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THE COMING OF THE LORD.

Some time ago the Deseret News published accounts of the marvellous works of one Francis Schlader, of Albuquerque, N. M., who by a touch of his hands made the blind to see, the deaf to hear and the lame to walk. It is now reported that he has come out with a declaration to the effect that he is Jesus Christ, who have returned to earth. According to a dispatch to a Denver paper, one of his callers, Rev. Charles L. Howard, in the course of a conversation asked him if he claimed to be the Savior. He replied: "I am, since you have asked me, sir; I say plainly, I am. I am not here to give information, but I will always answer direct questions."

The conversation then continued:

Do you claim to be the Christ that died on Calvary?

Yes.

Do you believe in the teachings of the Bible?

Yes; it is the holy scripture.

But the Bible says Christ was a Hebrew. You are not a Hebrew.

No; but this is my third life.

Why do you call upon the Master God to your aid?

I have not yet reached perfection. When my forty-day fast is over—I have yet six days more—I will be stronger, and some time I will reach perfection.

It is claimed that this strange man has not tasted food for a long time, his purpose being to fast forty days as a preparation for his supposed mission on earth.

Schlader is not the only one who at this time claims to be the Christ. Schweinfurth has for some time been before the public with similar pretensions, and there are others, less widely known.

Latter-day Saints, and others interested in the great work of redemption, cannot fail to pause and reflect when such strange manifestations of error appear. When our Lord, at the close of His ministry on earth, predicted the end of the ancient dispensation and of "the world," His disciples asked Him for some signs preceding these epoch-making events. His reply was first of all a warning: "Take heed that no man deceive you," and then the statement that "many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many." He further tells of wars and rumors of wars and other calamities; of persecutions and of apostasy among the believers and an abundance of iniquity; but repeatedly He calls attention to false pretenders: "Many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many." Again:

If any man shall say unto you, lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

All these things happened before the termination of the Mosaic era, just as the Master had foretold it. His followers saw the signs and were prepared, and generally found a refuge from the destruction, as ancient ecclesiastical historians testify. It is for the believers of this age to give heed to the same signs now multiplying, for Divine judgment is that the dispensation is drawing to a close. And it is of special importance to remember that faithfulness and wisdom in the service of the Lord, whatever the position in the Church may be, are the attributes to commend at His coming. For it says:

Who is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household? . . . Blessed is that servant whom his lord when he cometh shall make ruler over his household, to give him meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites.

It cannot be denied that in the world, as never before, the key powers are making great and strong a manifestation that cause the great question to be asked, Do men see the signs that mark under the Divine control of the operations of the Almighty, heralding a change in the most abstruse sense, if not of infinity to the skilful inquirer of divine truth, grace and salvation, on the other side in the Lord and His Church, pure and LIVING? It is a holy war, on which the fate of the world depends.

The revelations given through Joseph the Prophet on the subject of the termination of this dispensation and the coming of the son of Man are of much interest and deserve thoughtful study. In Section 45 of Doctrine and Covenants an outline of coming events is given. Concerning the Jews it is here stated that they shall remain scattered until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, which period is greater of labor. Wars, rumors of war, commotion among the nations, and the falling exhaust are among the characteristics of the closing years. Earthquakes shall be in many places and sea and waves. Various signs in the heavens are predicted before the gathering of the Saints and before the coming of the Bridegroom. The consummation of the Saints who remain before the end of the Lord falls upon the earth, but their preparation being made, "the Lord shall arise to visit the earth, and all the ends of the earth shall know that the Lord reigneth. Then the Jews will be convinced that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the tribes shall be gathered in their lands and be established in all their territories. Then shall the Saints be caught up to meet God, and be with the Bridegroom when he comes to the earth, to reign on the earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall be burned up, and the end of the earth shall come. Then shall the Lord say unto Jesus, Go thou and gather together thy jewels, and those who have received a portion with thee in the wilderness, and those who have not received a portion in the wilderness, and those who have received their portion, and those who have not received their portion, and those who have received their portion in the wilderness, and those who have not received their portion in the wilderness, even those who are in the four quarters of the earth, bring them in, that they may be crowned with glory, even as thou art, that they may be one with you, even as I am one with the Father, that we may be one, even as we are one, that we may be glorified in you before the world, that we may be glorified in you before the Father, even the Father with us, that we may reign on the earth a thousand years, even the Father with us, that we may reign on the earth a thousand years, even the Father with us, that we may reign on the earth a thousand years