

The Return of Jesus

To Deborah Caldwell:
Thursday March 04, 2004

Dear Debbie:

I debated this letter for some time. We are now dealing with events that are unprecedented in world history. I know the enormity of what I am about to say. I simply did not know how to handle it.

I decided that you would be the most appropriate person to address. I needed someone who was sincere about God, and who had some understanding of my personal spiritual situation these many years.

I do not speak here of the mythological images of fundamentalist Christianity; I speak about the mighty Creator of a Universe.

Jesus is coming back. He is not coming back as a man; he is coming back as God.

His return is imminent.

I am sure I would not have come to this understanding unless that event was about to descend upon us.

In all of my studies of his holy words to us, in the Old Testament, in the New, in the extraneous texts, and in the Urantia Papers, for nearly forty years, I found no indication of this event except in vague terms. He had promised to return but the timing and nature of that return were not described to us.

Revelation is important to our understanding:

P.1863 - §13 Although Jesus referred one phase of the kingdom to the future and did, on numerous occasions, intimate that such an event might appear as a part of a world crisis; and though he did likewise most certainly, on several occasions, definitely promise sometime to return to Urantia, it should be recorded that he never positively linked these two ideas together. He promised a new revelation of the kingdom on earth and at some future time; he also promised sometime to come back to this world in person; but he did not say that these two events were synonymous. From all we know these promises may, or may not, refer to the same event.

I can now say with great certainty that these promises refer to the same event. We are now entering the gravest crisis this world has ever seen. Jesus is returning to personally supervise this extreme condition.

He is the only personality in the universe who has sufficient power, as Creator, to prevent total world physical destruction.

In the New Testament we have only smatterings of this promise. Matt 23:39 – “*For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'*” Or the more famous one in Matt 24:30 – “*Then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*”

Jesus did not describe this sign for us. Hence, we had no way to understand his words. We now do.

We should use care. We can see that he will come on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. He will not come as the babe of Bethlehem.

Not until I began my study of the Apparitions of Mary occurring within the body of the Roman Catholic Church did I get even a glimpse of this possibility.

During the summer months of 1917 three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal were visited on the 13th day of each month from May to October. They were told of a series of events to occur at the end of the age. Included was the devastating destruction of our civilization, but misunderstood by the children and their compatriots and distorted into weird scenarios. Among the later written descriptions by Lucy dos Santos, the leading Fatima seer, in the early 1940's, was this crucial one. As the Apparition stated to the children:

When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign God gives you that He is about to punish the world for its crimes by means of war, famine and persecutions against the Church and the Holy Father.

The extreme urgency the children felt over the conversion of the world, and the huge masses of human kind who would go to perdition, is indicated by the following remark from Jacinta, Lucy's cousin. After one visitation when Lucy saw her in deep thought she asked Jacinta what she was thinking about. Jacinta replied:

About the war that is coming: So many people are going to die, and almost all of them are going to hell! Many homes will be destroyed, and many priests will be killed. Look, I am going to heaven, and as for you, when you see the light which the Lady told us would come one night before the war, you run up there too.

A deplorable distortion by the children was their belief that their revelations of nuclear destructions were scenes of hell. While we might symbolically identify such world event as pure hell, the application sorrowfully misdirected understanding.

We can clearly see that this **unknown light** would come **before** the final conflagration.

Go back and consider the remarks Jesus made about his return. As he said In Matt 24:30, "*Then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven.*" Now consider what Lucy said, "*When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign God gives you.*"

God, with his personal presence, will give us this sign.

Clearly, if Jesus were physically visible he would not need a sign.

Another part of Lucy's distortion was her belief that a great display of an aurora borealis in 1938 was this sign. When she later wrote the passage I quoted above she thought that the 1938 event was the unknown light, and was styling her description to match that event. Thus she said it would appear at night. In attempts to understand matters much beyond her conceptual range she substituted natural events.

The crucial element is the ***unknown light***.

Jesus is not returning as a physical being. He is returning as a spiritual being, as the Creator of the

universe. He will not be visible to our physical eyes. But his spiritual presence will be accompanied by visible phenomena. His presence will envelop the world in this unknown spiritual light.

The Light will show us his great glory.

This event will happen suddenly, abruptly. Every person on earth will witness this light. There will not be any doubt in the mind of anyone that this is an event never before witnessed on earth.

Godless astronomers may believe it is light from a distant supernova explosion, or some such astrophysical event. Many godless minds may follow that belief.

But the presence of the Creator of the universe, in his spiritual power, will produce mighty spiritual effects.

The spiritual contests now taking place on our world will be magnified multifold. Those whose hearts are centered on God will become more devout. Those whose hearts are centered on the Fallen One will become more evil. This evil will not be manifested according to our foolish and common notions about immorality. Such situation is already upon us. Rather it will be manifested by intense desire to rid the earth of those who express love for their Creator.

We should give regard to the social loathing such claims will stir in godless minds. Major segments of the world will turn against us. Men do not want to know that they are responsible to a Creator.

Concomitant with the spiritual presence of Jesus will be the liberation of the Fallen Prince from his long restraint as a spiritual being. Remember what Jesus said in John 12:31? Shortly before he was killed he cast the Devil from his heavenly position. But he did not remove him from this world. Remember what Paul said in II Thess 2:3? Jesus will not come until the rebellion takes place. Although Paul confused events he had the kernel of the truth of the matter. The Devil will now be able to marshal his human cadres to bring about a massive religious persecution.

At the same time Jesus will call his human agents, those prepared in their deep minds to be of service for the salvation of his people.

Now true revelation will spread throughout the world. The foolish myths of the past will be forgotten. Every person on earth will be given an opportunity to decide his or her eternal fate, in the spiritual presence of our Creator.

We should recognize that this great battle will unfold at the purely human level. No celestial beings will make themselves visible. While the spiritual influences of both God and the Devil will now be displayed, human beings will perform according to their response to those influences. This will be a great spiritual battle with human beings as the soldiers.

Remember something else Jesus said:

Matt 10: 16-22 and Mark 13:9-13

"But take heed to yourselves; for they will deliver you up to councils; and flog you in their synagogues (and churches); and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony. And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say; but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of the Father speaking through you. And brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and

you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Jesus did not mean saved from physical torture and death; he meant eternal salvation in heaven.

This unprecedented episode will go down in the annals of the universe, as a memorial to faith and devotion in the face of abominable opposition through physical death. Now this world will gain its reputation as the Sentimental Shrine of all Nebadon.

In time, the human memory of this event may fade, but the universe will never forget.

Again, we should heed the words of Jesus as they were recorded:

Matt 24:9-14

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation, and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, and betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because wickedness is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come.

I cannot express the depth of my feelings concerning the nature of these imminent events. But I know that –

"Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."

Then you will be able to say about these human servants: *'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'*

Will you be one of those?

Ernest

Copies to many persons.