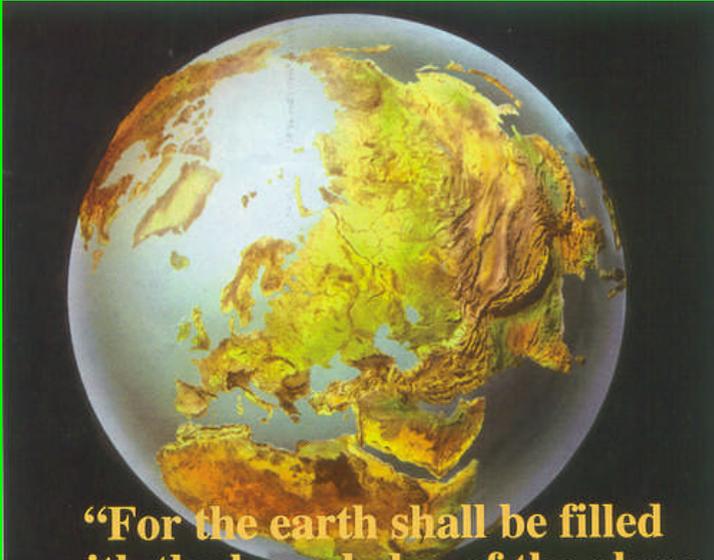


The return of Jesus Christ



**“For the earth shall be filled
with the knowledge of the glory
of the Lord, as the waters cover
the sea.” — Habakkuk 2:14.**

To the Earth

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

Christ's Coming: A Basic Bible Doctrine

A vast difference exists between the religion of the Bible and prevailing theology. The former is practical and substantial, and adapted in all respects to the needs of mankind, whilst the latter is visionary and inconsistent. What does the world want? All know what it now has: toil, suffering, death. These troubles are not forever to press upon the earth's inhabitants. God purposes to send Christ to affect an alteration. The day for his reappearing is fast approaching. The signs which show it are numerous and distinct. The Gentile times have run their course, and the world is on the eve of mighty changes. The rule of Government is soon to pass into the hands of the strong, infallible Son of God. Christ will put down all misrule, destroy the oppressor, sweep away every false creed, and abolish war and every curse. He will cheer, enlighten and give unending life to dying man. This is the hope the Bible holds out. The world knows little or nothing of it. Most people are pre-occupied with fabled notions of a shadowy afterlife, which offers no satisfaction to the thoughtful mind, and no solution to the apparently aimless and perpetual drifting of this sorrowing, sinning world.

The Bible is full of prophecies concerning the return of Jesus Christ to the earth, and the vast changes that he will bring about by his righteous rule. It is the same Christ, who visibly left the earth over 1900 years ago who will return to appear personally among men, and to bring to consummation the great work that God has given him to do, and which he initiated at his first appearance.

1. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ will come in the way He departed.

"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you (Apostles) into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

"Every eye shall see him" (Rev.1:7).

"When he shall appear . . . we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

"They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn" (Zech. 12:10).

"One shall say, what are these wounds in thine hands?" (Zech.13:6).

If Christ is to come "in like manner as the apostles saw him go," if the Jewish people whose forefathers crucified the Lord, shall "look upon him whom they pierced" and shall observe the wounds in his hands, then he must come personally, visibly, and literally to the earth, for it was in a literal, personal; visible manner that the Apostles saw him ascend.

2. Jesus Christ himself repeatedly taught, when upon earth, that though he would have to depart, he would come again.

"For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father, with his angels; and then shall he reward every man according to his works' (Matt 16:27).

"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again. (John 14:3).

"They shall see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power

and great glory" (Luke 21:27).

"Behold I come quickly (i.e., suddenly); and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Rev. 22:12).

The Lord Jesus taught his disciples to expect his return to the earth to consummate the purpose of God. They had thought that the Kingdom of God should immediately appear (Luke 19:11), but he taught them by parable that he must ascend into heaven, to receive power from God and to return. He likened himself to a "certain nobleman" who went "into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return" (Luke 19:12-15). His teaching was clearly based upon the expectation of his second advent in power and glory to reign upon the earth.

Reader:

We urge you to very carefully and thoughtfully consider the Bible quotes in this booklet they set out this most important theme in a series of Bible propositions. Consider the Bible references quoted with care. Take down your Bible from off its shelf and turn the references up. You cannot over-estimate the importance of this subject. Salvation is bound up in these doctrines. The exercise can only benefit you. The reading of this booklet could change the whole course of your life, and introduce you to a hope that is of more worth than all the riches of the world.

3. The Apostles, in their preaching, proclaimed the fact of his return.

Peter said: "He (God) shall send Jesus Christ, who before was preached unto you whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets" (Acts 3:20).

Paul wrote: "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven, with his mighty angels...when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe" (2 Thess. 1:7,10).

"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel . . . and the dead in Christ shall rise" (1 Thess. 4:16).

Christianity was thus founded upon the Apostolic teaching of a Christ who had died, who had been raised from the dead, who ascended into heaven, and who is to return to the earth (see 1 Cor. 15:19-26). Any religion that rejects the doctrine of the visible, literal, bodily return of the Lord Jesus to this earth, is astray from the Bible.

4. In their epistles, the Apostles refer to Christ's second coming, as an event to be expected and practically acted upon.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of . . . our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). "To them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28). "A crown of righteousness . . . to all them that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8). "He shall judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom" (2 Tim. 4:1). "Hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 1.13).

There are hundreds of allusions to the return of the Lord Jesus found within the pages of the Bible. It is obvious, from a mere cursory glance at the prophetic Scriptures, that the establishment on the earth of the Kingdom of God is basic to a proper understanding of them. Speaking of the "times of restoration" associated with Christ's visible return, Peter declared: "All the prophets

from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days" (Acts 3:24).

Some have brushed this evidence aside by claiming that these prophetic utterances have a figurative meaning; but a candid perusal of the evidence will reveal the fallacy of this teaching. This being the case, it is vital to individual salvation that a clear conception of the facts concerning Christ's second coming be ascertained, for the Apostle taught that they alone will benefit who "look for him" (Heb. 9:28), and who "love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8).

What Christ Is Coming For.

The greatest confusion prevails concerning the subject of Christ's second coming, even among those who profess to believe in it. Some claim that he will return in a spirit body that no mortal will see, but this does not agree with the testimony of Acts 1:11 quoted above. Others claim that he will return to destroy the earth upon which we live, and to reform it 1,000 years after he has returned, but that conflicts with such references as Eccles. 1:4 that "the earth abideth for ever," and Isaiah 65:17-18 which teaches that the "new heavens and earth" to be expected, relate to the reformed political conditions that will exist on earth when Christ rules.

Christ returns to consummate the purpose of God he instigated over 1900 years ago, and to introduce great changes in the earth. We outline some of that work here:

1. He will raise from the dead and judge those who have known his message and so are responsible to such judgment.

Christ declared of the man who truly believes on him: "I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:39,41,44, etc.). He spake

of two classes coming forth from the graves: "They that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of condemnation" (John 5:29). Daniel taught likewise: "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2). Paul taught that "the dead in Christ shall rise" at his coming (1 Thess. 4:16. 1 Cor. 15:23).

The Bible teaches:

"The Lord Jesus Christ shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom" (2 Tim. 4:1).

The righteous "shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:14).

Not all will be raised to judgment, however, for the resurrection is limited to those who know the will of God, whether they do it or not

"That servant who knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did According to his will shall be beaten with many stripes" (Luke 12:47).

"Man that is in honor, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish . . . He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light" (Ps. 49:20,1).

"They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise" Use. 26:14).

"Like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more" (Ps. 88:5).

Many people have a wrong conception of the Judgment Seat of Christ. They imagine that every person who has ever lived will be raised at his coming to be judged; but that is not so. The number of those to be raised is limited to those who have come to a responsible understanding of the Divine will and purpose, and these constitute a small minority of the countless millions who have lived since creation. This comparatively small number (though a great number in the aggregate) will be judged, and the faithful will receive eternal life (Rom. 2:7), whereas the wicked will be consigned to the "second death" (Rev. 2:11).

2. Christ will set up a Kingdom on earth, and will establish his throne in Jerusalem, its Metropolis.

"The Lord shall be king over all the earth" (Zech. 14:9).

"Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3).

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom" (Isa. 9:7).

"Thou shalt call his name Jesus . . . and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32 33).

"Jerusalem, the city of the great King" (Matt 5:35).

Jerusalem will become the centre of Christ's righteous rule, and from it will issue laws and decrees for the wise guidance and instruction of earth's populations.

3. Christ will execute judgment on those nations who resist his authority, and he will compell them to submit.

"He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be instructed, ye rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way when his wrath is kindled" (Ps. 2:9-12).

"To him that overcometh will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron" (Rev. 2:26).

"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 1:8).

Mankind is largely indifferent to the claims of God today, and therefore resist the appeal of His Word to repent; but in the day of Christ's coming they will be compelled to respect the one whom today they ignore and treat with contempt. With almighty power he will demand and receive the respect of men, and will set up his authority throughout the world. The Bible teaches that "He shall put down all rule, authority, and power, for he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Cor. 15:24-25).

4. Christ's Kingdom will extend over all the earth, and after a reign of a thousand years, which is the final stage in the process of the world's redemption., he will surrender the rule to God Himself.

"The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44).

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Dan. 7:27).

"He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth" (Ps. 72:8).

"The kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

"They (the Redeemed) live and reign with Christ a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4).

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom of God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death... And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL" (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

The Bible therefore sets before mankind the glorious prospects

of a world at peace, and at one with God. Then will His glory be manifested on all sides, and men will rejoice in the goodness that shall be showered upon them in consequence of their obedience (Num. 14:21). At that time, the petition of the Lord's Prayer will be a fact in the earth: "Thy kingdom come, that Thy will may be done in earth as it is in heaven."

Meanwhile, we are living in momentous times. Christ's advent is impending. Before long his power and might will be seen and felt in all the earth. Christ is coming to destroy the wicked, and to inaugurate his righteous and beneficent reign. The world neither expects nor wants Christ, and it ridicules those who do. As in the days of Noah and Lot (Luke 17:26-30), so now, men are unbelieving and disobedient. Some profess to be Christ's followers, but are unacquainted with his teaching, and oppose those who know it. If we would obtain the salvation that he offers, it is necessary to step aside from the prevailing apostasy, and unite with those who are joyfully waiting for their Lord from heaven.

To the many thoughtful and honest minds which are distracted by the divisions and contentions of Christendom, and made to wonder if there is such a thing as truth, there is but one remedy at present, and that is a return to the doctrines preached by the apostles before any of the vast ecclesiastical systems of the present day had existence.

Signs That Christ's Coming Is Near

To look for signs of the coming of God's Kingdom on earth is not a fanciful pastime; it is the sober attitude of those who will be faithful to the words of Jesus. **The scoffer** may speak slightly of prophecy, but God bids you to look at it as a light shining in a dark place (1 Pet. 1:19). "The Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants and prophets" (Amos 3:7). To those instructed in the Scriptures, the future is not wrapped in

mystery. With unerring accuracy, prophecy has foretold the uprise and downfall of the earth's greatest empires. With equal precision it delineates the future of the kingdoms which now exist. The social and political events now transpiring before our eyes are all matters of prophecy: the great unrest that obtains throughout the world, the reviving interest in Jewish affairs, the arming of the nations, the growth of unbelief and wickedness. Prophecy, too, gives information concerning the near future. Before long the clouds of God's anger are to burst over a rebellious world, preparatory to the establishment of the Kingdom of God (Zech. 14:9; Rev. 11:18,15).

Christ called upon his followers to "watch" that they might be prepared for his coming (Rev. 16:15; Luke 21:28). Here are some of the "signs" that the Bible indicates will be manifest in the "latter days:"

1. Social and Moral Upheavals and Evils.

"This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, fierce, despisers of those that are good, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. . .' (2 Tim. 4:1-4).

We recognise that there has always been crime and immorality in the world since sin reared its ugly head, and that these things will continue until it sin rooted out of the earth. But the social and moral upheavals that are manifest in all the world today are reaching unprecedented proportions. An increasing record of broken homes, juvenile delinquency, rape, sadism and heartless ruthlessness, is found in all countries:

We are all so painfully aware of this tragic truth.

The Bible warns that this state of things exists prior to God's Judgements on a godless society.

2. Political Upheavals and International Discord.

"Distress of nations, with perplexity (lit "without a way of escape") . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. . . And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:26).

Never before, in recorded history, have the nations been subjected to such pressures as today. Racial strife, international tension, population explosions all contribute to this, and play their part in making war inevitable. When it comes, it will be waged with the terrible and devastating weapons now in production. Christ foretold an atmosphere of fear, frustration and failing of heart as being typical of the times just prior to his coming. The troubled, fear ridden, violent age of today clearly fulfils his words.

3. The Revival of Israel.

"They (the Jews) shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down to the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

"Behold I will take the children of Israel from among the nations whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all. . .' (Ezekiel 37:21-22).

Judah was scattered 1900 years ago, when, in A.D.70, the Romans destroyed their capital, Jerusalem; but today the nation has

been revived, the Jews have flocked back to the land; the towns and cities have been rebuilt; and the prophecies of both Old and New Testaments fulfilled.

The Jews have been regathered and reformed into a nation as a token of that yet to occur when Christ returns, but there is no king in Jerusalem as predicted in the quotation above, and nor will there be until He who was crucified on a charge of sedition, and over whose cross was placed the caption, "**Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews,**" returns to the nation that rejected him and assumes his rightful position as King of Israel, and of the world.

4. The development of Russia.

"Thou (a northern invader) shalt come from thy place out of the north parts . . . and shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days. . . ." (Ezek. 38:16).

The prophecies of the Bible show that Russia will invade the Middle East at the time of the end and engulf the world in war. It is to "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev 16:14 It is God's doing for he is "gatherering "them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Rev 16:16 Russia's involvement in world affairs is an outstanding "sign of the times," indicative of the near return of the Lord Jesus to the earth.

5. Unprecedented Preparations for War.

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; prepare war; wake up the mighty men . . . beat your plowshares into swords, and your

pruning hooks into spears . . . the day of the Lord is near (Joel 3:9,10,15). "Gather them together to the war of the great day of God Almighty... Behold I come as a thief" (Rev. 16:14,15).

Never before has man held in his hands such means of destruction as today; and never before have power politics played such a decisive role in man's national relationships one with the other.

What is the outcome? The Bible answers: "A time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation" (Dan. 12:1), "Evil going forth from nation to nation" to involve the whole world so that ultimately the "slain shall be from one end of the earth to the other" (Jer. 25: 32-33).

Statements such as this may have seemed extreme a few years back; but today their possibility is so much in evidence that scientists and moralists are constantly warning politicians of the grave and dread consequences of total war once it does break out.

The Bible warned of the consequences of such war in these days over 2,500 years ago.

No longer can it be said: "There have always been wars and troubles; this age is no different from others." War today has been spread over the world in a deluge. And each successive world war has been more dreadful and more widespread. That of the future (for war is inevitable Zech. 14 :1) , will involve all nations without exception, and will bring civilisation to the very brink of destruction.

What Hope Have You

You may imagine that there is nothing that you can do about the decline of world morals, or the deterioration of national relationships, or the events that will inaugurate Christ's return.

That is very true, but you do not have to remain indifferent to the fulfilment of Bible prophecy, or the fact of Christ's coming. You can identify yourself with him in the way laid down in the Word. that you might participate with him in the glory he will reveal.

You may think that it does not matter whether you know about the Bible hope or not, so long as you try to follow what are the generally accepted rules of good, moral conduct. If so, you are making a grave mistake. The hope set before us in the Bible concerning a future good provided by God has been made known for men to accept with earnestness and sincerity. God is not pleased with light-hearted indifference to what He has promised; neither will He bestow His gift of a future life where men are not interested in His purpose, or where they will not go to the trouble of ascertaining the true meaning of the Revelation in the Bible that He has set before them.

Consider the following facts

I. Salvation depends upon our endorsement of the true Apostolic doctrine.

"The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16).

"If ye continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Col. 1:23).

"By which (Gospel) ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believe in vain" (1 Cor. 15:2).

2. There is only one true hope, and not a variety of ways of worshipping God.

"True worshippers, worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him" (John 4:23).

"Ye are called in one hope of your calling" (Eph. 4:4).

"If any man preach any other gospel, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8).

3. It involves the hope of eternal life, and inheritance in the Kingdom of God on earth.

"This is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life" (1 John 2:25).

"As in Adam all die, in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22).

"So an entrance shall be ministered to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour" (2 Pet. 1:11).

4. As man is mortal, this involves a resurrection to immortality.

"Of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question" (Acts 23:6).

"Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that

God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:8).

"I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

5. Salvation depends on belief (faith) and the actions that follow.

"Faith cometh by hearing the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

"Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6).

He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

"We are saved by hope" (Rom. 8:24).

"He that hath this hope purifieth himself" (1 John 3:3).

The wholehearted acceptance of the teaching and example of Jesus Christ is necessary for salvation; but is salvation worth having? Is the matter urgent? There is no doubt about that! The earth presents many sad sights to those who have eyes to see. Where truth should be exalted for the hope and salvation of perishing man, we see contradictory creeds and bitter conflict. Instead of peace and prosperity, we see war preparations and oppressive taxation. Instead of men living in mutual amity, we see violence, oppression, acrimony and rivalry. Crime is on the increase, bloodshed is common, and the prospect grows worse.

Is there no possibility of relief? There is. From these sad sights we turn to a picture, bright and beautiful, drawn by God in His infallible but neglected Word. In this we see Christ once more in the earth ruling as King over all mankind (Zech. 14:9. Rev. 11:15) - one law (Isa. 2:3) - one religion (Zech. 14:16-17) - no war (Ps. 46:8-10) - no miscarriage of justice (Jer. 23:5) - no mismanagement (Isa. 11:1-5) - no tyranny (Isa. 29:20) - no com-

plaining in the streets (Ps. 144:14) - the poor and helpless cared for (Ps. 72:4) - the earth yielding her increase (Ps. 67:6) - grateful hearts everywhere (Ps. 113:2-3), and the promise of God fulfilled: "As truly as I live all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Num. 14:21).

And in addition to all this, the company of the redeemed, clothed upon with immortality (1 Cor. 15:15-55), associated with Christ in the glory and authority he will wield in all the earth (Rev. 5:9-10. Matt. 19:27-30).

To share in this future blessedness is the hope of the only true gospel, the gospel of the Scriptures. All who come within its sound receive a message and an invitation from God. Let us not shut the door against Him. Remember, the times are significant; the issues are vital; you owe it to yourself and your family to seek God's way. Remember, that the evils so apparent in all the world today will increase tomorrow, and that the foundation of true happiness now, as well as for the future, is found in joyous association with Christ, both now and then. There is no greater heritage that you can give your children, than an education in spiritual matters. ' The modern world deplors the growth in juvenile delinquency and the sorrow caused by it without recognising that it is itself delinquent towards God.

Do not follow the crowd in its indifference, but make your self acquainted with the message of the Bible, and learn even now the joy that comes from sacrificing selfish interests to serve the living God. Paul declared, concerning God's way: "It has promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (Tim. 4:8).

JERUSALEM



AND THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD

**Israel, the Palestinians, who is destined
to have this city as its capital?**

Did you know it was promised to Jesus Christ?

The Bible calls it the city of the Great King.

Send for this free booklet

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Amen.

The last two verses of the Bible