

Read Hodge. to P.797, end of 2nd paragraph.

This doctrine of the personal return of Christ in glory, visibly, and bodily, was universally held and emphasized during the early centuries of the church. On this I believe all ecclesiastical historians agree. After a time it began to dim, from one cause, as Prof. Orr points out, Prof. Huxley says, "the mere effluxion of time has demonstrated it to be a prodigious error". ~~Philip Schaff says.~~

But from that day to this the hope of the Lord's Return has been ~~the/great~~ a great factor in many a fine Christian life: everyman that "And he that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is Pure." (1 John 3:4).

Dr. David Brown, leader among proponents of post-millenarianism, declares that "The Redeemer's second appearing is the very pole star of the Church." Can any Christian wisely neglect so important a doctrine. Should not every one rather seek to ascertain for himself what is the truth upon the subject.

We have seen the tremendous importance of the Coming of Christ as the aspiration and longing of the Christian. Now let us look at another great ideal which has also seized the desire of many Christian hearts.

All we who believe the Bible believe that at one time the earth was perfect. Sin and death had not yet begun its terrible career. Then man fell. God cursed the world for man's sake. Sorrow and suffering has been his lot ever since.

But men have held the conviction that it will not be so always. Somewhere ahead there is to be a golden age, when the effects of the curse will be removed, and when righteousness shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.