



“LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST.” — JOHN 4:35

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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## The Second Coming of Christ - - Part One

Signs of the Times

Radio Broadcast for May 1, 1977

Good morning to each and every listener of the broadcast! For today I have a subject entitled "The Second Coming of Christ". This is one which is sometimes quite controversial and we need to know what the Bible teaches concerning this great truth which affects all the world. This is one of the most serious lines of thought in connection with the study of the scriptures. It challenges the present and wrestles with the future. For that which is certain to happen--the second coming, we need to know what are the signs pointing to this. Then listen:

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matt. 24:3. The disciples were only human and they were interested in these important events just as other anxious men have been for generations past. They wanted to know when the end was coming and when it does come, what will happen. Humanity is still the same today. They would like to know the answers to these important questions. And because we are all involved, we have a right to know so far as the Bible teaches. But beware! Let us not go beyond what the scriptures teach and build upon imagination and fantasy. This is the tragedy of our day. Much is being taught which is not scriptural.

Listen to the words of Jesus: "Take heed that no man deceive you." As in their day, so it is in ours, we live in the age of deception. The enemy of our souls, stalks about to "deceive the very

elect if possible." He does this to mislead, to frustrate, to delude, and lead away from the truth. Jesus warned his disciples of this condition. Not only does the devil deceive, but men do the same through the power of Satan. How?

By fair speeches, by false doctrines, through human creeds, by erroneous modern theories, by crooked opinions, educated philosophy and sometimes this is done through a pleasing personality. There are ways and means of man-made deception, and the Lord warned us of this danger.

Let us enumerate some of the signs of our times which Jesus pointed out in this 24th chapter of Matt.

1. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars:!" Do you see any fulfillment there?
2. "...nation shall rise against nation..." This is a far cry from peace, isn't it?

3. "... kingdom against kingdom ..."  
Where does this leave individual rights?
4. "... and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." These are only reminders to awaken the sin-sick and slumbering souls who are bent on pleasures of the world and personal gratification of their selfish lusts.
5. "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."
6. "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." Surely the news headlines of today tell us these things are taking place both between individuals as well as between nations.
7. "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." How tragic and yet so true.
8. "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."
9. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

This, of course, is but a brief outline of some of the signs of the times. However, the Bible is full of them, and they are happening just as Christ said they would.

There are many things we would like to know which has not been revealed in the Bible. God's great book was not inspired merely to satisfy our imagination or curiosity. Instead it is a di-

vine revelation of the eternal truth, and God's plan of redemption for mankind, and the principal information which we should know is given. Let us be satisfied therewith and say as Deut. 29:29-- "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

There are many things God knows, that are in his care and keeping. The day and hour of the coming of Christ is known only to the Father and will be revealed in its time. Men without God may predict and make guesses of the future. They are subject to error, but the scriptures never fail. The prophecies of the Bible are always fulfilled in the events of history. The Bible students of the ages have learned, of certain definite signs of the times, that will proceed the second coming of Christ. But let me make it clear that the set date of his arrival is not marked on the calendars of men. And if it is, it's wrong. And no man knows the exact time, the day, neither the hour. That he has not revealed to men. Some folks have been very excited in making public, a certain time, declaring the end to come on a given date. But all attempts to fix dates are absolutely unscriptural. Such Bible juggling, date setting proposition, in seeking to map the future is contrary to the Word of God, yet it is one of the signs of the times, as Jesus spoke of men of this type coming in the last days. They are false prophets. The thing to do, best of all, is -- be ready at all times, in fact, stay ready. For in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh.

Folks these days have many questions, some of which are confusing. And may I add, many people are confused as to

the facts relative to the coming of the Lord. Consider some of these questions:

1. How is he coming?
2. When will it be?
3. What will happen when he comes?
4. Will it be literal or spiritual? or will it be secret or for everyone to know?
5. Will he set up his kingdom then?
6. What will happen to the wicked?
7. Are there to be two resurrections, one for the saved, and the second for the wicked?
8. Will there be a millennium in the future?
9. If so, when?
10. If not, why?...

Friends, we won't have time to cover all these questions in this one broadcast, but I hope to deal with some of them on later broadcasts. But there is one very definite fact I would like to impress upon you. This fact cannot be ignored. Jesus himself declared to his disciples, "I will come again." John 14:3.

There are many honest people who believe and teach that there are two distinct comings of Christ yet in the future. We hear it by radio and read of it through literature. The idea seems to have developed from the teaching that Christ will come and receive His Bride, the church, when the saints will be caught up to meet him in the air and to accompany him to heaven above. And that later he will come with his saints. Such scriptures as Jude 14-15 might give this impression at first. I quote:

"Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly

committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Here it speaks of coming with his saints the same as 1 Thess. 3:13-- "... at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

And so the conclusion might be erroneously drawn that Christ will come first for his saints and then at a later time, with his saints. Let us look more closely at the scriptures which will remove this theory and show it to be untrue. Paul explains it fully in 1 Thess. 4:13-14-- "But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

This scripture is a direct answer. It is clear that the saints who will accompany the Lord on his return trip are the innumerable host who have died from the time of Adam to this present day, or the day of the coming of the Lord. This includes the patriarchs of old, and the saints of all ages, whose bodies are slumbering in earth and sea. He said, "...them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

Of course, we know he speaks of the spirits of those who are his saints, who have been resting in the paradise of God, and they will accompany him. The great and final resurrection will then take place, and those spirits will be reunited with their bodies and be raised immortal and glorified, and then all will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and receive their reward and enter heaven forever and ever. This will take place when the Lord comes again, the second time. He came first,

as a babe in Bethlehem as a Saviour for the world, the next time he comes for his church and to reward all accordingly. Listen to Hebrews 9:28--"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." The text clearly teaches two advents, but not a third. His second coming yet future, is his last and only appearance in this world.

Now, friends, I hope this is not too alarming to you. But may you take it and search the scriptures to see if these things are true. And if you have learned and been taught things which are contrary to the scriptures, let us lay them down and be honest enough to accept the truth. But more on this at another time.

### *Testimonies*

From Mo.: "Once again this beautiful spring month we write you expecting or trusting you have health and strength and faith and courage to carry on and live for God here in this life and because of the atonement we may some day gain eternal life, then forever be with God in eternity. Sister Katie Gibson said your broadcast message was the complete gospel story on KBOA today. Surely anyone that really desired to live a righteous life, heard how by the Word of God. Bro. Willard is visiting in St. Louis this week. We have been well and surely because of God's blessing and mercy we are as well and have what we have to use. I am happy to be working the A shift. Maybe we can see you at Guthrie this year. Bro. Louie has seemingly better health this year than for several years. He testified in meeting this morning that he was able to work every day whereas other years he was only able to go part of the day."

--Bro. Leslie Adams

From Minn.: "This finds me well in soul and body, still happy in the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me." How wonderful and still so many names given among men to deceive them. I hope and pray that many will find the true way. I am well at this time. God bless and keep you in the center of His will."

--Bro. Andrew Senti

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From Okla.: "I sure enjoy your messages on radio and always enjoy getting the Mission Trail. Well, the Lord is still good to us. He is our Saviour, our Sanctifier, our Healer and our Keeper. He said that it was he that was faithful to the end that should be saved. So we must press on to the mark of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus and be faithful to the end. I want to see the end with victory. Jesus is coming some day to catch away His waiting Bride and he that is ready shall go in and sup with Him and He with us. It will be worth it all when we see Him face to face. When I think of the 10 virgins in Matt. 25, I am made to wonder, if one half of them were foolish then, I wonder what percent are foolish today. It is something to think about. We better see to it that we have oil in our vessels and our lamps trimmed and burning bright and have on the wedding garment. You remember the one in Matt. 22 that came to the wedding but failed to have on the wedding garment. He was cast out into outer darkness."

--Sis. Emma Dilley

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From N. Car.: "The Lord is still blessing in both body and soul. I sincerely thank Him for it. I am much stronger and still eating well. Continue to pray for me please. I am doing likewise for all of you there in the Lord's work."

--Sis. P. R. Bowers

From La.: "We greet you both and all your dear loved ones in our blessed Saviour's name! It is so wonderful to trust Him and to believe in His great promises! Man may disappoint us in different ways and some even fail to keep their word and promises to us. But we can depend on God and His precious Bible, for in it are more than a thousand promises! Thank the Lord! Surely we must pray and obey to get these promises." --Sis. Rubye Quave

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From Pa.: "Greetings in that Name above every Name, Jesus, wonderful Lord! I am glad He came as a Babe in the manger, then was crucified for me and my sins, so that I may go free from sin. He is ever near and knows our every need and will supply them as he promised. Praise His Name! I am glad God healed your affliction. As Mother used to sing, "It's just like Jesus to roll the clouds away". Today is quite cold and we had snow that lay white on the ground until the sun came out and melted it. It came as a snow squall in just a few minutes. It was real white all over... Please pray for my afflictions... God be with you and yours as you work for Him and give out the good news of salvation to those who don't know Him. May He watch over you as you travel, may He meet your every need is my daily prayer."

--Sis. Eva Cox

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From Okla.: "I am glad that we can report "victory in Jesus"... The Lord is so good to us. I don't know what I'd do without the dear Lord. I need Him so much and appreciate what He has done and is doing for me each day. Without Him I could do nothing but with Him all things are possible. I can never praise Him enough..."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

--Charlotte Dilliner

From Kansas: "I thank the Lord for the good meeting we had. Some of the messages were so deep and stirring and we truly thank the Lord for his faithfulness... I only wish we could tell of the beauty of salvation in such a way that people would actually listen to us and try it and stick to it so they could realize the great value of it... Hope to see you at the Guthrie campmeeting."

--Sis. Shirley Knight

--o--

From Fla.: "I am still praising God for all His goodness to me. I still get depressed and feel lonely and miss seeing the saints and all but am so thankful for a loving Heavenly Father that knows and cares and works things out for me and is such a comfort to me. I sure don't know how people can live without His love and care... I plan on going to Ky. to be with Verlie and family for the summer... Will you please pray that God will make a way for me to go to camp meeting this summer."

--Sis. Marie Lindner

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From Mo.: "We surely thank the Lord for his goodness and mercy to us. All here are very well at present as far as we know. We realize the Lord will come one of these days, then the door of mercy will be closed and it will be a sad day for the ones that are not ready to meet God in peace. I feel in my heart by His Spirit and Word I am ready and I want to keep ready and looking for Him."

--Sis. Katie Gibson

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From Colo.: "I am so thankful how the Lord has been helping me. I was 79 and can do quite a lot and get around real good. I do have a little arthritis in my right arm but I know Jesus is able to heal it as he did my left arm several years ago... keep remembering us all in prayer here... Hope all is better there." --Sis. Addie McEndree

From Okla.: "This is a bright sunny day the Lord hath given us. Let us rejoice and be glad. We as Christians ought to be a happy people for our Father is rich. So we are not poor. He has promised to never leave us if we walk in the way. He is the way. Psalms 107 tells us to praise the Lord."

--Sis. Minnie A. Adcock

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From Calif.: "I am yet saved and very much encouraged to keep pressing on because the Lord is so good to me. I could not make it without Him. I thank the Lord for healing me of sugar. I am just getting over a bad case of flu. I need strength and I have headache every day. Pray for me. I really enjoy reading Mission Trail. Please keep it coming... The time is getting short and I want to be ready."

--Jettie Mae Phillips

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From Ark.: "Just a few lines to say we're still enjoying your radio broadcast every Sunday morning. Remember us in prayer."

--Charles and Glendene Gramling

--o--

From Mo.: "I'm very well and still living for the Lord. He is so good to me. He will never turn us away... I'm praying for you all and the work you are doing for Him."

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From Colo.: "May God's richest blessings rest upon you, and your family. I am thankful to report that I have been better the last few weeks, as my asthma had been giving me so much trouble this last winter. Praise His Holy Name. We are still so very dry here and hope and pray God will send us a good rain soon. The dust storms have been so bad, but we are thankful for the nice weather we've had the last 3 days, and I'm sure God will provide again."

--Sis. Mary Wollert

From Mo.: "Holy Greetings in Jesus dear name. We hope you both are well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord... the Lord is so good to wife and myself. He blesses us in so many ways. We just couldn't get along without Him."

--Farmer and Ellen Wilson

--o--

From Ill.: "I am sorry I am late sending in for the little Mission Trail. I still need your prayers. I have a lot of pain in my leg and arm since I fell the 15th of December and broke my left leg and my right arm. Thanks to the dear Lord, I can get around good now and do my work."

--Sis. Ollie Gentry

--o--

From Guthrie: "I want to thank the Lord and you too, for all the alphabet messages. They have been real interesting and inspiring. They have helped me get a deeper insight on different lines of thought. And I want to be more observing and look for some things that perhaps I have not noticed as I read my blessed Bible. This last message on "Zeal" is an outstanding message to me. I must "keep on, keeping on" and fight the good fight of faith until I reach the "pearly gates." I'm so thankful I let Jesus come into my heart over 72 years ago. Also He sent His Holy Spirit to be my Guide and Teacher and guide me in the narrow way that leads to the "pearly gates" that I hope to enter some day. By faith and the grace of God I am thankful I can say I am a born again child of God with my name written in the "Lamb's book of Life" which will give me entrance through those gates of pearl, and I want to hear my Lord say: "Well done, ... enter thou into the joys of thy Lord" and I know that with much zeal and God's grace I must continually "walk in the light as He is in the light." I pray God to bless you as you faithfully labor for the salvation of souls."

--Sis. Vera Forbes

# at press time

we understand:

WELCOME to the Oklahoma campmeeting in Guthrie this year held from May 27th through June 5th.

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Congratulations to parents of Cynthia Dawn born April 6, 1977. Parents are Don and Anneta Williamson, Star R. 1, Box 49A, Olla, La. 71465.

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From Wisc.: "We have enjoyed the many Mission Trails sent to us... We thank the Lord for taking care of us during the recent weeks. On March 24th at 1:15 AM we received another one of the Lord's blessings -- a baby girl, Lynette Faith. Then a matter of days before, Socttie was sick and we are sure it must have been pneumonia. He could hardly talk and his little lungs pumped so hard but the Lord touched him and he's alright now. He's just 3 yrs. old, will be 4 in Nov. and he always wants to pray at night. It's not memorized, just whatever he happens to think of. The Lord willing, we plan to have some type of special services this spring. Remember this in prayer, as we desire others to have the privilege of hearing the word."

--Duane, Sue LaVeau and family

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We regret the death of Sammy Roberts. He was the son of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Grace Roberts.

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It is with sorrow we announce Charlie Nielsen, 50, died of cancer in Bakersfield, Calif. April 25. This is a great loss to his mother, Sis. Hilda Nielsen Box 34, Jefferson, Oregon 97352.

From Calif.: "My daughter lost her husband March 8th. So we have deep heartaches losing a son-in-law and husband in 3 months time. He passed suddenly with a heart attack..."

--Sis. Letha Reece

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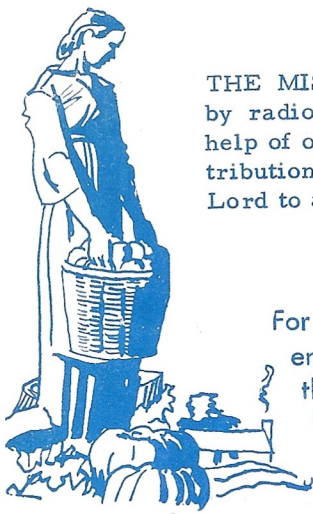
From Calif.: "Guess you know we now live in Calif. since Dec. 1. We love it here. God is good to us. Please keep sending us the Mission Trail. It is like a letter from home and how we enjoy it. Excuse this note... we need help from God. Campmeetings are coming up. We need strength to go. I need God to open mine ears! My hearing is so bad. I'm putting in for help. Pray with me and for me."

--Sis. Armilda Abbott

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What a wonderful privilege we had to enjoy the beauty of the great northwest and the hospitality of the saints in Jefferson, Oregon during their Easter services from April 10th through the 17th. We felt God's blessings for both soul and body, giving us grace and strength for the meeting, and also the trip by car which was well over 4,000 miles. We also visited the aged ones in the Rest Home in Pacoima, Calif. and was in meeting one night with the saints of Orland, Calif. So thanks Bro. Ostis, Sis. Evelyn and all the congregation of Jefferson, for a week pleasantly spent and we trust profitably, in the great northwest. As an added bonus we were able to spend some time with our children, Cliff and Patsy as well as the "grands" Julie, Rodney and Michael.

--Willie and Frances



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published in printed form by Willie Murphey with the help of others. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who are led by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to:

THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044



For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

## Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on one of the following stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
<b>KGGF</b>	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a. m.
<b>KCKW</b>	Jena, Louisiana	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a. m.
<b>WFPR</b>	Hammond, Louisiana	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a. m.
<b>KBOA</b>	Kennett, Missouri	830 kc.	Sunday, 8:30 a. m.

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