

January 4

# The Hope Of The Second Coming

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20.

The [second] coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. **The Saviour's parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim. Amid suffering and persecution, "the appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" was the "blessed hope."** When the Thessalonian Christians were filled with grief as they buried their loved ones, who had hoped to live to witness the coming of the Lord, Paul, their teacher, pointed them to the resurrection, to take place at the Saviour's advent. Then the dead in Christ should rise, and together with the living be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. "And so," he said, "shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another



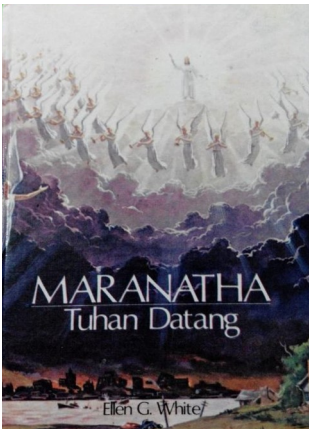
with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18....

From the dungeon, the stake, the scaffold, where saints and martyrs witnessed for the truth, comes down the centuries the utterance of their faith and hope. Being "assured of His personal resurrection, and consequently of their own at His coming, for this cause," says one of these Christians, "they despised death, and were found to be above it."—Daniel T. Taylor, *The Reign of Christ on Earth: or, The Voice of the Church in All Ages*, p. 33. They were willing to go down to the grave, that they might "rise

free." They looked for the "Lord to come from heaven in the clouds with the glory of His Father," "bringing to the just the times of the kingdom." The Waldenses cherished the same faith. Wycliffe looked forward to

the Redeemer's appearing as the hope of the church.<sup>4</sup>The Great Controversy, 302, 303.

**On rocky Patmos the beloved disciple hears the promise, "Surely I come quickly," and his longing response voices the prayer of the church in all her pilgrimage, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:20.**<sup>5</sup>The Great Controversy, 302.



# Pengharapan Akan Kedatangan Yang Kedua

Ia yang memberi kesaksian tentang semuanya ini, berfirman: “Ya, Aku datang segera!” Amin, datanglah, Tuhan Yesus. Wahyu 22:20.

Kedatangan [yang kedua] Tuhan kita telah menjadi pengharapan para pengikut sejatiNya selama berabad-abad. **Janji perpisahan Sang Juruselamat di bukit Zaitun, bahwa Dia akan datang lagi, memberikan pencerahan masa depan bagi para muridNya, memenuhi hati mereka dengan sukacita dan pengharapan di mana kesedihan tidak dapat memadamkan maupun meredupkannya.** Di tengah-tengah penderitaan dan penganiayaan, “kedatangan Allah yang besar dan Juruselamat kita Yesus Kristus” adalah “pengharapan yang terberkati”. Ketika orang-orang Kristen Tesalonika diliputi dukacita tatkala mereka menguburkan orang-orang yang mereka kasihi, yang telah berharap untuk terus hidup demi menyaksikan kedatangan Tuhan kita, maka Paulus, guru mereka, menyampaikan kepada mereka tentang kebangkitan, yang terjadi pada kedatangan Sang Juruselamat. Maka mereka yang mati dalam Kristus akan lebih dahulu bangkit, sesudah



itu, kita yang hidup, yang masih tinggal, akan diangkat bersama-sama dengan mereka dalam awan menyongsong Tuhan di angkasa. “Dan demikianlah”, katanya, “kita akan selama-lamanya bersama-sama dengan Tuhan. Karena itu hiburkanlah seorang akan yang lain dengan perkataan-perkataan ini.” 1 Tesalonika 4:16-18. 12.1

Dari penjara, tiang gantung, mimbar, di mana orang-orang kudus dan para martir bersaksi demi kebenaran, mengalir ucapan iman dan pengharapan mereka selama berabad-abad. Oleh karena “dijamin oleh kebangkitanNya, dan sebagai konsekuensinya kebangkitan mereka pada saat kedatangannya, demi perkara ini,” kata salah seorang Kristen, “mereka meremehkan ke-

matian, tidak takut mati.”—Daniel T. Taylor, *The Reign of Christ on Earth: or, The Voice of the Church in All Ages*, hlm. 33. Mereka rela masuk kubur agar mereka “bangkit dengan bebas”. Mereka menantikan “Tuhan turun dari surga di dalam awan-awan dengan kemuliaan BapaNya,” “membawa masa kerajaanNya pada orang-orang benar.” Orang-orang Waldensia berharap pada iman yang sama. Wycliffe menantikan kedatangan Sang Penebus sebagai pengharapan gereja. 12.2

**Di pulau Patmos murid yang terkasih itu mendengar janji, “Ya, Aku datang segera,” dan jawaban kerinduannya menyuarakan doa gereja di dalam semua ziarahnya, “Datanglah Tuhan Yesus.” Wahyu 22:20. 12.3**