**Return Home!**

O train was en route to the approaching stations. Amid the ruckus in the hallway, no one noticed a young man sitting in a compartment with his face buried in his hand. When he lifted his face, his countenance displayed traces of sadness, disappointment, and worry. Several train stations later, an elderly gentleman who was seated in front of him decided to ask about the cause of his troubles.

“You see,” said the young man, “as a teenager, I was very rebellious and I did not listen to my mother, who told me to keep away from bad company. In one of my escapades, I killed a person in a fight. I was tried, sentenced to ten years’ imprisonment, and had to serve my sentence far from home. No one wrote to me during that time, and all the letters sent went unanswered.”

“Some months ago,” he continued, “I wrote my mother a letter when I found out my release date. In it, I wrote: ‘Dear Mom, I know you’ve suffered a lot these past ten years because of me. I know I’ve been a bad son and I understand your silence by not wanting to communicate with me. I will be freed in a couple of months and would like to return home. I don’t know if you’ll be waiting for me, so I ask you to show me a sign letting me know if you’ll accept me. Do you remember the pear tree near the train station? I’m going to purchase a ticket that’ll take me to a place farther than our town. If you have forgiven me and accept my return, I ask that you tie a yellow ribbon around that pear tree, and when I see it, I will get off the train. If you don’t accept my return, when I don’t see the yellow ribbon around the tree, I’ll continue on my journey and will never bother you again.’

“This is my story, sir,” he said like to ask you a favor. Could you take a look outside at the next station and tell me if you see a yellow ribbon? I’m so scared, I don’t dare look.”

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**Third Millennium Bible Course**

International Missionary Society, Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Reform Movement
as the Apostle Paul wrote, to those that oppose current world politics: Countless prophecies indicate His second coming, but how do We Know it’s near?

Let’s consider why Christ’s return is so important.

1. To end pain: “Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.” Isaiah 35:4-6.

2. To end evil: “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Genesis 6:5 (see verses 11, 12).

3. He wants you and me to be with Him. “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me…” John 17:24.

4. So this world returns to God’s fold, to communion with Him and His holy angels, as the Apostle Paul wrote, “For our conversation is in heaven; whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ…” Philippians 3:20.

How Do We Know It’s Near?

As yellow leaves indicate that autumn is here, as well as heat signals the beginning of summer, so Christ has left clues for us to meditate upon as signs of His return. Countless prophecies indicate His second coming, but we’d like to group them together so we have a brief idea of the things that His holy angels, “And God shall be with them… and upon the earth distress of nations.” Matthew 24:10, 25.

2. A desperate search for peace: “For then shall they call upon the name of the Lord, and shall.uk. … And when the land crieth out against the blood, it shall go no more up; and the blood shall be paid for.” Judges 20:28, 39.

3. Unity of nations and opposition to Christ: “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb…” Revelation 13:11.

4. Financial embargos to those that oppose current world politics: “And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:17.

Signs in the Political World:

1. Violence, insecurity, wars, and revolutions: Matthew 24:38, 39 shows that it will be just like before the flood. “… And the earth was filled with violence.” Genesis 6:11. “Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom… and upon the earth distress of nations.” Luke 21:10, 25.

2. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer: “Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers… which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them…” 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3.


Signs in the Religious World:

1. Indifference and unbelief: “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” “… Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Matthew 24:12; Luke 18:8.

2. Religious frivolity: “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof…” 2 Timothy 3:5.

3. The proliferation of false prophets and false Christs: “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders... [to] deceive...” Matthew 24:24.

Dear Friend, these are some of the signs that the Bible shows regarding the coming of Christ. Some of the signs will be studied in greater detail in upcoming subjects, but there are still more studies concerning our encounter with Him.

How Will He Come?

The Messiah was eagerly awaited for 4,000 years. 333 prophecies announced, “He is coming.” Angels announced His birth and God even used non-Israelites to draw attention to the coming of the Redeemer to this earth. Do you think the exonation of humanity will be less visible? For 2,000 years the message has been, “He will return.” It will not be in secret-like His first coming to Bethlehem—nor will it be in a hidden chamber, as when He officiated the Lord’s Supper. Christ Himself made these things clear: “Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not... Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the secret; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.” Matthew 24:23, 25, 26.

Let’s take a look at some of the things the Bible tells us concerning His coming.

Postponed Reunions

Yes, my dear friend. Throughout the past three topics, we’ve spoken about God, Christ, and the fact that you are part of the heavenly family. In the previous one, we concluded with redemption and spoke about a homeland that Christ has prepared for us; we’d like to remember the words He said: “I will come again…” Let’s consider why Christ’s return is so important.

4. So this world returns to God’s fold, to communion with Him and His holy angels, “And God shall be with them… and upon the earth distress of nations.” Matthew 24:10, 25.

5. Increased science, as seen in the last fifty years. “… Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4.

Signs in Society:

1. Blatant manifestations of homosexual inclinations: These sins spread in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:4, 5). “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot… Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” Luke 17:28, 30.

2. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer: “Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers… which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them… are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabbaoth.” James 5:3, 4.


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