

**"CHRIST COMING WITH CLOUDS"****Introduction**

1. Christ is here on trial – a strange sight
2. There were six trials of Christ
3. This reply is awesome

**DOCTRINE:** The Lord Jesus Christ will come again one day.

**1. THIS IS AN EVENT VERY CLEARLY TAUGHT BY GOD**

- 1) We do not know when – a mistake to try.
- 2) We are informed of signs which will go before this event:
  - (i) gospel to all nations
  - (ii) antichrist
  - (iii) men secure in sin
  - (iv) "Peace and safety"
- 3) The Bible uses difficult terms for it:
  - (i) PAROUSIA: "arrival" of a great king...
  - (ii) APOCALYPSE: "revelation", "unveiling".
  - (iii) APPEARANCE: Heb. 9:28 – perhaps a reference to the High Priest on Day of Atonement in OT times.
  - (iv) EPIPHANY: great and brilliant appearance.

**ILLUSTRATION:** a comet; lightening

**APPLICATION:**

  - It will take most people by surprise
  - What sights and sounds
  - This is how history will end
  - Are you ready for this day?

**2. THIS EVENT HAS A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE LIVES OF ALL WHO BELIEVE IN IT**

- 1) Look at the early Christians:
  - (i) Acts 1:11

- (ii) Peter's preaching: Acts 3:19-21
- (iii) Paul at Athens: Acts 17:31

- 2) It was a powerful motive for service:
  - (i) "Watch and pray", said Christ
  - (ii) The day of the Lord...thief in the night"
  - (iii) We must all stand..."
  - (iv) "Even so, come, Lord Jesus"
  - (v) "Lest he find you sleeping"

**APPLICATION:** There is a vast difference in how we live, when we know Christ may come at any time.

**ILLUSTRATION:** The recent tsunami.

- 3) How should this fact change us?
  - (i) live a careful, godly life
  - (ii) regular habits of prayer...
  - (iii) readiness to witness for Christ
  - (iv) spend your life in the service of this great Saviour

**ILLUSTRATION:** the weights of a great clock

**APPLICATION:** Have we all understood these words, "The love of Christ constraineth us".

**3. THE UNGODLY WILL GET A TERRIBLE SHOCK WHEN CHRIST RETURNS**

- 1) TEXT:
  - (i) Jesus is now under OATH
  - (ii) English: "You are quite right"
  - (iii) Not "thou" but "you"
- 2) What false ideas of Christ some have:
  - (i) Just a sentimental idea: the manger
  - (ii) a Dead Christ: the crucifix
  - (iii) a historical figure "blown out of all proportion": "The myth of God Incarnate", as someone has put it.
- 3) We see how Christ's return will affect all the world:
  - (i) "All tribes of the earth...mourn"
  - (ii) Say to the hills, "Fall on us"
  - (iii) "As a thief in the night...destruction"

(iv) "Elements melt with a fervent heat"

4) How different the Second Coming from the First:

- (i) privately v. publicly
- (ii) 'in disguise' v. in his glory
- (iii) alone v. accompanied
- (iv) to suffer v. to judge and to reign

### **CONCLUSION**

- 1. Unhappy Caiaphas.
- 2. What about you?

**PSALM**

**98: 4 – 9**

**50<sup>1</sup>: 1 – 6**

**96: 10 - 13**