

## PREMILLENIALISM.\*

There are many different shades of view regarding this doctrine, but it may be broadly stated as follows:

Christ is coming. He may come at any moment. When He comes, the dead in Christ shall be raised. He will set up an earthly kingdom, probably in Jerusalem. His risen saints shall live and reign with him there. The work of evangelizing the world will then go on more rapidly than ever before, because Satan will be in bonds. Christ's kingdom will be spread over the whole earth. At the end of this period the dead out of Christ shall be raised, the general judgment will take place, and the end of the world shall come.

This doctrine of two resurrections rests upon a single passage in an obscure, prophetic, symbolic chapter, viz., Rev. xx, where, from other parts of the Word of God, the "first resurrection" evidently refers to a spiritual resurrection, and over those who share it the second death hath no power.

The great question in connection with Christ's second coming is not whether He shall come in visible bodily presence. The Scriptures plainly teach that He will do so. Neither is the question, "When He shall come", for "of that day and hour knoweth no man." The question is, "What He will come to do?" The premillennialists teach that He will come, not to terminate this earthly, fleshly state, but merely to "set it up in a new form; when, with His glorified saints, the Redeemer will reign in person on the throne of David at Jerusalem for a thousand years, over a world of men yet in the flesh, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, under this mysterious sway."

The common teaching of the Christian church is that He will come to put an end to the present state of things, that at His coming all the dead shall be raised and judged and shall enter on a changeless eternal state.

The post millennial or common view has been summed up in the following propositions. We give in connection with the

propositions some of the texts by which they are supported.

I. *The Church will be absolutely complete at Christ's coming.*

1 Cor. xv: 23—"Christ, the first fruits, afterward they that are Christ's—(the full harvest)—at His coming.

Read Eph. v: 25-27—Where Christ presents himself with a glorious church, complete, wanting nothing.

2 Thes. 1: 10—"He shall come to be glorified in His saints and admired in all them that believe—in that day.

II. *"Christ's second coming will exhaust the object of the Scriptures."*

"His coming is the goal of all revelation, its farthest horizon, its last terminus, its Sabbath and Heaven."

(1.) *His coming will exhaust the object of Scripture with regard to believers.*

"Occupy till I come." Luke xix: 13.

"Take heed—until the day dawn, &c." 2 Pet. i: 19.

"Be patient—unto the coming of the Lord." James v: 7.

"Crown to be given—at that day to all them that love His appearing." 2 Tim. iv: 8.

(2.) *His coming will exhaust the object of Scripture with regard to unbelievers.*

See the warnings of His coming in: 2 Thes. i: 17-10; 2 Pet. iii: 10; Luke xiii: 39, 40; Luke xvii: 26, 27, 30.

III. *The sealing ordinances of the New Testament will disappear at Christ's second coming.*

(1.) *Baptism.* "Go—disciple—baptizing, &c.—And lo I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Matt. xxviii: 18-20. From this we learn that preaching, making disciples, and the public acknowledgment of them by baptism, all began when he left the earth, and were to continue without change to the end of the world or age, which, all agree, is His second coming, the plain inference being that these things shall then all take end.

(2.) *The Lord's Supper.* "As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ye do shew the Lord's death till He come." 1 Cor. xi: 26.

IV. *The intercession of Christ and the work of the Spirit, for saving purposes, will cease at the second advent.*

Heb. ix: 12, 24-28.

The teaching of this passage is, that Christ died for sin, that He now intercedes

\*The above is taken, much of it quoted literally, from "Christ's Second Coming—Will it be Premillennial?"—by Rev. David Brown, probably the best work that has ever been written on the subject. It is a book that we would advise any of our readers who take an interest in the subject to procure and study. It may be ordered of the Book and Tract Society, Halifax.