

## **The Second Coming of Christ**

WHEREAS there is continued attention given to the land of Palestine and Bible prophecy as Middle East events keep Israel and her neighbors in the news; and

WHEREAS on the part of some there is an increasing interest in end-time events as we come to the year A.D. 2000; and

WHEREAS on the part of others, materialism and preoccupation with things pertaining to this life tend to dampen interest in the Blessed Hope; and

WHEREAS mockers in these last days ask, "Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Peter 3:3, 4); and

WHEREAS widespread confusion has come about because of erroneous views, such as the Pre-wrath Rapture and date-setting; and

WHEREAS the Scriptures teach that a crown of righteousness is promised to those who love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8), and that every man who has this hope in him purifies himself (1 John 3:2, 3), and that the churches' response to this teaching ought to be "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 21–25, 1997, reaffirm belief in Christ's second coming

(1) to take Church-age saints to be with Himself before the Tribulation as He has promised (John 14:2, 3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 5:1–10) and that this Rapture of the church may occur at any moment, the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air; and

(2) to set up His millennial Kingdom upon the earth at the end of the Tribulation period when He shall put down His enemies, rule the world in righteousness from the throne of David, with the nation of Israel at its center and Jerusalem as its capital, and during which time His Old Testament covenant promises to national Israel will be fulfilled (Matthew 24:29–31; Luke 1:30–33; Revelation 19:11–21; 20:1–6; 2 Thessalonians 2:8).

*Grand Rapids, Michigan*  
*June 21-25, 1997*