

The Transfiguration

A Rehearsal of the Second Coming

Because Jesus said on the day when Peter confessed—"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matt. 16:13-28), "Verily, I say unto you, There be some **standing here**, which shall not **taste of death**, till they see the Son of Man **COMING IN HIS KINGDOM**," there are those who contend that the fulfillment of those words required the return of Jesus, and the setting up of the Kingdom during the lifetime of the Disciples, and that therefore because no literal Kingdom was set up during the lifetime of the Disciples, Jesus must have meant a "**Spiritual Kingdom**," which they claim was inaugurated on the "Day of Pentecost" and that Jesus now reigns through the Church.

Is this true? If not, what is the explanation of Jesus' words? Here we see the misleading character of the chapter divisions in the King James Version of the Scriptures. There should be no chapter division between Matthew 16th and 17th. The passage should read—

"Verily I say unto you, There be some **standing here**, which shall not **taste of death**, till they see the Son of Man **COMING IN HIS KINGDOM**. And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, and was **TRANSFIGURED** before them: and His face did **shine as the sun**, and His raiment was **white as the light**. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias (Elijah) talking with Him." Matt. 16:28; 17:1-3.

In this "Transfiguration Scene" we have a fulfillment of Jesus' words, that there were **some**, only three, Peter, James, and John, of His Disciples, who should not "**taste of death**" until they saw the Son of Man "Coming in His Kingdom," for the "Transfiguration Scene" was a "**rehearsal**" of the "Second Stage" (Revelation) of Christ's Second Coming. Like as John was transported across the centuries into the "Day of the Lord," and had revealed to him in the Book of Revelation the things that are to come to pass in the "Latter Days," so Peter, James and John had a "**Foreview**" on the Mount of Transfiguration, of the Coming of Christ in His Glory. In that "Scene" Moses was a type of the "First Resurrection Saints" (Jude 9), and Elijah of those who shall be "caught out" without dying (II Kings 2:11); and their glory on the Holy Mount is a sample of the Glory of the Saints at the Rapture. That this is a correct interpretation of Jesus' words is clear from the statement of Peter—

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the **power** and **COMING** of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were **eye-witnesses** of His Majesty (Glory). For He received from God the Father **Honor** and **Glory**, when there came such a voice to Him from the '**Excellent Glory**.' This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this Voice which came from Heaven we heard, **WHEN WE WERE WITH HIM IN THE HOLY MOUNT**" (the Mount of Transfiguration). II Pet. 1:16-18. (Matt. 17:5.)

From the use of the word **"COMING"** in this passage we see that the "Transfiguration Scene" was a "Foreview" of the "Second Coming," and was a fulfillment of Jesus' words that some of His Disciples should not taste of death until they saw the Son of Man **"Coming in His KINGDOM."**

Another passage has been cited in the attempt to prove that the Coming of the Son of Man is only spiritual. It is—

"But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another; for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of Man **BE COME.**"
Matt. 10: 23.

These words were addressed to the "Twelve Disciples." Jesus sent them forth to preach, that "the Kingdom of Heaven was **AT HAND.**" They were limited in their ministry to the "Lost Sheep of the House of Israel," and were forbidden to go to the **Gentiles** or **Samaritans.** Matt. 10:1-7. They never finished their work. The King was rejected, and the offer of the Kingdom at that time was withdrawn, hence the Coming of the Son of Man was postponed. But the Gospel of the Kingdom is to be renewed after the Church is "caught out," and will be preached by the "Two Witnesses" (Moses and Elijah) and the "Godly Remnant" of Israel during the "Tribulation Period," and when they shall, in that day, have gone over the "Cities of Israel," Christ will return to the Mt. of Olives.



Thou art coming, O my Saviour !
Thou art coming, O my King !
In Thy beauty, all-resplendent,
In Thy glory, all-transcendent ;
Well may we rejoice and sing !
Coming ! In the opening east
Herald brightness slowly swells ;
Coming ! O my glorious Priest,
Hear we not Thy golden bells ?

Thou art coming ! Thou art coming !
We shall meet Thee on Thy way ;
We shall see Thee, we shall know Thee,
We shall bless Thee, we shall show Thee
All our hearts could never say.
What an anthem that will be,
Ringing out our love to Thee,
Pouring out our rapture sweet
At Thine own all-glorious feet !

Oh ! the joy to see Thee reigning,
Thee, my own beloved Lord !
Every tongue Thy name confessing,
Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Brought to Thee with glad accord !
Thee, my Master, and my Friend,
Vindicated and enthroned !
Unto earth's remotest end
Glorified, adored, and owned !

The Spirit World

As the purpose of the "First Stage" of Christ's Second Coming is to reunite the "Soul" and "Body" of the "Righteous Dead," as well as to "catch out" the "Righteous Living," it will be helpful to have some knowledge of the "Spirit World." We must not forget that man is a "trinity," composed of "body," "soul," and "spirit" (I Thess. 5:23. Heb. 4:12), and that the "soul" is the **body** or home of the "spirit" between the death of the physical body and its resurrection, and that our physical or material body corresponds to our "soulish body" as the glove does to the hand that it covers, and that our "soulish body" can **see**, and **hear**, and **feel**, and **think**, and **speak**. As proof of this we have the story of the "Rich Man and Lazarus." Luke 16:19-31. This is not a parable, for parables do not give proper names, as Abraham and Lazarus, but is an account of the state of the Righteous and Wicked in the other world. As we know from the narrative, the **bodies** of both Lazarus and the Rich Man were **buried on the earth**. The account then is descriptive of what happened to them in their **disembodied state** in the "Underworld," and from it we learn that they could **see**, **hear**, **feel**, **thirst**, **talk**, and **remember**, proving that they had not lost **self consciousness**, and that there is no such thing as **SOUL SLEEP**. We also must not forget that to the Jew "Abraham's Bosom" was a type of "Paradise." "The Underworld" (Hades) in Christ's day was made up of two compartments, "Paradise" and "Hell," separated by an "impassable gulf." See the Chart, "The Heavens," page 34, letters "P," "H," and "K." "Hell" is the abode of the **souls** of the Wicked between the death and resurrection of their bodies. After the resurrection of their bodies, and their judgment before the "Great White Throne" (W), the Wicked go to the "Lake of Fire" (G). Rev. 20:12-15*

When Jesus died on the Cross His **body** was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57-60), and His **soul** went to Paradise, where He had an engagement that day to meet the **soul** of the "Penitent Thief" (Luke 23:43), whose **body** was buried in the "Potter's Field." It was in their "**Soulish Bodies**" then that they met in Paradise. When Jesus' "**soul**" returned from "Paradise" on the third day to reoccupy His body in Joseph's tomb, He did not return alone, He led "**captivity captive**" (Eph. 4:8-10) and brought out with Him all the souls of the "Righteous Dead" imprisoned in the Paradise section (P) of the "Underworld," and placed them in the "Paradise" of the "Third Heaven" (E), to which Paul was caught up. II Cor. 12:1-4. This is clear from other scriptures. Jesus said the "**Gates of Hell**" (Hades, the Underworld) should not prevail against the Church. Matt. 16:18. Then "Hell" (Hades) has **gates** to prevent the escape of its inmates. What Jesus did before He came back from the "Un-

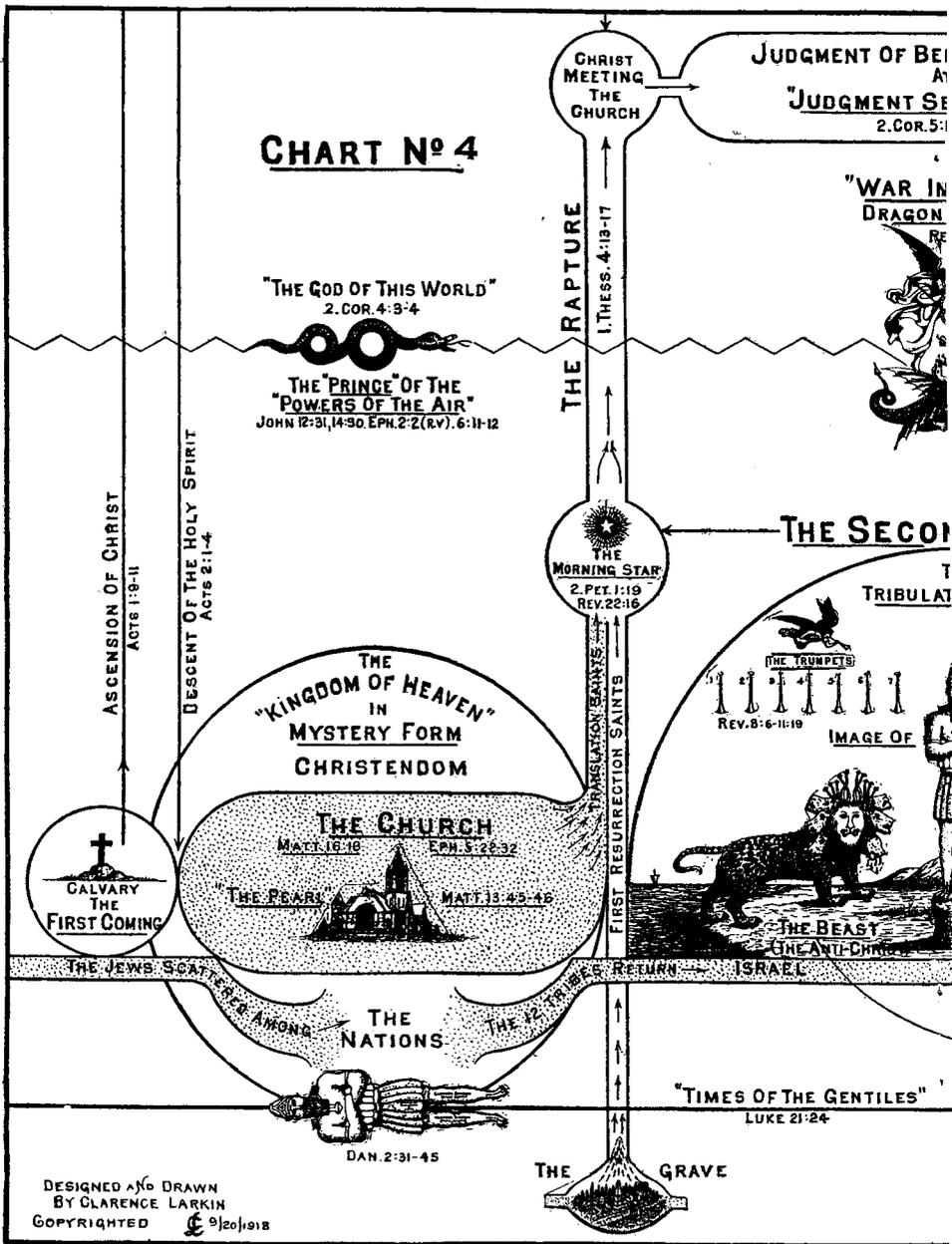
*For a full account of the "Spirit World" see the writer's book on "The Spirit World." See book notice at the back of this Pamphlet

derworld" was to seize the "Keys of Hades," unlock the "Gates" of the "Paradise Section" (P) and empty it of its inmates, and then lock it up that it might remain empty. As proof of this we have Jesus' declaration to John on the Isle of Patmos, 66 years later, when He said—"I am He that liveth, and was dead: and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen: and have the **'KEYS OF HELL'** (Hades) and of **DEATH** (the Grave)." Rev. 1:18. Jesus then by His Resurrection unlocked not only the "Paradise Section" of "Hades" and transferred the souls of the "Righteous Dead" to the "Paradise Section" of the Third Heaven, but He also has the "**Keys of DEATH,**" that is, of the "**GRAVE,**" and when the time comes He will unlock the graves of the dead and resurrect their bodies. As far as we know the souls of the "Wicked Dead" are still in the "Hell Section" of the "Underworld," and will remain there until the "Second Resurrection" at the close of the Millennium, when they will return to the earth and get their bodies, and then go to the "Great White Throne Judgment," from which they will be consigned to the "Lake of Fire." Rev. 20:12-15.

From what has been said we see that the souls of the "Righteous Dead," since the resurrection of Jesus, go to the "Paradise" of the "Third Heaven" (E), that they may be "**WITH THE LORD.**" Phil. 1:23. II Cor. 5:8. There they will remain until the time comes for the "Rapture of the Church," when they will return with Jesus, and while He tarries in the air (I Thess. 4:17), they will continue on to the earth (see Chart) and re-enter their resurrected and glorified bodies, for we read that when Jesus comes back He will bring with Him the souls of those who "**SLEEP IN JESUS.**" I Thess. 4:14. The expression, "**Sleep in Jesus,**" has no reference to "Soul Sleep," but is a term applied only to the bodies of the "Righteous Dead," and signifies that we are to think of the bodies of the "Dead in Christ" as only sleeping or resting.

While "Paradise," as a suburb of Heaven, is a glorious place, it does not follow that the state of the Righteous there is more blissful than it was in the "Paradise Section" of the Underworld. We must not forget that while the souls of the Righteous in Paradise are free from sorrow and sickness, and enjoy the society of the saints of all ages, their state is more one of rest and waiting than of activity or service (Rev. 6:9-11), for it is a state of limitation and incompleteness, for they have not as yet received their resurrection body with all its glorious powers, nor been judged so as to receive their reward, or crown, if they are entitled to any. The description of Heaven and the New Jerusalem as given in the Book of Revelation is still future, and the things there described will not come to pass until after the Rapture of the Church. From this we see the meaning of the Apostle when he says—"We groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the **REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY**" (Rom. 8:18-23); and as this is not possible until the Return of the Lord Jesus, who will then change our "**vile body,**" that it may be fashioned like unto His **GLORIOUS BODY**" (Phil. 3:20-21), we should be doing all we can to hasten His Return.

CHART N^o 4



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“BELIEVERS FOR WORKS”
OF THE
“EAT OF CHRIST”
10, ROM. 14:10

THE
MARRIAGE
FEAST
REV. 19:7-9

“HEAVEN”
CAST OUT
V. 12:7-12



“THE DRAGON”
(THE ANTI-GOD)

CHRIST COMING WITH THE SAINTS
THE REVELATION
2, THESS. 1:7-10

“SHEKINAH GLORY”
RETURNS
EZ. 43:1-7



CROWN RESTORED
LUKE 1:30-33

“THE
TRUTH PERIOD”

THE SUN OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
MALACHI 4:2



THE VIALS



“THE BEAST”
REV. 16:1-21

REV. 13:1-18



“THE FALSE PROPHET”
(THE ANTI-CHRIST)

“THE TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE”
JER. 30:4-9

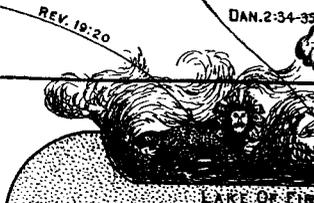
ARMAGEDDON
REV. 16:13-16
REV. 19:17-21

JUDGMENT
OF
NATIONS
MATT. 25:31-46

“THE ‘STONE’
OR
‘MILLENNIAL KINGDOM’
OF CHRIST

“THRONE OF DAVID”
ISRAEL
THE HEAD
OF THE NATIONS
DEU. 28:13

SATAN’S
LAST
REVOLT
REV. 20:7-10



LAKE OF FIRE

SATAN BOUND - REV. 20:1-3

THE SHEEP
NATIONS IN BLESSING
MATT. 25:33-34

SATAN LOOSED - REV. 20:7

THE
BOTTOMLESS
PIT



RESURRECTIONS AND JUDGMENTS

