

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Introduction Whenever the subject of the Second Advent comes up for discussion, five questions are almost sure to be asked:

Discussion 1.—IS IT REASONABLE?

James 5 : 7, 8: "The husbandman [or farmer] waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth."

This is a farmer's text, and it agrees perfectly with farming practice. "The precious fruit" for which the farmer waits, is the **harvest**—the climax of the whole year's work.

Imagine a farmer who cleared and prepared his field, ploughed it, fertilised it, sowed it, harrowed it and tended it all through the year, and then, a few weeks before the harvest, suddenly lost all interest in his crop, went for a long holiday to the other side of the world, and made no provision whatever for the harvest! **Would that be reasonable?**

Now put Jesus in the place of the farmer. Suppose He went to all the expense of Bethlehem, Nazareth, Gethsemane and Calvary; preparing the soil, sowing the seed, watering it with His blood and His tears, patiently tending the field at such enormous cost, over centuries of time. But suppose He made no plans whatever to return to the world, and reap the harvest! **Would that be reasonable?**

2.—IS IT SCRIPTURAL?

The Bible thrills from beginning to end with the hope of Christ's Second Coming. The Old and New Testaments contain **well over 1,500 specific references** to our Lord's Return. If we were to remove these references from the Bible, the book would literally fall to pieces in our hands! From this vast body of evidence we select the following:

John 14 : 1-3: "I will come again."

Heb. 9 : 28: "He shall appear the second time."

Titus 2 : 11-14: "Looking for that Blessed Hope."

Rev. 19 : 11-16: "I saw Heaven opened."

Rev. 22 : 20: "Surely I come quickly. Even so come, Lord Jesus."

3.—IS IT LITERAL?

(See Chart No. 8—*Second Advent of Christ*)

Christian opinion is divided at this point. Some people say that the Second Coming takes place at conversion, or at death. Others say that Christ's coming is "spiritual", or "symbolic", but not real or personal. They insist that He "comes" in the form of great movements for social reform, education, and world betterment. Still others believe in what they call a "Secret Rapture", or an "Invisible Presence" recognised only by a favoured few.

But these are only human guesses, after all. Our chief concern is: **What does the Bible say?**

In the New Testament there are more than **40 plain texts** which describe the manner of Christ's Second Coming. These texts unite in declaring that this event will be a **literal, visible, personal, public appearing**. It will be as real and recognisable an event as was His first coming, except that the marks of poverty, humiliation and suffering will be absent. The following are just a few examples:

Acts 1 : 9-11: "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go."

Rev. 1 : 7: "Behold He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him."

Matt. 24 : 24-27: "As the lightning."

Matt. 24 : 31: "With a great sound of a trumpet."

Luke 21 : 27: "With power and great glory."

Matt. 25 : 31: "In His glory, and all the holy angels with Him."