

Salvation and the Messiah

The need for the return of the messiah and what His mission is

- A. What would the Messiah need to do if He came back today?
- B. Today the world is in turmoil:
 - 1. War, moral decay
 - 2. Disintegration of Christian culture and family life, permissiveness, atheism
 - 3. Threat of nuclear war
 - 4. Free world versus Communist world: confrontation between good and evil on the world-wide level
- C. If Christ returned today, how would He deal with these situations in the world? Would He deal just with the spiritual aspects of the above problems?
- D. God created the universe as man's environment to be the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. This ideal was lost through the fall of our first human ancestors, and must be restored through the process of restoration. Restoration has occurred in part through Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, and will be completed at the time of the Second Advent.
 - 1. Restoration = salvation. Salvation has two aspects:
 - a. Salvation of the soul or spirit of man, i.e., becoming one in heart with God and Christ
 - b. Restoration of the physical self, overcoming the law of the flesh (Romans 7) as well as the restoration of all things in God's creation.
 - 2. Therefore Jesus did not intend just to bring spiritual salvation, but also wanted to create a Godly society on earth (as he said in His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5))
- E. Since the crucifixion of Jesus, Satan became even more aggressive, expanding his kingdom on earth as Jesus had intended to bring the Kingdom of God on earth.
- F. Throughout history a greater magnitude of confrontation between good and evil has come about, and greater separation from God.
 - 1. As Christianity came to its greatest manifestation, meanwhile Satan also appeared in a strong way through the communist ideology.

2. Today is the greatest confrontation between good and evil in people's minds to serve either God or Satan.
 3. If Christ returned today, He would face these situations.
- G. When Christ comes, He will also bring the Kingdom of heaven, and solutions to the presence of evil within man and his society. He will inspire the unity of all mankind to do the will of God and create the Kingdom of Heaven on earth by uniting all nations and religions, sorting out their difference.
1. To do this, he will bring the absolute truth, to fulfill the Will of God by which the world government with Christ at the center could be erected.
 2. He would need full cooperation from mankind, especially Christianity which was prepared to receive Christ at His coming and proclaim the eternal gospel of true love, explaining the purpose of the creation, of mankind, and of all things, bringing perfection. Through the discipleship of Christianity, God and men could be reunited as Father and children.
- H. Therefore, Christ at his return cannot just appear spiritually, but has to bring social reform through the love of God as the central element and, reuniting man and God, create one universal family beyond the borders of race, culture, color, etc.
- I. Under these auspices we must prepare our heart and mind to be able to receive the Messiah, recognize Him and cooperate with him, to build together the Kingdom of God in Heaven and in the physical world.