

ALTERNATIVE VIEW OF THE SECOND COMING

My writings are minimally known, for several reasons. First and probably most important of all, I am not known by many people, not having a well-known ministry to espouse my views. I also suffer from bipolar affective disorder, and try as I might, the victory that so many Christians enjoy in Christ is not complete in me, and this affects the strength of my testimony.

Finally, I write on subjects that I believe mainline Christianity is in error about, and then to various pastors to introduce them to the interpretations of Scripture that I believe the world will have to accept before God's kingdom can come to earth. If these views contradict what the pastor believes, the writings probably don't get passed along.

My first writings centered around the fact that God controls everything (Ephesians 1:11), and because He is a good God, the entire human race will be saved. A major premise of this argument is that despite the fact that we obviously have significant freedom to make choices, the Bible is full of clear examples on both Testaments that our will is not absolutely free, and that God can and does override an individual's "free will" whenever He sees fit. The interested reader can refer to Romans 9:16-21 (KJ), Proverbs 21:1, Exodus 7:3, Philippians 2:13, John 6:65 and Romans 8:20 to verify this most important claim.

I was prompted to write this letter after reading a book about biblical prophecy in which the author apparently took the book of Revelation literally. Possibly the book's most recurrent theme was that there is supposed to be a charismatic individual named Antichrist who is going to take over a large portion of the world just before Jesus triumphantly returns.

The author also proposes a "rapture" where all believing Christians will be transported to heaven while the unbelievers stay on earth and experience seven years of tribulation before Jesus finally comes and sets up a thousand year reign on earth.

I believe both of these ideas are false and that the reality of Christ's Second Coming will not be made manifest until this error is corrected and the human race knows what to properly expect. Hence, this paper.

Let's start off with the idea of the Antichrist. John said in 1John 2:18, written over 2,000 years ago, that "...even now are there many antichrists...", and note that the word "antichrist" is not used even once in the book of Revelation of Jesus Christ. So my question to the proponents of the Antichrist theory is this: How do we use the book of Revelation of Jesus Christ to conclude that a single antichrist will rise and conquer the earth when there were already many antichrists in the world as far back as 2,000 years ago, and the word antichrist is not mentioned once in the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ?

Concerning the rapture, I think the believers of this doctrine base their understanding from the Scriptures that say "we will meet the Lord in the air" (1Th 4:17), and "in a twinkling of an eye we will be changed" (1Cor 15:52). I do not claim to know the correct *Spiritual* interpretation of these texts, but I submit the idea that airplanes and automobiles being flown/driven by Christians will suddenly crash because the occupant has been "raptured" is just not going to happen.

So then, what can we expect? What is the great hope of Christianity? I believe that Christ's Second Coming is *in us*, that He is a life-giving Spirit now (1Cor 15:45), and that the whole purpose of creation is for God's Christ to be *revealed and glorified in humanity*. And if you want to see the savior(s) of the world, just look at the human beings around you, because it is the Christ *in us* that will bring the Kingdom to earth.

DISCUSSION

Let's begin with an example of how verses or passages can have one meaning when taken literally, but an entirely different reality when the *Spiritual* meaning is *revealed*. Verse 1:7 of the Revelation of Jesus Christ says, "Behold He cometh with the clouds...", and verse 14:14 says, "And I looked and beheld a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man...". And so, yes, if we take these verses literally we can expect Jesus the man to actually return to earth in the clouds on the sky.

But there is an interesting verse in Hebrews that helps us understand the *Spiritual* interpretation of the above verses. The verse is Hebrews 12:1 and it says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a *cloud of witnesses*...". Do you see that clouds can be people in the Bible, and does it witness to your Spirit that the above verses are referring to Christ *coming back in His people*? You and me!

Another point that the author made is that many Christians believe that a temple must be built in Jerusalem before Christ can return, so that the son of perdition mentioned in 2Th 2:3,4 is revealed. But once again, let's try for a *Spiritual* understanding of this verse. Recall that Jesus said, "...destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19), but he was not speaking *literally*, He was speaking of His body. Recall also that Paul said our bodies were the temple of the Holy Ghost (1Co 6:19).

Could it be that Christ is going to be revealed and glorified in His temples that are none other than us? After all, Jesus said of His disciples in John 17:10 that He was glorified *in them*! Could it also be that the son of perdition spoken of in this temple is nothing more than *us* (yes, us!) In our temple declaring that we are God whenever we knowingly act on our own self-will than determining what God's will is for us and then submitting ourselves to it, and that this false god must be exposed before God will *reveal* to us our *true identity*?

Now let's get to the Scriptures that not only say that Christ is in us, but that He is to be *revealed* in us:

- 1) Colossians 1:27: "...Christ *in you* the hope of glory."
- 2) Galatians 2:20: "...yet not I but *Christ liveth in me*..."
- 3) Galatians 4:19: "...until Christ *be formed in you*."
- 4) Galatians 1:16: "To *reveal His Son in me*..."

There's the word again: *reveal*, as in the *Revelation* of Jesus Christ! This is the ultimate gift that God can give a human being: To *reveal* to them that their true identity is *one with Christ and all believers* (refer to John 17:21-23 to see how important oneness was to Jesus).

There is one more crucial verse that needs to be discussed, and that is Romans 8:19: "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the *revealing* of the *sons of God*."

There's that word again; "*revealing*"! But beyond this important observation, who are these sons of God? The Truth is that there are many people walking the earth today who have had it *revealed* to them that they are in this company. They are not kooks, far from it. They are simply "servants of Christ", totally sold out to God, who, after years of struggling with the wretchedness of their "lower (or Adam) self", found favor with God, and God gave them the *revelation of who they really are*.

A fair and penetrating question is, "well if they are truly sons of God mentioned in Romans 8:19, where are the miracles? Didn't Jesus say that those who believed would do 'greater works than these'" (John 14:12)?

I have an answer that you may or may not find satisfactory. Many Christians know that "a thousand years is as a day to the Lord" (2Pet 3:8), and that Christ rose on the third day. Indeed, there are many churches with names alluding to this.

Well, if you're like me, you were all excited at the turn of the millennium (or third "day"), and were expecting big things, like maybe even Christ's return (I was expecting the revealing of the sons of God in some big way). But let's think about this.

Christ's tomb was found to be empty around dawn, and if the day starts at midnight, then it was about a quarter of a day before it was *revealed* to the world that Christ was arisen. Note here that the true Jewish day starts and ends at dusk, and using this measurement, it was about halfway into the third day before the world knew.

The point is that maybe even these sons of God *are just starting to understand who they are*, and it might take another 250 (a quarter of a "day") or 500 years (half a "day"), for us humans to spiritually *evolve* before the sons of God know who they are as surely as Christ knew who He was, and thus be able to transcend the "natural" universal laws.

The reality is that when Jesus said to love one another, He was speaking of a Spiritual law every bit as binding as the law of sowing and reaping, and there isn't any way the kingdom is going to come to earth while we sit "saved" in our churches unable or unwilling to overcome prejudices, apathy, self-loathing and the wrongs committed against us (unforgiveness). The world's only hope is that the *Christ in us* matures to the point that we can meet the Spiritual requirements set forth by Jesus that we in our "Adam (or lower) selves" simply cannot do.

I believe it is critical that this message gets to the masses of believing Christians, because whether we like it or not, we and the Christ in us are all we've got, and it's going to be up to us to solve the world's problems and somehow find a way to really love each other, even our enemies. Keep in mind that Jews 2,000 years ago were very disappointed in Jesus because He came to bring a Spiritual kingdom to earth, not conquer Israel's enemies and reestablish their earthly kingdom. The reality is that this time it is the Christians' turn to be disappointed as long as we fail to understand the *Spiritual* reality of Christ's Second Coming (in us), and continue to expect Him to come back as a man and destroy all our enemies.

As years, decades and centuries pass and Jesus still hasn't "split the sky" and the Truths expounded in this letter gradually become accepted, we will have no choice but to reach outside ourselves and heal the sick, feed and clothe the poor, and truly love our worst enemies.

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