

March 24, 1924

SUBJECT: A History of the
Doctrine of One True Religion

1924

C.F.

matth 24:1, 2, 3

A History of the Doctrine of Our Lord's Return

- I. The Return of Our Lord as taught in the New Testament
- II. The Return of Our Lord as taught by the Early Church Fathers in the ^{Western} Primitive Church.
- III. The Return of Our Lord as a Doctrine ^{LAVISH} Crowned and Denied by the Imperial Roman Church
- IV. The Return of Our Lord as the Hope of the Morning Star, the Precursors, of the Reformation
- V. The Return of Our Lord as taught by the Leaders of the Reformation.
- VI. The Return of Our Lord as preached by the Great Revivalists.

W. J. ... 18:1, 2, 3

A HISTORY OF THE DOCTRINE OF OUR LORD'S RETURN

I. The Church of the New Testament
It believed in, looked forward, to the
imminent return of our Lord.
It was pre-chilastic and pre-millennial

Greek χιλις = a thousand
The early χιλις were called "Chilicists"
The doctrine of Christ's return to earth to
reign a thousand years is called "Chiliasm"
Rev. 20:1-7 mentioned 6 times

Latin "mill" = thousand
"annus" = year
millennium = a thousand years
millennarian = one who believes in the
reign of Christ for a thousand years

pre-millennialist } those who believe Christ
pre-millennarian } will return before a
millennium.

post-millennialist } those who believe Christ
post-millennarian } needs return after
the millennium

a-millennialist } those who believe
a-millennarian } there needs to be no
millennium at all.

The Temptation

1. Jesus

John 14: 3 "If I go, I will come again and receive you into myself."

(Mark 8: 38 "...the Son of man will come in the glory of the Father with the Holy angels."

2. Paul

Every chapter of ⁵I, ³II Thessalonians closes with a reference to, description of, the second coming of X.

3. Hebrews

Heb. 9: 28 "He will appear the second time apart from sin unto salvation."

4. James

James 5: 8 "Be ye also patient; strengthen your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

5. Peter

II Peter 3: 34 "...there shall come in the last days scoffers saying, Where

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II Peter 3: 34 "...there shall come in the last days scoffers saying, Where

is the promise of his coming,
: 9 The Lord is not slack
concerning his promise
: 10 But the day of the Lord will
come as a thief in the night."

6. John

Rev. 1:7 (cont) "Behold, he cometh with
clouds, and every eye shall see him"

4:1 returned to heaven

19:11 the Lord returns to earth with
his saints

22:20 "He which testifieth these
things saith, Surely, I come quickly.
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

II. The Church Fathers in the Early, Discussed, Primitiv Church

1. The Didache = (The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles)
Discovered in 1873

Some assign it a date as early as 100 A.D.
From the fourth and last chapter: "Watch for your life's sake. Let not your lamps be quenched, nor your loins unloosed; be ye ready, for ye know not the hour in which the Lord cometh..."

The "Didache" has a post-communion prayer ending with "Maranatha" = "The Lord cometh" (I Cor. 16: 22)

2. The Epistle of Barnabas
Found at the close of Codex Sinaiticus which Tischendorf discovered in the next Sinai monastery at St. Catherine in 1859.
Written about 130 A.D. in Alexandria, addressed to Smyrna etc.

"The Sabbath rest will come when the Son of God shall appear and

destroy the lawless one. The true
Sabbath is the Sabbath of the one thousand
years. Then all will have been
sanctified completely - when I come
back to reign."

3. Clement of Rome
many think, mentioned by Paul in 1st 4:3
his first Corinthian letter:

"Let us be followers of those
who went about in sheepskins
and goatskins, preaching the evening
of 7 7."

His second epistle to the Corinthians:

"Let us every man expect the
kingdom of God, because we
know not the day of His
appearing."

4. "The Shepherd of Hermas"
Many believe this was written by Paul
in Rom. 16: 14

Discovered by Tischendorf along with
codex Sinaiticus in 1859.
The latter church of Africa in the 3rd century
included it in their NT canon.

Hermas writes that in a vision he was
told: "No, tell the elect of the Lord
that their present [imperial persecution]
is a type of the great tribulation that
is coming."

5. Ignatius

a disciple of Peter in 1st cen
part of the church at Antioch
Threw to the lions in the Colosseum in 107 A.D.

To Polycarp [part of the church at Smyrna]
"Be every day better than yesterday;
consider the times and repent them who
is above all times."

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6. Polycarp

Disciple of John

Active at Smyrna, became a martyr in 157 A.D.

His writings have perished, but some of his sentences are quoted by others.
"If we obey God, we shall receive the life to come, we will raise up from the dead, and we shall live as reign with them. The saints shall judge the world."

7. Papias

The Polycarp, a disciple of John

Active at Hierapolis (now known as Sarissa)

Only fragments of his writings remain.
One is quoted by the historian Eusebius:

"There will be a millennium after the resurrection from the dead when the former reign of God will be established on the earth."