

THE APPROACHING ADVENT OF CHRIST

By Alexander Reese

Published by Marshall, Morgan & Scott, Ltd., London. Distributed in
the United States by Zondervan Publishing House.

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One wishes it were possible wholeheartedly to recommend this thought-provoking book. Much hard work and wide reading has gone into its preparation. Its title suggests that it deals with the most timely subject of present concern. Unfortunately the title promises something quite different from what the book actually presents. This book, so far from being a comprehensive treatise on the Second Advent, is devoted throughout to one question alone, whether the Church goes through the Great Tribulation before being caught up to meet its Lord in the air. Mr. Reese is determined with all his soul to undertake to prove that it does. It is as if one were to entitle a book, "The Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt", and then to devote it entirely to a discussion of the attitude of President Roosevelt toward the American Legion.

Aside altogether from the rightness or wrongness of the proposition, one is impelled to consider whether such a book is of real use. Certainly it is well that men investigate any question with which God's Word deals. Any light that can be shed upon its attitude regarding any question whatever is of value. At the same time we must recognize that many matters are taught clearly in the Bible, while many others are left without the means for their complete determination. The so-called Liberal takes the attitude that nothing of factual or prophetic nature is of importance as regards Christian fellowship. "Let us unite on a basis of spiritual interest, and forget such differences," he says. At the other extreme we find some who insist on absolute agreement with them regarding many points on which earnest men may differ in interpreting the Scripture. Of the two extremes the latter is surely by far the better. Yet one should not forget the words of the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 2:14, "charging them before the Lord that they