

Matth. 24, 15-28.

There is no teaching or doctrine which is being heralded more in our day by so-called Christian organizations than the doctrine regarding the return of X to the earth to reestablish his kingdom here. Individuals will force their way into your home and will try to convince you of their opinion. Literature upon the subject is being brot to you, and if you will not pay them a few pennies for their book, they will give it to you. It was only a few weeks ago that a lady came to my door announcing the fact that she was a messenger of Jehova, bringing me ^{at the time} some information which was very essential for me and those souls which were entrusted into my spiritual care. I was asked to read the booklet, which I have done. No doubt some of you have received the same material and I feel that it is my duty to show you some of the false teachings which are contained therein.

The booklet to which I have made reference is entitled, "The Message of the Kingdom, the Hope of the World". It is being published and distributed by ~~the~~ Jehova's Witnesses. This is an organization which is known to all of you, only perhaps under a different name. Until July of this year, this organization was known as the "Russelites", Millennial Dawn People, International Bible Students, and the like. In a meeting at Columbus Ohio of this year they adopted their new name, Jehovas Witnesses. In a very brief form, the message or information which they are attempting to impart to the world is this. In the beginning of times G created man in a perfect state, having created the earth for man's home. G gave Lucifer, an angel, much authority over things. This angel, Lucifer, became jealous of the devotion and allegiance given to G, and wanted some of it for himself. He began to rebel against G, causing man to become unfaithful to Jehova. The result of all this was that G condemned man to death, causing all men, born of Adam and Eve to become sinners. Instead of immediately crushing the power of Lucifer, G permitted him to reign as G of the earth until only a few years ago, in 1914. Names which are more common to us than Lucifer are Satan, The Devil, the Serpent and the Dragon. G had promised man salv thru X. When X ascended to heaven, he prepared or opened the gate of heaven for his followers, at the same time, saying that he would come again. This second coming of X has been interpreted by the Jehova witnesses as being a millenium, or a time in which X will rule on earth in perfection.

Now the question had to be settled, When will X come again. Men, such as Russel, Rutherford, and others, have searched the Sc, especially the Prophetic books of the Bible, and those which contained mostly picture language, and have attempted to set the day and date on which this second coming of X should appear. Many calculations have been made, however, all of them have proved untrue to the present time. With regard to X's second coming, the following is the date which has been given. In 1914, the beginning of the Great World War, Satan was dethroned, and X was placed as the great ruler of all. He has now ascended the throne as ruler. ^{Since 1914 X began to gather his faithful followers.} However, Satan has not given up. He is now faithfully gathering his followers and preparing them for a battle which will be ~~the~~ the battle of Armageddon. ^{the result will be that X's followers will completely overcome Satan's army.} We are not told where this battle will take place, or how it will be conducted. However, they maintain, that ~~this~~ this will come during the life of this generation. After this battle, those men of the OT who have a good report before G, such who tried to lead a good life, will receive their reward for their goodness by being made governors or rulers over the Christians here on earth, while X and his royal family—who is to be classed as such we are not told—will have their place in heaven. Among those who will be rulers here on the earth are Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Gideon, Jephtae, David, Samson, and all the faithful prophets. There are also many other false doctrines which they bring forth, ^{of} the discussion of which would take us too far afield this mornign. This will suffice to show you what dreadful, and unscriptural things are being told today about the second coming of X. In order that we Christians may not be deceived by such foolish and unfounded teaching it behooves us to again and again hear the Crs teaching regarding this matter. Our text offers us opportunity for this today. Let us review our Sc teaching about the coming of X on judgment day very briefly this morning, making for the topic of our discussion,

AT'S INSTRUCTION IN I REGARDING JUDGMENT DAY.

1. He warns us first to be prepared.
2. To avoid all false teachers on this matter.

15-28. The text which we have before us is a prophecy concerning the destruction of the city of Jerusalem which occurred in the year 70. but it does not only warn and prepare the disciples for this dreadful destructive event, it also is a picture of the destruction of the world at the time of the second coming of X. it is in this capacity that this text is applicable to us and our times. it shows us first, how and why we should be prepared for the second coming of our L.

Before the destruction of Jer should occur there were certain signs which would be noticed. these signs, our L says, were those which had been foretold by the prophet Daniel, signs which were well known to the Jews. And X now says that when these signs appeared, they should know that the destruction of that great religious center, Jerusalem, with its beautifully constructed temple, should be laid to ruin... Likewise, Atian fr, there are many signs which the L has given us as signs or forebodings of the nearness of the Great Judgment day. May it suffice today to enumerate only the signs which are found in the chiro which our today's text is taken. Upon the question of the disciples to the Sav, 3b., A answered, 4.5.6.7.10.11.12.14. And then X continues to compare the destruction of the world with the destruction of Jer and shows in our L how the former foreshadows the latter.

16-18. So when the signs of the destruction of Jer have been fulfilled, none of the Atians should waste any time in seeking their designated place of refuge. They should give up all their earthly possessions, and flee to the mountains. And so we too, should relinquish all hold on our earthly possessions, should not make them to our G by making them our chief and only concern, should be prepared, that when the signs of the Son of Man shall appear, we then will be ready to meet him, and to come before him to give account of our acts. In v. 20 A tells his disciples that they should pray that this day may not come during the winter or upon a Sabbath day or year, in order that their flight for refuge and safety would in no wise be hindered. And why? 21. And likewise we too should continually be prepared, should have our heart set upon heavenly things, should pray to our G, asking him that he would guard us against fall and sins, would preserve us in the true faith, so that when the day of the L shall appear, that we then too be found ready. we should, however, not only pray for ourselves, but also for the heathen. our prayer should ascend to the throne of grace, also asking G to grant the heathen the Light, and knowledge of the only begotten Son JA, the world's Sav. Remember, "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

The disciples and followers of A had received instructions to flee for refuge into the hills and mountains. And so we too should flee to the hills and mountains, from whom cometh all help, namely to the immovable and firm JA, who dangers surround us, the doubts come upon us, we need not despair, we should only seek our G and his aid. if we do that, then we also will be prepared when the Son of Man shall come in his glory and all his holy angels with him, to judge the world in righteousness. However, we must also avoid the other extreme, that of becoming secure. we must continually be on our guard, that Satan will not seduce us into carnal security, and thus make us unprepared to meet G when he appears. In all things, the warning goes out to us all, "Be prepared, for the kingdom of G is close at hand. watch and pray."

Our L in the second place also warns us to avoid all false teachers regarding the Judgment day. II.

the T. 23-28. Surely there is no time in all the history of the world where there have been so many false Xts and false prophets as just in our day. Wherever we look, we will see a small group of worshipers gathered, the result of a difference of opinion with regards some interpretation of the H S. r. And so many of these false teachers and prophets are seeking to devour us; are trying to implant their erroneous doctrines into our hearts. And they try to do this in a very sly manner. They know that the W of G is the only rule and norm of our religion. They know that if G forbids something, we also will take stand

against it. In order to gain hearing with a true believer, these false prophets will take some passage of H Scr and pervert and turn it to suit their own understanding and ambitions. So it is also with the Jehova Witnesses, or the Bible Students as they are better known to you. They will make some false statement, and bring some Scr passage, trying to prove their statement with it. However, if we hold them to the text which they have used, taking it together with the connection in which that passage has been spoken, you will soon be able to corner them. You will also notice that they generally use passages which have been taken from one of the prophetic books or from the book of the Revelations which contains much figure language. And on the basis of these quoted passages, they will attempt to prove just everything.

These false prophets will also seek to gain followers by giving you their literature, or selling it for a very small sum of money. However, Xtian fr, when such literature has made its way into your homes, destroy it, for it is only poison to the soul. It teaches you doctrines which are entirely unfounded in Scr and will only cause you to doubt Gs W as you know it, asking with Eve, Is that really so what G has said?

And we need not wonder at the fact that such false prophets always choose the Xtians as their prey. It has always been that way. X himself warns the discs against that very thing when he says in our text, "If it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. And 25."

But, you will ask, is it not at all possible for any one to estimate about when the judgment day will come. Our T answers that when X says, 27 When the dark clouds cover the skies, we immediately expect rain or snow. That same cloud may contain an electric storm. However, we cannot judge just when the lightning will appear. It comes suddenly. And such will also be the coming of the Son of G on judgment day. When we are least expecting Him, he shall appear. Suddenly, at his appointed time He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. So says, Of that time and hour knoweth no man, no, not even the angels of heaven. How then would it be possible for the weak mind of a human being to set the time for Xt's appearance.

So, my Xtian fr, when such people come to your door, and try to impress you as being highly religious and interested in your souls welfare, tell them frankly that you are a Xtian, and accept the W of G which says v. 27. Be on your continual guard, that you may successfully avoid and withstand these false prophets, who are like wolves in sheeps clothing, seeking to devour you, and make you to doubt the word and promises of your G. G grant you all his grace to successfully withstand them, that you keep that crown which has been yours thru faith in the blood of JX.

AMEN.