

## **JESUS CHRIST HAS COME, BUT WHERE IS HE?**

The second presence of Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental doctrines of the Holy Bible. During his first advent on earth, he promised his apostles that after he had died and gone to heaven, he would come again to receive them unto himself. – John 14:1-3; Revelation 22:12,20.

St. Paul also confirmed the promise of Christ to come again in his letters to Christians in his days. (2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; etc.) So, the promise of Christ's second coming is not in dispute in the Christian religion.

The areas where opinions and interpretations vary are: "How will he come?" "Will he be visible to human eyes? When will he come?" and "Has he come?"

As to how Christ will come, some professed Christians make reference to Acts 1:9-11 where two angels who appeared after his ascension said that Jesus Christ would come in like manner as he was seen going to heaven.

There is nothing in the utterance of the two angels that gives the understanding that Christ would come again in the flesh. The angels did not say Christ will come in like form or shape but in like manner. The manner of Christ's ascension was quiet. There was no public demonstration or flourish of trumpets as to attract the attention of the world. His second coming therefore will also be quiet. It is those who watch by being spiritually vigilant to understand the signs of the times that will know of his second presence. – Revelation 3:3; 16:15.

Again, some erroneously make reference to Matthew 24:27 where it is written that the second coming of Jesus Christ would be as the lightning that cometh out of the east and shineth unto the west. This again does not show that Christ would come visibly the second time as some believe. The correct interpretation of this text is that at the second presence of Christ, who is the light of the world (John 8:12), men will be spiritually enlightened as to have the accurate knowledge and understanding of the purpose of God that would make them know of his return. However, this knowledge will not cover the whole world instantly but gradually as the sun comes from the east and shines even to the west. In the long run, the whole world would know of his presence through the preaching of the saving gospel by His true servants.

Many who believe and are waiting to see Christ physically do refer to the Book of Revelation 1:7 where it is written: "Behold, he cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

This text should not be interpreted literally, because it is figurative. The word "clouds" in the text symbolizes invisibility. It was the clouds that received Christ out of the sight of the apostles when he ascended to heaven. (Look up Acts 1:9-11.) "Every eye shall see him" in the text does not mean the literal eye, but the eye of understanding. (Ephesians 1:17-19) To "see" means to discern or to understand. So, "every eye shall see him" means that people will discern or get to understand from the signs of the time that Christ has come the second time. Those who pierced Christ in the text under reference are opposers of truth and righteousness or those opposing the work of God today. They are the ones to wail at Christ's second presence because he will take vengeance on them. – 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2:8-10.

Jesus Christ himself told his disciples that the world will never see him again when he said: "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more ..." (John 14:19,22) This was also confirmed by St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthian Christians. – 2 Corinthians 5:16.

As regards the time Christ would come again, the Holy Bible shows that it is in the last days in which we are now living. That we are now in the last day is without doubt. The signs of the time that have fulfilled Bible prophecies show that we are now in the last days or the end of the world in which Jesus Christ promised to come again. – Daniel 12:4, 8–10; 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

In Matthew 24:3-8, it is clearly revealed that the end of the world will be marked by nation rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, pestilences and earthquakes in divers places. This found fulfilment in the war of 1914 – 1918, and it was labeled World War 1. This was followed by a widespread epidemic – the Spanish influenza. Earthquakes have continued to ravage various parts of the world from that time till now showing that Christ has come the second time. See also Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-30.

Jesus Christ has come again but in spirit. He is in eternal glory in heaven with his attention focused on the affairs of the sheep of God all over the world. – Matthew 18:20; 1 Peter 3:18,22.

The second coming of Jesus Christ is by revelation and Christians are advised to walk by faith and not by sight. – Luke 17:26-30; 2 Corinthians 5:7.