

# THE ADVENT OF CHRIST

1. THE RAPTURE QUESTION.
  1. Pretrib, midtrib, or posttrib?
  2. Significance of study--to form basis of philosophy.
  3. Question of no rapture--or no removal from earth.
  
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTTRIB ADVENT (Mt. 24:29-31)
  
3. WHAT TAKES PLACE AT SECOND COMING?
  1. Resurrection of dead saints.
  2. Translation of living saints.
  3. Gathering unto the Lord.
    1. So shall we ever be with the Lord.
    2. I will come and receive you unto myself--where I am ye may be also.
  4. What state we enter the millenium.
    1. Immortal beings.
    2. Natural-bodied subjects of Davidic kingdom.
  
4. WHAT TAKES PLACE AT OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADVENT.
  1. II Thes. 1:8 - "*...in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...*"
  2. Rev. 19:15 - "*And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*"
  3. Rev. 22:12 - "*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*"
  4. Judgment of sheep and goat nations - Mat. 25.
  
5. WHAT MUST PRECEDE COMING OF THE LORD (II Thes. 2).
  1. Day of Christ vs. Day of the Lord.
  2. Man of sin to be revealed.
    1. Anti-christ or beast system.
    2. Abomination of Desolation.
      1. Establishment of temple (without divine sanction).
      2. Mt. 24:15 - "*...when you shall see the abomination of desolation...shall be great tribulation.*"
      3. Dan. 9:27 - "*...confirm covenant for one week...midst of week cause sacrifices to cease...and for overspreading of abominations he shall makie it desolate.*"
      4. Dan. 11:31 - "*...take away daily sacrifice and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolation...*"
      5. ...But the people who know their God shall be strong...

6. Time of tribulation need for greatest manifestation of God's power.
  3. Wicked revealed, whom Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.
  3. Church must fulfill its purpose in the earth.
    1. Eph. 3:10 - "...to the intent that to principalities might be made known by the church the manifold wisdom of God..."
    2. Put every enemy under our feet.
    3. Come to maturity - Eph. 4:11-13.
    4. Must become one - John 17:11.
    5. Without spot or wrinkle - Eph. 5:27.
    6. A glorious church - full of God's glory.
  4. Gospel of the kingdom must be preached in all the world.
6. THE QUESTION OF IMMINENCY.
1. As far as we know, no predicted event will necessarily precede the coming of Christ.
  2. Incorporates three essential elements:
    1. Suddenness.
    2. Unexpectedness or incalculability.
    3. Possibility of occurrence at any time.
  3. Requires only Christ might come before tribulation, not that he must.
  4. Imminence would only raise the possibility of pretribulationism on a sliding scale with mid and posttrib.
  5. Readiness denotes not so much tiptoe anticipation as faithful service day by day..
7. STIMULUS FOR HOLY LIVING.
1. Purifying influence of second coming doesn't lie in fear of getting caught.
  2. Need to always be ready.
  3. Incentive to holy living.
    1. Titus 2:11-14 - "...*the grace of God.*"
    2. II Peter 3:11-14 - "...*character of the new creation in which no unrighteousness will dwell.*"
    3. I John 3:1-3 - "Expectation of one day becoming just as pure as Christ is."
    4. In none of these passages does imminence form the crux of the exhortation to righteous living.
  4. Self-purification in the light of the second coming rests, not on the fear of sudden exposure, but on the certainty of the event and the knowledge that the conduct of our whole Christian life will be revealed in the light of divine presence.
  5. We are to watch, both because we cannot know exactly and because we

must be alert to the signs which will enable us to know approximately.