

NOTE.

The re-issue of this valuable treatise is mainly due to the late Colonel Moore, R.E., who was engaged in its revision when laid aside by the illness which ultimately ended fatally. It was his earnest desire that the re-print should be largely circulated and his many friends will no doubt assist in giving effect to his wish.

PREFACE.

For the sake of any of my Christian friends who may be uninitiated in the doctrine criticised in these pages I must give a few words of explanation.

All who held the pre-millennial coming of Christ were, till about sixty years ago, of one mind on the subject. About that time a new view was promulgated that the coming of Christ was not one event, but that it was divided into stages; in fact, that Christ comes twice from heaven to earth, but the first time only as far as the air. This first descent, it is said, will be for the purpose of removing the Church from the world, and will occur before the great tribulation under antichrist. This they call "The Coming *for* His Saints;" or, "Secret Rapture." The second part of the coming is said to take place when Christ appears in glory and destroys the antichrist. This they call "The Coming *with* His Saints." This theory has begotten a contradiction in terms--two Second Comings. I am not quite sure which is the approved idea as to what becomes of the raptured Church between the two comings. Some seem to believe that it is caught up at once to heaven; others that the glorified saints remain during this supposed interval of several years somewhere between heaven and earth, but all agree that the judgment of rewards for service takes place at this time. It is also held, that after the alleged Secret Rapture a new order of believers will arise distinct from the Church of the present time. These are generally spoken of as if they were all Jews, and they are said to be the saints and witnesses for God mentioned in Daniel and the Revelation as on the earth at the time of the Antichrist.

I have mentioned the most common form of the theory, but there are also various modifications of it.

In the summary at end I give the Scriptures which led me to a certain decision as to the unsoundness of this scheme of prophecy, and I desire that the Scriptures I have quoted should be carefully considered apart from my comments on them. Several of the arguments noticed may seem, to a reader whose mind is unimbued with the Secret Rapture view, too trivial to be worthy of refutation. However, there is not one of them which I have not heard advanced at some time or other in all seriousness, by some sincere Christian. Very absurd ones I have not noticed.

I have treated this important subject in a very lame and imperfect manner; but the truth does not need to be advocated by an ingenuity of argument, for in Holy Writ "God is His own interpreter."

TWEED VILLA, SOUTH NORWOOD

Edmund Shackleton, *Will the Church Escape the Great Tribulation?* 3rd ed. (Aylesbury: Hunt, Barnard & Co., n.d.)