

rebuke with flames of fire.’ (Isa. 66:15) ‘When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.’ (Psalm 102:16)

Some claim that these statements have a figurative meaning. Such an idea is forbidden by the literal nature of Christ’s first appearing, which was also the subject of prophecy before it happened. Look up all the prophecies that foretell Christ’s first appearing. (Isa.7:14; Matt. 1:22,23; Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:5,6; Hosea 11:1; Matt.2:15, etc.) Study the facts of his first appearing in the light of these prophecies and you will see it is impossible consistently to give any other than a literal interpretation to the prophecies of his second appearing. And consider how very important it is that you should have Scriptural views on the subject in view of the fact testified above, that the individual benefits of his coming are for ‘them that look for him’, and for ‘them that love his appearing’.

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The Return of Christ

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The Return of Christ

Few people today believe in the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. Yet the Bible clearly teaches that, just as he visibly left the earth over 1900 years ago, so he will reappear personally among men to accomplish the work God has given him to do.

1. The Bible records that angels said he would come in the same way as he went:

‘And while they (the apostles) looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said. Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.’ (Acts 1:10,11)

If Christ is to come ‘in like manner’, he will come personally, visibly and literally, for it was in a literal, personal, visible manner that the disciples saw him ascend.

2. The Bible testifies that Jesus repeatedly stated that he would depart from the earth but that he would come back again:

‘I will come again, and receive you unto myself.’ (John 14:3)

‘For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.’ (Matt. 16:27)

‘Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man..... coming in the clouds of heaven.’ (Matt. 26:64)

In a parable in which Jesus pictured himself as ‘a certain nobleman’, he said: -

‘A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return... And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him...’ (Luke 19:12:15)

The actual nature of Christ’s going away shows us the actual nature of his coming back. It cannot mean the spreading of his doctrine, as some think, for he asks, ‘When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?’ (Luke 18.8) And it cannot mean the coming of death to his people, for Paul speaks of those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord (1 Thess. 4:15) and says of such that they will not sleep. (1 Cor. 15:51)

3. The Bible tells of the apostles proclaiming the fact of his return:

Peter said: ‘He (God) shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.’ (Acts 3:20,21)

Paul wrote: The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels..... When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe... Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?’ (2 Thess. 1:7,10; 2:5)

If the apostles preached the coming of Christ, ought not that coming to be part of the preaching of the present day? This age owes any truth it may have about Christ to the teaching of the apostles in the first century.

4. The apostles refer to Christ’s coming as an event to be expected and prepared for:

‘Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of... our Saviour Jesus Christ.’ (Titus 2:13) ‘Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.’ (Heb. 9:28) ‘A crown of righteousness... unto all them also that love his appearing.’ (2 Tim. 4:8) ‘... the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick (living) and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.’ (2 Tim. 4:1) ‘Hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.’ (1 Peter 1:13)

John said: ‘When he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.’ (1 John 3:2) ‘Even so, come, Lord Jesus.’ (Rev. 22:20) ‘He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him.’ (Rev. 1:7)

James exhorted: ‘Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.’ ‘..... for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.’ (James 5:7,8)

Jude recorded: ‘The Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.’ (Epistle of Jude 14)

5. The Bible foretells, through the prophets, Christ’s coming in power and great glory:

‘All the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.’ (Acts 3.24) ‘These days’ refer to the ‘times of restitution’ when God shall send Jesus, as well as to the days when he came among men as the prophet like Moses — compare v20, also Deut. 18:18) ‘I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven.’ (Dan. 7:13) ‘The Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his ►►