

And that after that coming to His own people and taking them to Himself, then there will be a whole series of events described in Rev<sup>o</sup>, and mentioned in other places, that  $\lambda$  will occur. But the Chn<sup>o</sup> will not have to go through those particular events. Now there are some ~~men~~ people who hate this doctrine very much. And I don't see why they should. For one thing I've seen pamphlets with this statement: "Is there one second coming or two second ~~is~~ comings?" Just as if that settled the whole  $\lambda$ matter. Everything about the return of Christ has got to come at one instant ~~you see~~ you see. Well it's ridiculous. When was the first coming of Christ? Was it at the conception by the Virgin ~~Mary~~ Mary? Was it at His birth? Was it when He began His preaching? Was it when He was crucified? Was it when He was raised from the dead? There's a whole series of phases of His first coming. And why should there not be steps and phases in the second coming? It's a ~~ridiculous~~ ridiculous argument. And then I've known people who call it ~~the~~ "rocking-chair ~~theology~~ theology." They say people are afraid to go through the tribulation, so they make out the Lord's going to come for them before the tribulation. Well, Jesus said, "In the world you shall have tribulation." No Chn<sup>o</sup> can escape tribulation/. Some of us have a little; some have a great deal, and some of us have to go through terrible tribulation. Certainly never in all history have Chns<sup>o</sup> gone through greater tribulation than they have been going through in Communist China in these last  $\lambda$  thirty years. The Bible never says the Chn<sup>o</sup> is going to escape tribulation. It says there is one great tribulation that the Chn<sup>o</sup> will not be involved in. That is, if the Chn<sup>o</sup> has become a Chn<sup>o</sup> prior to the rapture; he will not be involved in <sup>particular</sup> that/tribulation/. We don't know whether Christ is going to come when everything is smooth and lovely; or whether He is going to come when we are in the midst of what seems to us like terrible tribulation. We don't know what the situation will be when He comes, but He says "in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh!" Now these passages - you notice how many times He says this in Matt<sup>o</sup>. And in the other gospels too it is ~~great~~ stressed that we should always be ready, "for in such an hour as ye think ~~not~~ not the Son of man cometh."