

"WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr

It seems like there has always been a goodly number of folk who want to tell us just when Jesus is coming back. Some of those on the history books have been:

1) **William Miller** (Seventh Day Adventist Founder) who predicted Jesus' return for 1843. When his prediction failed then he said it was to be in 1844. Well, seemingly he again missed it.

2) **Charles Taze Russell** (Founder of "Jehovah Witnesses") predicted 1914, and then 1917. When Jesus did not appear, he then declared that Jesus came in spirit and only an elect few saw Him.

3) **Hal Linsey** (Author of "The Late Great Planet Earth"), predicted May 14, 1981.

4) **Edgar C. Whisenant** declared Jesus' return in his book "88 Reasons Why The Rapture Will Occur On September 11, 12 or 13, 1988".

5) **Galen Bare** (Springfield, MO Evangelist) predicted a "Planet Alignment", which would cause a "catastrophic wreck" among the planets.. This was to take place at the end of 1982.

As a result of the above predictions many have been misled because they do not know that the **Scriptures teach (Matthew 24:36) that no one knows when Jesus is coming again.** The Bible warns us to **beware of false teachers** in the following passages: Matthew 7:15; II Timothy 4:3; II Peter 2:1. Besides these, there are many other warnings.

The word "**Rapture**" is not found in the Bible, but Webster's definition of it is, "the state of being carried away with joy, love, etc." In other words the teaching of the Rapture, that is, that God's people will be carried off to an eternal glory is in the Bible, even though the actual word is not in the Bible.

I Thessalonians 4:13-17 does teach that the saved (both living and resurrected) will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air at Jesus' coming, but there is **no indication that this rapture will be silent and secret** so that it leaves those remaining on the earth mystified by their absence (no matter what some preachers, books, or movies teach. the Bible is not wrong). (Continued)

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In fact, the Bible teaches that the Rapture will be just the opposite. When Jesus comes, He will come with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and trumpet of God (I Thess. 4:16). Also, the Revelation letter says it shall be a visible coming of Jesus, seen by all. "Every eye shall see Him, and they also that pierced Him" (Rev.1:7). This false teaching of Secret Rapture Theory also promotes that following the seven years of tribulation Jesus will return with the Saints and set up an earthly Kingdom from Jerusalem for 1,000 literal years. From this teaching we get the word "**Premillennialism**". The Latin word "**Millennium**" means 1,000 years and the prefix "pre" means before---thus it means that Christ is going to reign as King on earth 1,000 years before eternity is ushered in.

As we study the Word of God, may we realize that when Jesus comes again, He will come as a thief in the night, or unexpected. Also that there will not be a secret rapture of His Saints but a universal recognizing Him as Lord of Lords. May the Lord help us to be careful of the many theories that man promotes as though the Bible teaches it in very plain language.

Now, **the important question** that each of us must answer is: **ARE WE READY TO MEET JESUS WHEN HE COMES?** The question is not if our spouse is ready, or our children, or our parents - but are we as an individual ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that one must:

1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31) 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30) 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37) 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38) 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22) 6) Be Active In The Church (14:22) **The local church is to be a "Lighthouse" in the community.** It is in need of one's abilities and support as much as a person is in need of the church. May each of us be understanding that it is only by God's grace that anyone can be forgiven of sins and have the opportunity for heaven.

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