

Christ's Second Coming It Is Now Near at Hand!

A Most Startling Lecture On the Above Subject Delivered August 8, 1898, in Omaha by Elder Luther Warren, of Chicago the Adventist.

Christ's Prophecy, Which Is Recorded In Matthew 24, Mark 14 and Luke 21 Fulfilled---His Return Only Future.

For something like two weeks the Adventists have been holding a series of meetings in a large tent in Omaha, at which Elder Luther Warren of Chicago has been the principal speaker. We were present last Monday night. His lecture was so full of interesting statements that we made the following synopsis of what he said:

Some people tell me that they expect Christ to come again; that He may come today or that He may not come for a thousand years, but do you think I would be looking very anxiously for a friend's coming if I believed he might come today or that he might not come for a thousand years? Wouldn't I just say to myself if my friend's coming is so uncertain as that that I would believe he was coming when I saw him, and not before? That is the case of the people today who believe Christ may come today or that He may not come for a thousand years. But there are people who believe that Christ is coming soon, that He is already at the door. I cannot tell you the day or the hour, or the year that He will come; no man knows that. You will find that stated in Matthew, 25th chapter, 13th verse: "Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh." But you will remember that Christ had often told His disciples that He would come again and set up His kingdom. His disciples came to him on the Mount of Olives and asked Him concerning those things—they asked Him a three-fold question and Jesus answered them, giving a three-fold answer. You will find the reports of the conversation in the 24th chapter of Matthew, the 13th chapter of Mark and the 21st chapter of Luke. If you will read each of those chapters you will get His answer in full and know why the second coming is near at hand.

second sign did not apply to the days of the apostles, but to the days that were to follow. Then Christ gave them a third sign by which they might know the end was near at hand and that He would soon, very soon, come and set up His kingdom. It was this: "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." The gospel is being preached in all nations today. That is the last sign which he gave His people so they might know of the nearness of His coming. But He was not satisfied that He had made it exactly clear to His disciples, so He went over it again in a different way. He started right in again, as if He had not already answered their questions, and, speaking first to the apostles, then to those that followed them, and finally to those of our day. He said, to the apostles: "When ye therefore shall see the abominations of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whose readeth, let him understand), then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains, let him which is on the housetop not come down or take anything out of his house; neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes; and woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Luke's account of this conversation, 21st chapter and 20th verse, instead of saying, as Matthew did, that, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place," Luke says, "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh; then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out and let not them that are in the countries enter thereunto." Did those things happen? Yes; 39 years after Christ Titus marched his great army against Jerusalem and surrounded it. But you may ask if he surrounded it how could the Christians flee to the mountains? They were to trust in God and flee, those on the housetops were not to come down—they were to run across the houses toward the mountains, (you know people in those days lived in flat-topped houses, and upon their roofs) and those in the fields were not to return, but all were to flee immediately to the mountains. And when the great Roman army was seen encompassing Jerusalem the Christians, remembering Christ's advice, ran toward the mountains. For some inscrutable reason, Titus, after surrounding the city with his army, withdrew, and, after the Christians had escaped, came up a second time and began the siege that is memorable in history because of the suffering that preceded the destruction of the holy city. Mothers boiled their own babies and ate them. Ah! there was great tribulation, such as Jerusalem had never known up until that time, and such as it shall never know again. This disposes of the sign for the apostles. What came next? The days of persecution, and Christ said: "And except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." You will remember, you who were here last evening, that from 538 A. D. for 1,260 years, down to 1798, occurred that long period of per-



Uncle Sam Can Administer a Death-Blow to Jesuitism Now. Will He Do It?

secution when thousands, yes, millions of Christians lost their lives for their faith. There were no persecutions between 1773 and 1798, but that was because the days of persecution had been shortened, because the influence of the Reformation was being felt, and liberty of conscience was taking root in the world.

Then Christ spoke to them of the last days. He said again that false Christs and false prophets would arise who would show great signs and wonders, inasmuch that, if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. Then He said: "Behold! I have told you before: Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold He is in the desert, go not forth; behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not, for, as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be." You remember the Deity? Christ—someone is to come as Christ in the great American desert—and I tell you that there will be a man appear in New York, or in Chicago, or some other large city, probably in Omaha, who will perform all the miracles that Christ performed, or appear to, and that the railroads will run excursions and many people will go to see him, but go ye not forth. He will even cause fire to come down from heaven. But I have not time to go into this fully tonight; we will have to hurry on. From 1773 to 1798 the persecutions ceased, and Christ said, Matthew 24, 29, "Immediately after those days," (Mark gives it, 13th chapter, 24th verse, "But in those days,") "shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken, and then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Then we may expect the sun to be darkened between 1773 and 1798. Has the sun been darkened? Yes; May 19, 1780, it was darkened from 10 o'clock. You will find an account of this dark day in Webster's dictionary under "The Dark Day," (page 1604). In that definition you will see it stated that "the true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known." People thought the world was coming to an end. But it did not; there were other signs to be seen before it was to be destroyed. The moon was to be as blood and not give its light, the stars were to fall and the Word of God was to be preached in all the world. Has the moon refused to give its light? Yes, the night of the day which was darkened, May 19, 1780, it had no lustre although it was at its full. When it did appear it was as a great ball of blood, and you could not distinguish the difference between a piece of white

paper and a black cloth held fifteen inches from the eyes. After the sign of the moon was to appear the sign of the falling of the stars. Did that occur? Yes; November 13, 1833, the stars fell. But how? Did they all fall one way, in one direction? No! But they fell this way, and that way, and the other; just as the trees in the orchard cast their green fruit during a wind, so were the stars cast from heaven. Those who saw the stars fall say they fell in all directions, but that they all appeared to start from one point. I wonder how many present tonight saw the stars fall November 13, 1833. Who is present tonight who saw that sign? Here is one; and here is another; two. In an audience of this size there are generally from six to a dozen who saw that sign, but they are growing fewer in numbers each year. They are passing away one by one, but Christ said "this generation shall not pass until all these things be done." You will find that language used in this same conversation with the Apostles, and reported in Mark 13, 30, and also in Matthew, c. 24, v. 33 and 34. As that sign of the stars occurred in 1833 it will be 65 years the 13th day of next November since God hung out His last sign or His last advertisement, in the heavens, of His coming and those who are living, or who have been, or who will be, at that time must be over 65 years of age, and those who saw it and remember it must have been 5 or 10 years of age at the time it occurred, which would make them 70 or 75 years of age today. Yet God has said, this generation shall not pass until all these things come to pass. The destruction of Jerusalem was witnessed by Christians 39 years after the prophecy of Jesus Christ; the persecutions for His name's sake occurred between the years 538 and 1798; and the sun has been darkened, and the moon refused to give her light; the stars have fallen and the Scriptures are being preached to all nations, and those who will see the Savior coming "in clouds, with great power and glory," although they are 70 and 80 years of age.

Oh! my beloved, are you ready? Are you waiting for his coming with joy and thanksgiving? He loves you; whether you love Him or not—He loves you; and He will forgive you all your sins if you will ask Him, and He will give you a portion in His kingdom if you will believe on Him and obey His commandments. Are you ready?

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RECEIVED THE FULL PENALTY.

Pope Anathematizes Independent Catholic Bishop of Chicago, Ill.

While the Major Excommunication Does Not Say It in So Many Words It Is Understood By All True Catholics to Be a Fious Duty to Deprive Him of Life.

Anthony Kozlowski, former priest at St. Stanislaus Church, Chicago, may now regard himself as absolutely and finally cut off from the Roman Catholic Church. The edict of excommunication against him has been read in all the Catholic churches of Illinois, and was read on Sunday to all Catholic congregations in the northern Indiana diocese, as it will be in the churches throughout the country.

The reading of this pontifical fiat has aroused much interest in and out of the Roman Catholic Church. The chief point of dissimilarity between this particular banishment and the many instances in which rebellious priests have been defrocked is the odium which in this case attaches to any member of the Catholic Church who in any way aids, countenances, or holds with Kozlowski communication of any kind whatever. The person so doing is included in the bull of excommunication directed against the ex-priest.

It is said this is the first case in America of "major excommunication." Kozlowski is now conducting an independent church at Lubek street and Hoyne avenue.

The edict of excommunication is as follows:

"Whereas, it has been made known to the Holy See from undoubted documents that priest, Anthony Kozlowski, by origin a Pole, now being in the archdiocese of Chicago, has contumaciously rebelled against legitimate ecclesiastical authority, and, moreover, calls himself Bishop of the Catholic Independent Diocese of Chicago, has published a letter which he calls a pastoral, in which he says that he received Episcopal consecration from certain heretical Bishops in Switzerland.

"Our Most Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII, in an audience of the 26th day of April, 1898, ordered that in his name, by the present decree of this sacred congregation de propaganda fide, it should be declared that the pseudo-Bishop Kozlowski has incurred 'major excommunication' reserved in the Roman constitution 'Apostolicae Sedis'.

"Moreover, his Holiness commands

that the sentence of excommunication be published with proper instructions not only by the ordinary of Chicago, in his diocese, but also by each and every one of the ordinaries of the United States of North America.

"Given at Rome from the Palace of the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide, on the 24 day of May, 1898, 'M. CARD. LEDOCHOWSKI, Pref. 'A. ARCHIEP. LARISS, Sec.'"

In connection with the promulgation of the papal edict, the following letter was sent to the various churches in the diocese by the Archbishop:

"Reverend and Dear Sir: By order of our Holy Father, the Pope, the enclosed document are to be published in all the churches of the archdiocese of Chicago. On next Sunday, therefore, you will have them read publicly in your church at all the masses. The first is a letter from the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda. The second is a decree in the name and by the authority of the Pope, excommunicating by name, 'major excommunication,' the pseudo-Bishop, Anthony Kozlowski.

"...is excommunication is by the constitution 'Apostolicae Sedis' reserved to the Pope alone. It is the greatest, the severest punishment the church can inflict. It is the expulsion from the exterior and interior membership of the church, the complete withdrawal of all graces and privileges acquired by baptism, the separation from the living body of Christ, and a thrusting back into the helpless state of unredeemed man.

"By the present decree Anthony Kozlowski, excommunicated by name by the Pope by major excommunication, is suspended ab officio et beneficio; hence he cannot say mass nor administer nor receive the sacraments, nor perform any other sacred function; neither can he exercise any ecclesiastical office, dignity, or benefice. If he should attempt to hear confessions his absolution would be invalid. He is excluded from all share in the public prayers of the church. He cannot assist at mass or other ecclesiastical function. If he should die in that state he should be deprived of Christian burial.

"All who aid and abet him in the crime for which he has been excommunicated by name by the Sovereign Pontiff also incur major excommunication and all its effects. The faithful under grave penalty are absolutely forbidden to have any intercourse or communication with him. You will please read the foregoing and make the whole matter perfectly clear and intelligible to all the people. I remain, reverend and dear sir, your obedient servant in Christ,

"P. A. FEHMAN,
Archbishop of Chicago."

In the "Elements of Ecclesiastical (Continued on Page 4.)