

I was in the world, I was the light of the world, and I had to work the works of Him that sent me while it was day ; when I was cut off out of the land of the living the night came, and lasted two thousand years, and no man could work My works—i.e., heal Israel of his sickness. But now I am again in the world, the night is over—our friend Lazarus (Israel) sleepeth ; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

12, 13. Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death ; but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.—Many think that Israel is dead and will never be brought to life again. Therefore when the Lord says, Israel sleepeth, they take His words in the literal sense, and think if Israel is not dead, if he sleepeth only, he shall do well. But the Lord Jesus knows that Israel is dead and has no life. Israel's life and the length of his days is the Lord his God, and his God is not among his people (Deut. 30 : 20 ; 31 : 17.)

14-16. Therefore says Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus (Israel) is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there (among Israel) to the intent ye may believe—that the dry bones of Israel can live, and that ye may know that the Lord does sanctify Israel, when His sanctuary shall be in the midst of them forevermore (Ezek. 37).

17. Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.—At the second advent of Christ, Israel shall have lain in the grave of unbelief four thousand years. Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day, I have sent unto you all my servants . . . yet they hearkened not unto me (Jer. 7 : 25, 26).

18, 19. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem . . . and many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.—Many converts of the Jews which join the two churches comfort them concerning Israel, showing by their own conversion that there is a remnant of Israel according to the election of grace.

20. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went out and met Him : but Mary sat still in the house.—The Roman Catholic Church will probably first meet the Lord at His second coming.*

21, 22. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee.—The Roman Catholic Church flatters the Lord Jesus and worships Him only with the aim to receive through Him worldly benefits.

23. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.—And what shall the receiving of them be but life from the dead !

24-26. Martha said unto Him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection of the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection,

* We give the author's comments as they appear, without change.