

# HE IS COMING AGAIN

*By Alva G. Huffer*

THE second coming of Christ is as certain as God's Word is true. He who acknowledges the authority and accuracy of the Bible must recognize the fact of Christ's return to earth.

The second coming of Christ is a definite event that shall occur in the future. Future events predicted by human philosophers are based on speculation and are open to question. Future events described by the prophets of God and recorded in the sacred Scriptures are certain to occur. God's infinite wisdom and unlimited power guarantee that His promised blessings will be bestowed upon believers. God's predictions concerning future events will be fulfilled.

## *The Fact of His Return*

Prophecies concerning the fact of Christ's future return to earth are presented clearly in the Bible. "While they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10, 11). "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

In the Bible, prophecies concerning Christ's first coming and His second coming are linked together. During His earthly ministry, prophecies concerning His first coming were fulfilled in minute detail. During His new earthly ministry in the future, therefore, we are assured that prophecies concerning His second coming will be literally fulfilled.

At His first coming, Christ was the suffering Sacrifice; at His second coming, He will be the reigning King. At His first coming, Jesus was the Lamb of God crucified on the cross; at His second coming, He will be the Lion of the tribe of Judah reigning on His throne. The fact of Christ's future return to earth is definite and sure.

## *Open Door to God's Tomorrow*

The second coming of Christ is the open door to God's tomorrow. The fulfillment of almost every Biblical promise concerning the future of the earth and man is dependent upon this glorious event. Apart from Christ's return, the church would not be completed, the dead would not be raised, the Kingdom would not be established; the wicked would not be judged, and there would be no peace upon earth. The wonderful blessings resulting

from Christ's future rulership will become realities only because of the fact of Christ's return to earth. The second coming of Christ, therefore, will mark the end of man's today and the beginning of God's tomorrow.

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). It is the one outstanding event to which all believers look forward with desire and expectation.

Appropriating to themselves Scriptural promises, believers have many hopes for the future. They hope for resurrection to immortality, reunion with loved ones, freedom from sickness and death, and an environment of perfect righteousness and peace. The one hope that supersedes all other hopes is that blessed hope—the second coming of Christ. It is the one hope that makes all other hopes possible.

#### *An Incentive to Christian Living*

The hope of Christ's return constitutes an important motive for Christian living. Expecting the return of the Bridegroom, the believer seeks to be "all glorious within" and to be arrayed in garments of righteousness. Devout Christians so order their conduct that they would not be ashamed if He should appear at any time. "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Peter 3:11). "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:3).

The second coming of Christ is an appeal to watchfulness and faithfulness. When Christ returns, true believers will be found watching for His coming. "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching" (Luke 12:37).

Christ's second coming is an incentive to Christian service and a stimulus to missionary work. Our Lord's message to Christian workers is "Occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13). The outstanding work of the church to day is to warn men in all nations of Christ's return and future judgment.