

Part 1:

The 2nd Advent of Christ

What are the characteristics surrounding the 2nd advent?

What does coming as a thief really mean?

Does “come” or “cometh” always mean second coming?

Does Christ come only once at the end?

Text for Meditation

“As with holy boldness Paul proclaimed the gospel in the synagogue at Thessalonica, a flood of light was thrown upon the true meaning of the rites and ceremonies connected with the tabernacle service. He carried the minds of his hearers beyond the earthly service and the ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, to the time when, having completed His mediatorial work, **Christ would come again in power and great glory, and establish His kingdom on the earth.** Paul was a believer in the second coming of Christ; so clearly and forcibly did he present the truths concerning this event, that upon the minds of many who heard there was made an impression which never wore away.”

— **Acts of the Apostles 228.3**

Review of the church characteristics of ancient and modern Israel

Ancient Israel

- They were looking for the advent of Christ
- They claimed to know the old testament scriptures
- They misapplied the scriptures to fit their own ideas about the Messiah and His Kingdom, they were looking for an earthly kingdom ,this led to the crucifixion of the Messiah by the very people who were supposedly looking for his coming.

Seventh Day Adventist

- We are looking for the 2nd advent of Christ
- We claim to have the whole truth, the old and new testament scriptures
- Have we misunderstood or misapplied the sequence of events leading up to the 2nd advent?
- Have we mistaken the coming Kingdom like the church of old?
- If Jesus came to earth now would we crucify Him?

Message of Truth

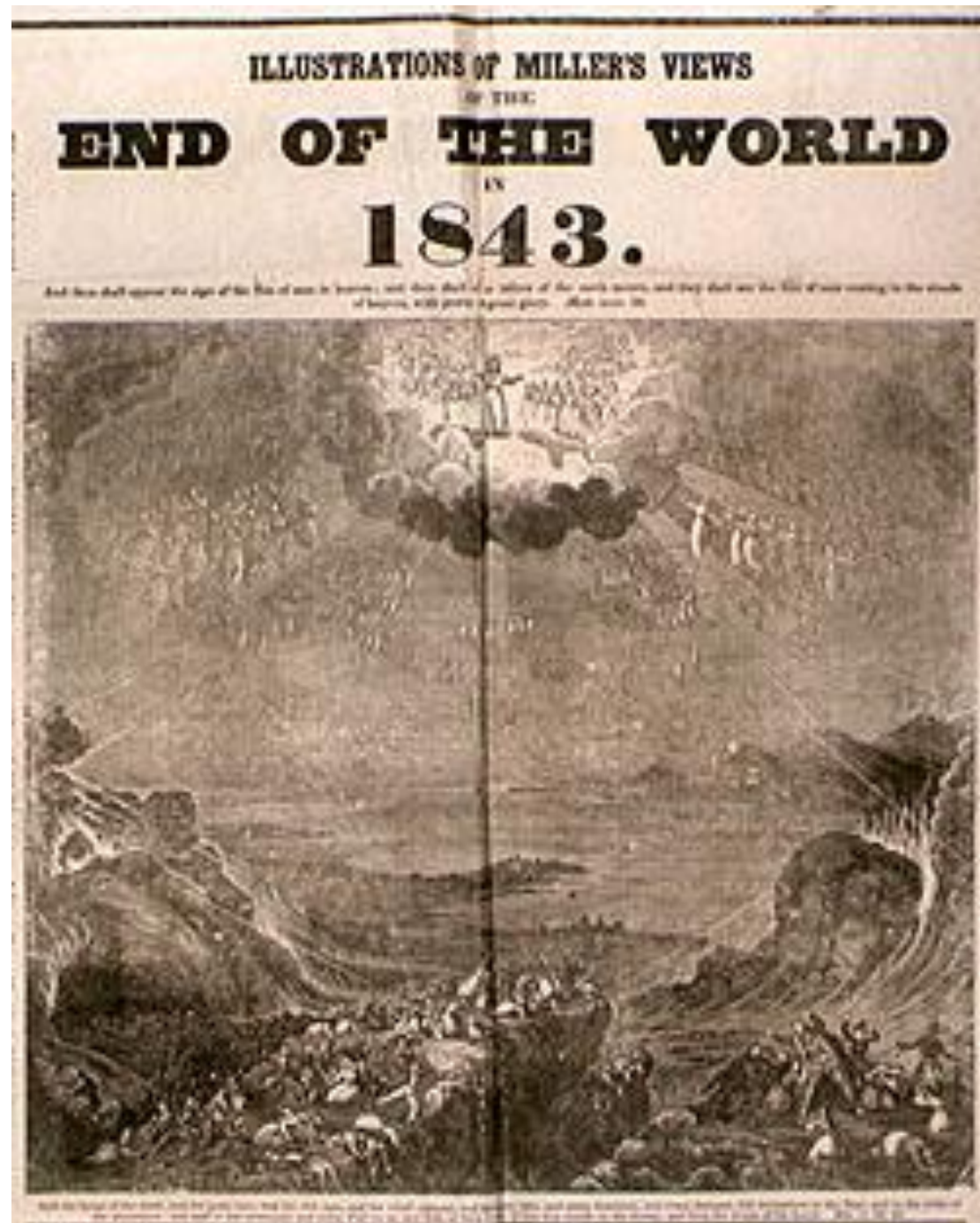
“Whenever the **message of truth** comes home to souls with special power, Satan stirs up his agents to start a dispute over some minor question. Thus he seeks to attract attention from the real issue. Whenever a good work is begun, there are cavilers ready to enter into dispute over forms or technicalities, to draw minds away from the living realities. When it appears that God is about to work in a special manner for His people, let them not be enticed into a controversy that will work only ruin of souls.” — **Desire of Ages 396.3**

What about John the Baptist and the disciples?

“Like the Saviour's disciples, John the Baptist **did not understand** the nature of Christ's kingdom. **He expected** Jesus to take the throne of David; and as time passed, and the Saviour made no claim to kingly authority, John became perplexed and troubled.” — **Desire of Ages 215.2**

“The disciples of Christ were **looking for the immediate coming** of the kingdom of His glory, but in giving them this prayer Jesus taught that the kingdom was not then to be established. They were to pray for its coming as an event yet future. But this petition was also an assurance to them. While they were not to behold the coming of the kingdom in their day, the fact that Jesus bade them pray for it is evidence that in God's own time it will surely come.” — **Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing 107.3**

Was William Miller wrong?



“Like the first disciples, William Miller and his associates did not, themselves, fully comprehend the import of the message which they bore. **Errors that had been long established in the church prevented them from arriving at a correct interpretation of an important point in the prophecy.** Therefore, though they proclaimed the message which God had committed to them to be given to the world, yet through a misapprehension of its meaning they suffered disappointment.”

— **Great Controversy 351.2**

What are the characteristics of the second coming?

30 “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the **Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven** with **power and great glory**.”

31 And he shall send his angels with a **great sound of a trumpet**, and they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” — **Matthew 24:30-31**

Characteristics Cont...

26 “And then shall they see the Son of man **coming in the clouds** with **great power and glory**.”

27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.” — **Mark 13:26-27**

27 “And then shall they see the Son of man **coming in a cloud** with **power and great glory**.”

28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” — **Luke 21:27-28**

Characteristics Cont...

15 “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 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**:

17 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 Thessalonians 4:15-17**

2nd advent characteristics Summary

- Son of man coming in the clouds
- With great power and glory
- Sound of a great trumpet, with a shout
- The angels gather the **elect**
- The dead in Christ shall rise first
- Those who are alive are caught up to meet him in the air



The thief who cometh

40 “Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be **taken**, and the other left.

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be **taken**, and the other left.

42 Watch therefore: **for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the **thief** would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man **cometh.**” — **Matthew 24:40-44**

Question:

Is this the 2nd coming?

Who is the “thief”?

Where are those taken and who is left behind?

Where are they taken?

34 “I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be **taken**, and the other shall be left.

35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be **taken**, and the other left.

36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be **taken**, and the other left.

37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, **thither will the eagles be gathered together.**” — **Luke 17:34-37**

37 “Where, Lord?” they asked.

He replied, “Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.” — **Luke 17:37 NIV**

The parable of the faithful and unfaithful servant

45 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he **cometh** shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day **when he looketh not for him**, and in an **hour that he is not aware of**,

51 And shall **cut him asunder**, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” — **Matthew 24:45-51**

The parable of the ten virgins

- 1 “**Then** shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
- 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
- 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
- 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.
- 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom **cometh**; go ye out to meet him.
- 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.” — **Mathew 25:1-8**



Cont...

9” But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye **know neither the day nor the hour** wherein the Son of man **cometh.**” — **Mathew 25:9-13**

The ten virgins, is it the 2nd coming?

“The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land. And as **God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming** and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth” — **Early Writings 285.2**

“The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 **also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people...** Chapter 25 opens with the words: “**Then** shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins.” Here is brought to view **the church living in the last days, the same that is pointed out in the close of chapter 24.** In this parable their experience is illustrated by the incidents of an Eastern marriage” — **Great Controversy 393.2**

Question:

If these parables are not talking about 2nd coming, what are they talking about?

The judgement for the living

¹ “Behold, **I will send my messenger**, and he shall prepare the way before me: and **the Lord**, whom ye seek, **shall suddenly come to his temple**, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.² But who may abide **the day of his coming?** and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:³ And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall **purify the sons of Levi**, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.⁴ **Then shall** the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.” — **Malachi 3:1-4**

What have we learnt so far?

2nd Advent

- The Son of Man coming in the clouds with great Power and Glory.
- Sounding of a great trumpet
- Every eye will see Him and the angels gather His elect
- The dead in Christ rise first and those alive meet Him in the air
- The word “come” is not always talking about the second coming

Judgment for the living

- Jesus comes back as a “**thief**” or “**suddenly**” to His church the Seventh Day Adventists for those who are asleep with no extra oil.
- Christ will come
 - To search his church with candles
 - Those “taken” will be purged from the church, in an event known as
 - The judgement of the living
 - The purification of the church
 - Those that are “left” are the “wheat” the 144 000

For more information

If you have any further questions, comments, or would like to:

- Request an outline of this study as a PDF document.
- Obtain a print copy of the original tract literature that gives the complete details on this most important subject.
- To arrange for a formal Bible Study at your convenience.