

made about another great future event—the return of our Lord in power. Thus we read in Mark 13: 32, “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.” The time of his return is something which is not revealed. We are told, “Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.”

MILLENNIAL KINGDOM FOLLOWS RETURN OF CHRIST

Although we do not know the exact time of the coming of the millennial kingdom of Christ, I think that we can say that one matter has been definitely revealed in this connection. It is to follow the return of Christ. The two stupendous events are tied together, with his return introducing his millennial kingdom. We could hardly expect the kingdom of Christ to be a time when he would not be personally present to reign, especially in view of the many clear predictions in the New Testament that he is actually to return to this earth.

Those who undertake to interpret the Bible in such a way as to place the kingdom before the return of Christ have serious difficulties to face. We have noticed that the kingdom has as one of its features the removal of the curse. The creation no longer groans in pain. Cruelty no longer is present. The saints have put on the resurrection body, *free from the infirmities of the present life. Certainly these features would require that it come after the return of Christ. There is no promise of any such removal of the curse prior to his return. Nowhere is there the slightest hint that the resurrection of the just precedes his return. This would seem to rule out the placing of the kingdom prior to the coming of the king.*

Another serious obstacle to such a view is found in the oft-repeated command to watch for the coming of Christ. This note is very frequent in the New Testament. A typical case is Matthew 24: 44: “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” In I Thessalonians 1: 9, 10 the apostle Paul goes so far as to describe the Christian as having two purposes in life: “Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” The Christian is expected to be constantly watching for the approach of his beloved Master. The knowledge that a thousand year reign of Christ on earth would precede his actual return would seem to push this event so far into the future as to deprive these commands of any real meaning.