

ADVENTS OF CHRIST

What are the advents or “comings” of Christ?

The First and Second Advents of Christ:

- 1) The Old Testament foreview of the coming Messiah is in two aspects that of rejection and suffering (example in Isaiah 53), and that of earthly glory and power (example in Isaiah 11, Jeremiah 23, Ezekiel 37). Often these two aspects blend in one passage (example Psalm 22). The prophets themselves were perplexed by this seeming contradiction (1 Peter 1:10,11). It was solved by partial fulfillment. In due time the Messiah, born of a virgin according to Isaiah’s prophecy (7:14), appeared on earth among men and began His ministry by announcing the predicted kingdom as “at hand” (Matthew 4:17). This was His first coming or advent. The rejection of king and kingdom followed.
- 2) Thereupon the rejected king announced His approaching crucifixion, resurrection, departure, and return (Matthew 12:38-40; 16:1-4,21,27; Luke 24:25; 12:35-46; 17:20-36; 18:31-34; 19:12-27).
- 3) He uttered predictions concerning the course of events between His departure and return (Matthew 13:1-50; 16:18; 24:4-26).
- 4) This promised return of Christ is a prominent theme in the Acts, Epistles, and Revelation.

Taken together, the New Testament teaching concerning the return (second coming or advent) of Jesus Christ may be summarized as follows:

- 1) The return of Christ is an event, not a process, and is personal and corporeal (Matthew 23:39; 24:30; 25:31; Mark 14:62; Luke 17:24; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).
- 2) His coming has a three fold relation.
 - a) To the Church - the descent of the Lord into the air, to raise believers who have died, and to change the living Christians, is a constant expectation and hope (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-17; 1 Timothy 6:14; Titus 2:13; Revelation 22:20).
 - b) To Israel - the return of the Lord to the earth is to accomplish the yet unfulfilled prophecies of Israel’s national regathering, conversion, and establishment in peace and power under the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:8-17; Zechariah 12:8; Luke 1:31-33; 1 Corinthians 15:24).
 - c) To the Gentile Nations - the return of Christ is to bring the destruction of the present political world system (Daniel 2:34-36; Revelation 19:11), and the judgment of Matthew 25:31-46, followed by world wide Gentile conversion and participation in the blessings of the kingdom (Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:10; 60:3; Zechariah 8:3,20-23; 14:16-21).