

The Revelation of Jesus' Coming

— A revelation/prophesy/message by 15-years-old Margaret Macdonald in Port Glasgow, Scotland, about 1830. Young Margaret said:

This text is believed to be the original as spoken by Miss Macdonald, and has been adapted from writings at:

<http://www.intotruth.org/misc/rapture.html>

Young Margaret McDonald wrote:

It was first the awful state of the land that was pressed upon me. I saw the blindness and infatuation of the people to be very great. I felt the cry of Liberty just to be the hiss of the serpent, to drown them in perdition. It was just 'no God.'

I repeated the words, Now there is distress of nations, with perplexity, the seas and the waves roaring, men's hearts failing them for fear. [Luke 21:25] Now look out for the sign of the Son of Man. [Matthew 24:30] Here I was made to stop and cry out, "Oh, it is not known what the sign of the Son of Man is; the people of God think they are waiting, but they know not what it is."

I felt this [sign] needed to be revealed, as there was great darkness and error concerning it. But suddenly what it was burst upon me with a glorious light. I saw it was just the Lord himself descending from Heaven with a shout [1st Timothy 4:16]—just the glorified man, even Jesus; but that all [of us] must, as Stephen was, be filled with the Holy Ghost, that [we] might look up, and see the brightness of the Father's glory. [Acts 7:56]

I saw the error to be that men think that it will be something seen by the natural eye; but 'tis spiritual discernment that is needed—the eye of God in his people. Many passages were revealed in a light in which I had not seen them before. I repeated, 'Now is the kingdom of Heaven like unto ten virgins, who went forth to meet the Bridegroom, five wise and five foolish; they that were foolish took their lamps, but took no oil with them; but they that were wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.' [Matthew 25:1-13]

Don't be unwise, but understand what the Lord's will is; and don't be drunk with wine which is excessive, but be filled with the Spirit.' [Ephesians 5:17-18] This was the oil the wise virgins took in their vessels—this is the light to be kept burning—the light of God—that we may discern that which does not come with observation to the natural eye.

Only those who have the light of God within them will see the sign of his appearance. [Matthew 24:3+30] No need to follow those who say, "...see here, or see there..." for his day shall be as the lightning to those in whom is the living Christ. [Matthew 24:26-27] 'Tis Christ in us that will lift us up — he is the light — 'tis only those that are alive in him that will be caught up to meet him in the air. [1st Thessalonians 4:17]

I saw that we must be in the Spirit, that we might see spiritual things. John was in the Spirit when he saw a throne set in Heaven. [Revelation 1:10] But I saw that the glory of the ministration of the Spirit had not been known. I repeated frequently, but the spiritual temple must and shall be raised up, and the fullness of Christ [or Christ's nature] be poured into his body, and then we will be caught up to meet him. Oh none will be counted worthy of this calling except his body, which is the [true] church, and which must be a candlestick all of gold.

I often said, "Oh, the glorious in-breaking of God which is now about to burst on this earth; Oh, the glorious temple which is now about to be reared, the bride adorned for her husband; and Oh what a holy, holy bride she must be, to be prepared for such a glorious bridegroom."

I said, "Now shall the people of God have to do with realities—now shall the glorious mystery of God in our nature be known—now shall it be known what it is for man to be glorified." I felt that the revelation of Jesus Christ had yet to be opened up—it is not knowledge about God that it contains, but it is an entering into God—I saw that there was a glorious breaking in of God yet to be.

I felt as Elijah, surrounded with chariots of fire. [2nd Kings 6:17] I saw as it were, the spiritual temple reared, and the Head Stone brought forth with shoutings of "Grace, Grace, unto it." It was a glorious light greater than the brightness of the sun that shone round about me. I felt that those who were filled with the Spirit could see spiritual things, and feel [him] walking in the midst of them, while those who did not have the Spirit could see nothing—so that two shall be in one bed, the one taken and the other left [Luke 17:34], because the one has the light of God within while the other cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven.

I saw the people of God in an awfully dangerous situation, surrounded by nets and entanglements, about to be tried, and many about to be deceived and fall. Now will the wicked be revealed, with all power and signs and lying wonders [1st Thessalonians 2:9], so that if it were possible, the very elect will be deceived. [Matthew 24:24] This is the fiery trial which is to try us. It will be for the purging and purifying of the real members of the body of Jesus; but Oh! it will be a fiery trial.

Every soul will be shaken to the very centre. The enemy will try to shake everything we have believed in, but the trial of real faith will be found to result in honor and praise and glory. Nothing but what is of God will stand. The stony-ground hearers will be made manifest [Matthew 13:5-6; 20-21]. And the love of many will grow cold. [Matthew 24:12]

That night [and often since] I have frequently said, "...now shall the awful sight of a false Christ be seen on this earth, and nothing, but the living Christ in us, can detect this awful attempt of the enemy to deceive—for it is with all deceivableness of unrighteousness that he will work [2nd Thessalonians 2:10] He will have a counterfeit for every part of God's truth, and an imitation for every work of the Spirit.

The Spirit must and will be poured out on the church, that she may be purified and filled with God—and in just the same proportion as the Spirit of God works, so will he [the false christ]—when our Lord anoints men with power, so will he [the false christ] do the same. This is precisely the nature of the trial through which all those who will be counted worthy to stand before the Son of man will have to pass through. There will be an outward trial too, but 'primarily it will be temptation.' It is brought on by the outpouring of the Spirit, and will increase in proportion just as the Spirit is poured out. [The trial of the Church comes through the anti-christ, but it is by being filled with the Spirit that we shall be kept].

I frequently said, "Oh be filled with the Spirit—have the light of God in you, that you may detect Satan—be full of eyes within—be clay in the hands of the potter—submit to be filled, filled with God." This will build the temple. It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. [Zachariah 4:6] This will fit us to enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb. [Revelation 19:9]

I saw that it was the will of God that all should be filled. But what hindered the real life of God from being received by his people? It was their turning from Jesus, who is the way to the Father. They were not entering in by the door. For he is faithful who has said, "...by me if any man enters in...he...shall...find pasture." [John 10:9] They were bypassing the cross, through which every drop of the Spirit of God flows to us. All power that comes not through the blood of Christ is not of God.

When I say, "they are looking [away] from the cross," I feel that there is much in it - they turn from the blood of the Lamb, by which we overcome, and in which our robes are washed and made white. [Revelation 7:14] There are low views of God's holiness, and a ceasing to condemn sin in the flesh [Romans 8:3], and a looking from him who

humbled himself, and made himself of no reputation. [Philippians 2:7] Oh! it is needed, much needed at present, a leading back to the cross.

That night [and often since] I saw that there will be an outpouring of the Spirit on the body, such as has not been—a baptism of fire, [Matthew 3:11] that all the dross may be put away. Oh there must and will be such an indwelling of the living God as has not been—the servants of God sealed in their foreheads—great conformity to Jesus—his holy holy image seen in his people—just the bride made comely by his comeliness put upon her.

This is what we are at present made to pray much for, that speedily we may all be made ready to meet our Lord in the air—and it will be! Jesus wants his bride. His desire is toward us. He that shall come, will come, and will not tarry.

Amen and Amen Even so come Lord Jesus.

— End of Margaret Macdonald's message —

Margaret Macdonald has been blamed for "inventing" the teaching known as the "pre-tribulation rapture of the church." There is nothing in the above message that shows that the church will be raptured out before The Great Tribulation.

The above prophecy/message/revelation was altered several times during the early years of its circulation. Those who were promoting the doctrine of the pre-tribulation rapture omitted those portions that spoke specifically of anti-Christ's being revealed and a fiery trial of purging that would result from his appearance. Those portions were published in the 1840 version by R. Norton, but were missing from the later 1861 book, presumably because they were now an embarrassment to the emerging pre-trib dispensationalist viewpoint.

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