

THE RETURN OF CHRIST THROUGH NGWABA'S POEM “SHALL THE TRUMPET BLOW “?”

LE RETOUR DE JÉSUS-CHRIST À TRAVERS LE POÈME DU POÈTE NGWABA, LA TROMPETTE SONNERA-T-ELLE ?

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Abstract

This article concerns the return of Christ as written in “Shall the Trumpet blow?”. The fact that the poet asks such a question, “Shall the Trumpet Blow?” is not absurd, but He must come as written in Apocalypse 22:20. He who gives his testimony to all this says, “Yes indeed! I am coming soon!”. Before He comes, There will be a shout of command, the Archangels, voice, the sound of God’s trumpet and the Lord will come down in the cloud from the heaven. We who are alive on the day the Lord comes will not go ahead of those who died

Those who died believing in Christ will rise to life first, then we who are living at that time, will gather up along with them in the cloud to meet the Lord in the air. The question is such because the Scriptures say that we don’t know that day. That is why let’s be on our guard and let’s not let anyone deceive us. We don’t know neither the day, the week nor the year. We don’t know not if he will come in the morning, at noon or in the evening. As no one will escape, soon after the trouble of those days, the sun will grow dark. The noon will no longer shine, the stars will fall from heaven and then the sign of the son of man will appear in the sky; and all peoples of the earth will weep as they hear the son of man coming on the clouds heaven with power and great glory. The great trumpet sounds to the four corners of the earth and they will gather his chosen people from the world as written in Matthew 24:29-31. The day of the Lord will come as a thief comes at night. It will come as sudden as no one will escape. The Lord will come with his angels to take up the believers and those who do not believe, will be wiped out. It is the first resurrection.

Key words: *Trumpet, blow, sky, saints, tears, wipe out, lies, flood, Gomorrhea and burnt.*

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Résumé

Cet article concerne le retour du Christ tel qu'il écrit « shall the trumpet blow ? » le fait que le poète pause une telle question la trompette sonnera-t-elle n'est pas absurde, mais il doit venir comme il écrit dans apocalypse 22 :20. Celui qui témoigne de tous cela dit, « oui ! Je viens bientôt. » Avant sa venue, il y aura un cri de commandement, la voix de l'archange, le son de la trompette de DIEU et le seigneur descendra du ciel dans la nuée. Nous qui sommes vivants le jour où le seigneur viendra, nous ne devancerons pas ceux qui sont morts.

Ceux qui sont croyants au Christ ressusciteront d'abord, puis nous, qui sommes vivants à ce moment-là, nous nous ressembleront avec eux dans la nuée pour rencontrer le seigneur dans les airs. La question se pose parce que les écritures disent que nous ne savons pas ce jour. C'est pourquoi soyons sur nos gardes et ne laissez personne vous tromper. Nous ne savons ni le jour, ni la semaine, ou l'année. Nous ne savons pas s'il viendra le matin, à midi ou le soir. Comme personne n'y échappera, peu à près le trouble de ces jours, le soleil s'obscurcira. Le midi ne brillera plus, les étoiles tomberont du ciel et alors le signe du fils de l'homme apparaîtra dans le ciel, et tout le peuple de la terre pleureront en attendant le fils de l'homme venir sur le milieu du ciel avec la puissance et la grande gloire. La grande trompette sonnera aux quatre coins de la terre et rassemblera le peuple élu du monde entier, comme il est écrit dans Mathieu 24 :29-31. Le jour du seigneur viendra comme un voleur la nuit. Il sera soudain et personne n'y échappera. Le Seigneur viendra avec ses anges chercher les croyants et ceux qui ne pas croient seront anéantis. C'est la première résurrection.

Mots clés : *trompette, sonner, ciel, saints, larmes, anéantir, mensonge, déluge, Gomorrhée, brûlé.*

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1. The Title of the Poem

The poem under study is entitled "Shall the Trumpet Blow?" It is a kind of question that the poet shares with all readers.

The poet uses a kind of conversation and rhetorical question to which the answer is given by the readers themselves. The poem is bible inspired, it is formal and informal by the omission of the letter "V" in the word "never". The poet uses a kind of metaphor that implies the flood of the time of Noah and that Gomorrhea and Sodome got burnt. The poet assures that the Lord never lies. Here is an extract:

"the flood did come.

Gomorrhea got burnt"

(Shall the trumpet blow? 2007:31)

2. Presentation of the Poem:

Shall the Trumpet Blow?

Shall the Trumpet Blow And
shall the trumpet blow from the sky
For the Lord to come down?
I hope to hear the sound,
Along with the dead in the Lord.
And shall the trumpet blow from the sky
For the Lord to come down,
And the angels to pick up the saints?
And shall their tears be wiped out?
The Saints shall be gone,
And peace shall be gone,
Along with the scripts.
The Lord ne'er lies:
The flood did come,
Gomorrea got burnt.

This section encompasses sixteen points to be traisted:

Introduction, plot, main problem, theme, subthemes, title of the poem, type of literary genre, structure of the poem, rhyme, language or code, characterization, settings, literary devices, author's intention, general appreciation, personal appreciation and conclusion.

3. Introduction

This article shows that Christ's return should blow. It is a question to depict through the reading of this poem. The answer to this questions constitutes all the motive of this composition. I agree that the poem might contain a useful message that the author wants to address to his readers through his characters, his use of language. I must search, explain and evaluate the message either good or bad to society.

4. Plot

The poem is concerned with the trumpet of the Lord about which the poet insists that it will sound one day and it will gather black, white, red and yellow believers.¹

The Lord will come as a king in the clouds and He will gather with the archangels to pick up the saints. The poem says that the Lord God is returning soon. He doesn't lie. The Scriptures say that what happened at the time of Noah will also happen at this time as well as at the time Sodome and Gomorrhea. The Scriptures say no one knows, however, day and hour it will come. Neither the angels in heaven nor the son knows except the father. The coming of the son of man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. In the days before the flood, people ate and drank, men and women got married.

So, you also should always be ready, because the son of man will come at an hour when you are not expecting Him. As written in Matthew 24:36-38, the poem is warning people that the Lord God will come as a king in the clouds the angels to pick up the saints and those who do not believe him will be wiped out.

We who will be living the day when the Lord will come will not go ahead of those who died. Those who died believing in Christ will rise to live first, then we who are living at this time, will gather up along with them in the cloud to meet the Lord in the air.

The poem is warning people because they don't know the day the Lord will come. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

5. The main problem

The significance of the study may be justified by the fact that this poem will help the readers to discover that everyone should encounter the Lord one day, but the date is not known. Everyone should meet the Lord in the air when they leave this world.

(what is Christianity/ Cam.org <http://Carm.org>)

6. Themes

6.1 THE main theme.

The theme of the poem is the Lord's apparition.

I believe that God will get back those who died believing in him. We who will be living the day the Lord will come, will not go ahead of those who died. Here is how the poem is written:

“And the angels to pick up the saints?
And shall their tears be wiped out?”

6.2. Subthemes

There are three subthemes such as:

- Life after death
- Punishment
- Judgement

6.1. Life after death:

The poet clearly reveals that he believes in resurrection after death. This truth is found in the following line. Here is an excerpt.

“Along with the dead in the Lord” (4).

6.2. Punishment

D. Stewart (2019) States that, the Scriptures teach that there is a place of punishment for the wicked. It means that wrong doers will be punished after death. This idea is seen in the line

“And shall their tears be wiped out?” (8)

6.3. Judgement

The poet clearly reveals that the Lord will come with his angels to judge the believers and those who do not believe.

Here is an illustration

“And the angels to pick up the saints?
And shall their tears be wiped?”
(7, 8 lines of the poem)

7. Type of Literary Genre

The poem belongs to the literary genre called “Poetry”. From Shaw (1972:292), quoted by Ngwaba (2019:35), poetry is the Art of Rhythmical composition written or spoken, designed to produce pleasure through beautiful, elevated imagination or profound thoughts.

Ngwaba quoted that poetry “begins with pleasure and ends in wisdom”. So, poetry is a literary genre which teaches wisdom and awareness.

8. STRUCTURE OF THE POEM

This poem has four stanzas and fourteen verses.

It is unrhymed poem (a b c d, a b c d, a a b, a b c d)

Each stanza contains some linguistic features such as punctuations.

1st stanza.

2nd stanza.

3rd stanza.

4th stanza.

The first stanza has four verses whose basic question is “And shall the trumpet blow from the sky for the Lord to come down?” The two concepts are relevant such as: trumpet and sky.

The second stanza has four verses whose basic question is “And shall the trumpet blow from the sky for Lord to come down?” The two concepts which are relevant are: angels and tears.

The Third stanza has three verses with one concept; the “scripts”. The script that is the judgement where the Lord shall be gone, the believers and those who do not believe shall be wiped out and then go in peace.

The fourth stanza has three verses with two concepts which are: “Lies” and “flood”

The author insists that the judgement will occur as it happened as sodome and Gomorrhea.

9. Rhyme

Rhyme means sameness of sound in each verse (Collins Gem's English learners Dictionary, 2010). Rhyme gives pleasure to a poem, not only when looking at the form of the poem but also when pronouncing it. Thus, Rhyme adds more pleasure and additional meaning to the content of the poem.

This poem is not written in Rhyme. It is a free verse. The author wrote it to call the attention of the readers and it shows this danger to people. This is what the author says: "And shall the trumpet blow from the sky

For the Lord to come down?
Lord to come down?
And the angels to pick up the saints?
And shall their tears be wiped out?"

This poem is in Free verse. The author wants to warn the believers that danger will come soon.

10. Language or Code

The poem is written in English language. The poet has respected all English language writing norms-grammatical, syntactical and stylistic. He has chosen English to warn the people and the readers about the return of the lord.

10.1. Characterization And Settings

10.2. Characterization means the characters who are in the poem

The characters of the poem are: the poet, God and readers.

10.3. The poet

The poet is the person who is known from his experience and knowledge. He has the title from the bible that the trumpet shall blow; the

Lord shall come down from the sky with the archangels to pick up believers in the four corners of the world.

10.4. God

God is represented as a king who will come and people are waiting for him. His arrival is preached in the bible. Considering God as a character in this poem, the author wants just to warn people that whatever they do, they should take into account God's words, will and his prescriptions. So people behaviour should be in conformity to what God likes otherwise they will be drawn out in the last day after their death because what God says will be done.

11. Settings of the Poem

Setting includes spatial and temporal settings

- The poem was written in 2017 by Ferdinand Ngwaba Bimbala.

The poem is taken from "A collection of poems"

- Spatial setting

The poem will take place in the air.

The air is the place where the king will stand to pick up those who believe in him and draw down those who do not believe in him.

12. Literary Devices

The poet uses a large number of devices such as:

- Polysindeton to insist on the coming of the Lord.

Here is an excerpt: "And the Angels to pick up the saints?

And shall their tears be wiped out?"

(Verse 7 & 8)

- Elypsis

The poet uses Elypsis of the verb "shall come" to show people that the flood shall come.

- Simile

A simile is a comparaison that the poet makes to compare the coming of the Lord with the flood of Sodome and Gomorrhea.

- Image

The poet uses the image to represent the flood that came at the time of sodomite and Gomorrhea and that shall come by using such concepts the trumpet and flood.

- Symbol

The poet uses a symbol to show the script that should come as the sky, flood, sound, Sodome and Gomorrhea.

- Metaphor

The poet uses a metaphor to compare the coming of the Lord with the script.

13. Author's Intention

The intention of the poet must be discussed religiously and socially.

- Religiously:

The poet's intention is to warn believers to be ready for the return of the lord because believers ignore the exact doom of the day, and everything people do now will impact on them after their death. The Lord will see the faith of each believer and his work.

- Socially:

The poet wants to call on the conscience of everyone concerning their actions. Only do what is good for the future life because the judgement will come one day.

14. GENERAL APPRECIATION

14.1. Discourse

Discourse is concerned with the use of language in the poem. This poem is coherent and cohesive in the way the poet writes and develops his ideas. The poet begins with a question to ask people to be ready.

“And shall the trumpet blow from the sky
for the Lord to come down?”

He uses rhetorical question and the answer to it, is shown in the stanza.

“And the Angels to pick up the saints?
And shall their tears be wiped out?”

Concerning the situationality of the poem, this is a good piece of poem. Moreover, everything has been dealt with separately and indirectly through the analysis here above.

14.2. Acceptability

What is said about the poem is accepted because people should prepare to meet the Lord in the air. The poet warns people to be ready for the trumpet which will ring soon. (Apocalypse 22:20).

14.3. Informativity

The poet informs Christians to be ready for the return of the lord and it says that the Lord God will come with his angels to pick up his believers to meet him in the air in the sky.

14.4. Intertextuality

Being in a religious context, as you can notice it, the Poet has almost summarized the whole bible: the old testament and the new testament.

The author refers to Matthew 24:30-31, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, the first book of the new testament, about the condition of the soul after the death.

We read also 1 thesalonicians 4:13-7, which says that after death, we who are alive, we will meet the Lord when the trumpet will ring.

Those who died believing in Christ will rise from death first, then we who are living at this time will be gathered up along with them in the clouds to cross the Lord in the air.

15. Personal Appreciation of the Poem

This poem has inspired me very much as a Christian to be ready for the trumpet of the Lord. As far as the importance, the value and the longevity of the poem are concerned, this poem is a classical one because It has inspired me and encouraged me to walk in the right way.

In short, this is a great piece of Art. I would like to recommend people to read this poem so that they can prepare the return of the Lord.

Conclusion

This article concerns the return of Christ as written in “Shall the trumpet blow?”

I assume that the poem might contain a useful message, but the author wants to address it to his readers through his characters.

The title of the poem has attracted my attention as a literary student and it will capture the attention of all readers and everybody who are living that this world has to get prepared for that return which will come one day. The title warns people to be ready for the day of the Lord.

The poet informs believers that the Lord will come as a king in the cloud and he will gather with the archangels to pick up the saints. The poem says that the Lord God is returning as said in Apocalypse 22:20. The Scriptures say that what happened at the time of Noeh will occur at this time as Gomorrhea and Sodome were burnt.

The poet wants to warn people because they don't know the day the Lord will come back (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The poet's intention is to warn believers to be ready for Christ's return, because believers ignore the exact day and everything that people do now will impact on them after their death. The Lord will see the faith of each believer and his work as written in Malachi 3:16.

The poet wants to call on the conscience of everyone in their actions, only to do what is good for eternal life, because judgment will come.

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