When asked about His return at the end of the age Jesus first warned His disciples about deception. Many will be deceived by false Christs coming in Jesus name. Therefore it is important that we have a clear understanding of the manner of the Second Advent of Christ to avoid being deceived. The Greek word translated ‘coming’ in this verse is ‘**Parousia**’ *it means physical presence*. The Latin translation of this word is “adventum” This is why the return of Christ is called the ‘Second Advent’. Whenever the word ‘parousia’ is used it will be underlined. Jesus says:

Matt 24:23-27 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe him. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 Remember, I have told you ahead of time. 26 So then, if someone says to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe him. 27 For just like the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so the coming [parousia] of the Son of Man will be.” NET

Jesus warns against deceptions that will deceive many. These deceptions will be so delusive that we are warned not to even go and look at them. They include the seance chamber (the inner rooms) as well as these near death experiences where people have claimed to have seen Christ. The return of Christ will be an event as visible as lightning flashing across the heavens. The son of man, Jesus, will be seen in the heavens and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because they will be in rebellion against Him. Jesus will return on the clouds in power and great glory with the great sound of a trumpet that will be heard all the way around the world. This takes place at His Parousia. His return in physical form.

Matt 26:62-64 “So the high priest stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer? What is this that they are testifying against you?” 63 But Jesus was silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” 64 Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven” NET

During His mock trial by the Jewish Sanhedrin Jesus tells His murderers that He is the Son of God, and they will see Him return to the earth sitting on the clouds of heaven. They must be raised to life to see Him return.

Rev 1:7 “(Look! He is returning with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes on the earth will mourn because of him. This will certainly come to pass! Amen.) NET

He is coming with clouds, just like the Angels told the men of Galilee that He would. Every eye will see Him; even those who pierced Him by putting Him to death on the cross will be raised to life to see Him return. The entire population of the earth will see Him return and mourn because they will be in rebellion against God.

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The Day of the Lord is like a Thief in the Night

Matt 24:42-44. “Therefore stay alert because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have been alert and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” NET

The day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. This coming refers to the Second Coming of Christ. Speaking about His return, Christ says that it will be unexpected like a thief in the night. At a time when you do not expect it to happen it will take place. Even though Jesus returns like a thief He does not act like a thief. (See also Luke 12:39-40)



1Thess 4:13-18; 5:1-4 “Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep [dead] , so that you will not grieve like the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians. 15 For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming [parousia] of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first [resurrection]. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. 18

Therefore encourage one another with these words. 5:1 Now on the topic of times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. 2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord will come in the same way as a thief in the night. 3 Now when they are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will surely not escape. 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness for the day to overtake you like a thief would.” NET

“God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus”. This does not mean that the dead are already in heaven and are brought back to the earth with Christ, we know this because in John 14:1-4 we are told that Christ’s followers are not in heaven until Christ returns to this earth to resurrect them from their graves. Paul explains what he means by the statement “God will bring with Him” by describing the great resurrection day when at (*Parousia*) the return of Christ, Christ Himself will shout with the voice of the archangel and the dead in Christ will be raised from their graves. This is definitely no quiet secret event. God brings them back to life to transport them to heaven in physical form just as Jesus Himself was raised from His grave in physical form. The noise of the trumpet will be so loud that it wakes the dead. This trumpet is the same one mentioned in Matt 24:30-31

Matt 24:30-31 “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man arriving on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” NET

The great gathering takes place after the great sound of a trumpet at the second advent. Jesus taught that the great gathering consists of the angels traveling from one end of the earth to the other to gather all of his people to himself. Paul says that God’s people at this time consist of the living and the dead. Those of us who are alive and remain at this time will be caught up with the resurrected dead to meet the Lord in the air. The Latin word for ‘caught up’ is “*Rapiemur*” and is found in the Latin bible. This is where the English word ‘*rapture*’ comes from. The ‘*rapture*’ or being ‘*caught up*’ takes place here at the ‘*parousia*’, the second advent of Christ. The resurrection of the dead takes place first then the rapture or catching up of the living occurs after that. This day just described is also called the Day of the Lord and comes completely unexpected on the world like a thief in the night and brings *sudden destruction* for the wicked. But Christ’s followers will not be in ignorance concerning the day of the Lord so it will not come upon them *unexpectedly* like a thief.

1 Corinth 15:51-55 “Listen, I will tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the last trumpet.

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For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 Now when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will happen, “**Death has been swallowed up in victory.**” 55 “**Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?**” NET

We shall not all sleep, that is, not all of us shall die. *The last trumpet* is the trumpet that sounds at second advent of Christ [Matt 24:31] the righteous dead will be raised immortal and incorruptible, and the living righteous we be glorified, made immortal and incorruptible in a split second in the twinkling of an eye. This verse does not say that we will disappear through the clouds in the twinkling of an eye. But that we will be changed physically and biologically in the twinkling of an eye. After this transfiguration Christ’s angels will gather God’s people from one end of the heaven to the other to transport them to the clouds to meet Christ in the air.

The order of events are these:

- (1) Christ descends from heaven
- (2) All the tribes of the earth mourn because they know that they are lost
- (3) There is a shout from Christ that goes around the world
- (4) The great sound of the last trumpet
- (5) The Great Gathering when the resurrection of the dead and the rapturing of the living saints takes place.
- (6) Sudden destruction for the wicked.

The Apostle Peter describes the Second Advent of Christ

2Peter 3:3-4, 10-13 “Above all, understand this: In the last days blatant scoffers will come, being propelled by their own evil urges 4 and saying, “Where is his promised return? [parousia] For ever since our ancestors died, **all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation.**”.... But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; when it comes, the heavens will disappear with a horrific noise, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze, and the earth and every deed done on it will be laid bare. 11 Since all these things are to melt away in this manner, what sort of people must you be, conducting your lives in holiness and godliness, 12 while waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God? Because of this day, the heavens will be burned up and dissolve, and the celestial bodies will melt away in a blaze! 13 But, according to his promise, we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness truly resides.” NET



In this passage the apostle Peter is describing the second advent of Christ. We can be certain of this because of the expressions that he uses. In the last days scoffers will not believe in the second advent of Christ. This expression ‘last days’ is used in the New Testament to describe the days in which we live before the second advent (Acts 2:17; 2 Tim3:1; Heb 1:2; Jas5:3). He records people as saying that all things continue as they have always done from the beginning of creation. This means that the second advent of Christ; the resurrection of the righteous; and the rapture of the living could not have taken place. If those events had taken place the scoffers could not say that ‘*since the fathers fell asleep [died] all things continue as they have always done from the beginning of creation*’. A clear statement that the resurrection at the second advent has not taken place. Like Jesus and Paul, Peter teaches that the day of the Lord will come unexpectedly like a ‘*thief in the night*’ – an expression that is constantly used all through the New Testament to describe the second advent. Peter is describing the day of God, the day that brings destruction for the world but salvation for the children of God, just like in the days of Noah and Lot. At His return (Gk. *Parousia*, a word in scripture that constantly refers to the second advent) the heavens ie, the atmosphere, will disappear with a roar and the elements will melt in the heat. Fire and earthquake will destroy the entire planet and everyone and everything in it.

Jesus Likens His Second Advent to the Flood in the Days of Noah

Matt 24:36-44 “But as for that day and hour no one knows it—not even the angels in heaven—except the Father alone. 37 For just like the days of Noah were, so the coming [parousia] of the Son of Man will be. 38 For in those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah

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entered the ark. 39 And they knew nothing until [the flood came and took them all away](#). It will be the same at the coming [parousia] of the Son of Man. 40 Then there will be two men in the field; one [will be taken](#) [Gk:paralambano 3880] and one left. 41 There will be two women grinding grain with a mill; [one will be taken and one left](#). 42 “Therefore stay alert because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have been alert and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” NET

Christ describes His Second Advent as an event that comes unexpectedly like a thief. He tells us to watch because no one knows the time of the Lord's return. At this time all humanity will be divided into two groups.



One group will be taken and the other group will be left. The second advent of Christ will be the same as in the days of Noah, one group will be destroyed and one group will remain alive. In the days of Noah the wicked were completely destroyed by the waters of the flood and only God's people were left alive. So at the second advent of Christ the righteous will remain alive and the wicked will be totally destroyed. Luke also records the words of Jesus on the subject.

Luke 17:26-27; 30; 34-37 “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage—right up to the day Noah entered the ark. [Then the flood came and destroyed them all...](#)

30 It will be the same on the day the Son of Man is [revealed](#) [Apokalupsis]... 34 I tell you, in that night there will be two people in one bed; [one will be taken](#) and the other left. 35 There will be two women grinding grain together; [one will be taken](#) and the other left.” 37 Then the disciples said to him, “[Where, Lord?](#)” He replied to them, “[Where the dead body is, there the vultures will gather.](#)” NET

Both passages of the bible describe two classes of people, one saved and the other totally destroyed. One group are taken away and the other group are left. By comparing Matthew with Luke we discover that the ones left are the ones left alive while the ones taken are taken away by the waters of the flood and destroyed.

Matt 24:39: the flood came and [took them](#) all...

Luke 17:27: the flood came and [destroyed them](#) all.



The ones “left” are left alive. But the disciples want to know where the “taken” ones are taken too. The disciples ask “where Lord?” ie, where will they be taken too? Jesus answers “Wherever the body is, there the vultures will be gathered together.” In other words the ones taken away (the wicked) are taken away and destroyed as they were in the flood. They will be as refuse on the ground. The Righteous whom Jesus has come to gather to himself are the ones that are left, left alive like Noah and his family.

By comparing Luke 17:26,30 with Matthew 24:37 we see two greek words that are used interchangeably. They are Parousia translated ‘coming’ and Apokalupsis translated ‘revealed’. These two words describe the same event. ie the second advent of Christ.

“The expression “will be taken” is a translation of the Greek word “*paralambano*”. “In Matt 24:40,41; Luke 17:34,35, “*paralambano*” in the passive, form is used as the opposite of *aphemi* (863), to let be. In these verses, those who are taken are not to be misconstrued as those whom the Lord favors, as if they were the same saints spoken of in 1 Thess 4:17 who will be raptured (*harpazo* [726], to seize, catch away, as if by force) to meet the Lord in the clouds. The verb *paralambano* in most cases indicates a demonstration in favor of the one taken but not always. In Matt 4:4,8, it is used of Satan taking Jesus up to tempt Him. In John 19:16 it is used of taking Jesus to lead Him to the cross. The verb *paralambano* is to be contrasted in Matt 24:40,41 to *airo* (142), to take up and away. It is used to refer to those in the days of Noah who were taken away, not being favored but being punished, while Noah and his family were left intact. Therefore, in this passage in Matt, and the parallel passage in Luke, *paralambano* must not be equated to the believers who are to be raptured at the

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coming of the Lord for His saints. It refers rather to those who, as in the days of Noah, are taken to destruction. The others are left alone (*aphiemi*) for the purpose of entering into the blessings of Christ's kingdom (identified by some as the Millennium) and the righteous rule of Christ...." *"The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament" Spiros Zodhiates Th.D. AMG International, Inc 1992, p1108*

Paul in his second letter to the Thessalonians describes the Second Advent of Christ

2 Thess 1:6-9 "For it is right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to you who are being afflicted to give rest together with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed [Apokalupsis] from heaven with his mighty angels. 8 With flaming fire he will mete out punishment on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will undergo the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his strength,." NET

When Jesus returns He will be revealed from heaven in flaming fire with His mighty angels to destroy the ungodly with everlasting destruction. The word revealed is 'apokulupsis', as shown before a comparison of this word with the word 'parousia' indicates they describe the same event.

Jesus also likened the time of His return to the days of Lot. 'As it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded' - those common routine things of every day life that people have been doing for centuries. 'But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus it shall be in the day when the son of man is revealed' Luke 17:28-30. Lot the believer was spared. The unbelievers were destroyed. So when Christ returns, believers will be spared (caught up to meet the Lord in the air!) while that same day fiery destruction shall fall upon the world. This verse indicates that Christians will suffer trouble right up to the time of the return of Christ.

But **before** this great day comes the wrath of God in the seven last plagues must be poured out on the earth. The return of Christ is at the end of the seventh plague as indicated by the book of Revelation in the following verses.

Revelation 16: 12-21 "Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates and dried up its water to prepare the way for the kings from the east. 13 Then I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs



And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.
Revelation 16:18, 20 KJV

coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of the demons performing signs who go out to the kings of the earth to bring them together for the battle that will take place on the great day of God, the All-Powerful. 15 (Look ! I will come like a thief!) Blessed is the one who stays alert and does not lose his clothes so that he will not have to walk around naked and his shameful condition be seen.) 16 Now the spirits gathered the kings and their armies to the place that is called Armageddon in Hebrew. 17 Finally the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying: "It is done!" 18 Then there were flashes of lightning, roaring, and crashes of thunder, and there was a tremendous earthquake—an earthquake unequalled since humanity has been on the earth, so tremendous was that earthquake. 19 The great city was split

into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. So Babylon the great was remembered before God and was given the cup filled with the wine made of God's furious wrath. 20 Every island fled away, and no mountains could be found. 21 And gigantic hailstones, weighing about a 100 pounds each, fell from heaven on people, but they blasphemed God because of the plague of hail, since it was so horrendous." NET

It is between the outpouring of the sixth and seventh last plagues by the seven angels, leading up to the battle of Armageddon-the seventh plague, that Jesus reminds His followers that He is still coming as a thief. The seven last plagues must be poured out on the world before Jesus Christ returns like a thief in the night. As with the plagues of Egypt God's people will be in the land when they are poured out. The land of Egypt had ten plagues poured out on it. The first three plagues tormented both Egypt and Israel but the seven last plagues tormented the Egyptians only. Likewise during the tribulation just before the second advent God's people will be in the land but the 'seven last plagues' will torment the enemies of God only.

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Revelation Chapter 16 is devoted entirely to describing the seven last plagues as follows:

- (1) Loathsome sores appear on them who have the mark of the beast and worship his image.
- (2) The sea turns to blood and *every* living thing in the sea dies.
- (3) The rivers and springs of water turn to blood.
- (4) The sun scorches men with fire.
- (5) The kingdom of the beast becomes full of darkness.
- (6) The Euphrates River dries up preparing the kings of the east for the battle of Armageddon.

(Jesus reminds His people that He is about to return like a thief. Rev 16:15.)

(7) A voice from heaven says 'It is done' There are massive storms and a great earthquake bigger than any earthquake that has ever happened in human history. Every Island and mountain on the earth disappears and the cities of the nations fall. A great hail storm takes place, each hailstone is about the weight of a talent ie, approximately 100lbs.

The day of the Lord when Christ returns as a thief is during the outpouring of the Seventh plague which is the battle of Armageddon. That day brings total destruction to the earth, the annihilation of the wicked, the resurrection of the righteous, and the translation (Rapture) of the living saints. Any being who claims to be Christ before the out pouring of these plagues and before the destruction of every city on the planet is an impostor.

SUMMARY

1. The second coming is called the 'Day of the Lord' and is unexpected like a thief in the night.
2. Jesus will return on a cloud in flaming fire with all the Holy angels with Him.
3. They who put Christ on the cross are raised to see Him return.
4. The resurrection of the dead and the rapture (being caught up) of the living saints take place on the same day.
5. The return of Christ like a thief is after the outpouring of the seven last plagues.
6. The world is completely depopulated and everything in it are destroyed as in the flood of Noah
7. Jesus saves His people and takes them back to heaven with him. (John 14:1-4)
8. The 'coming (parousia) of Christ' to destroy the man of sin and resurrect the dead. And the 'revealing (apokalupsis) of Christ' with His mighty angels in flaming fire, describe the same event.

When Jesus spoke of his return the first thing he mentioned was a warning about deception. If men arise pretending to be Christ they can be shown to be frauds. But what if Satan himself pretended to be Christ in the days just prior to the real second advent? Would most Christians have enough bible knowledge to detect the deceiver? The following is a prophecy about Satan's attempt to counterfeit the return of Christ. It's put here as food for thought.

SATAN COUNTERFEITS THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

"Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects alike will be deceived. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the worlds Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing, and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures. As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation (Rev 1:13-15). The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed his disciples when he was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to

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hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying: This is "the great power of God." Acts 8:10.

But the people of God will not be misled. The teachings of this false Christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures. His blessing is pronounced upon the worshippers of the beast and his image,- the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out.

And furthermore, Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ's advent. The Saviour has warned his people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of his second coming. "There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. ...Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be." This coming, there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known - witnessed by the whole world.

Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures, and who have received the love of the truth, will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come."

The Great Controversy. E.G.White., Pacific Press Publishing Association. pp 624 - 625. (AD 1888).

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