

End of this age, and the age to come: Thru the OT., becoming clearer and clearer is the expectation of a golden age, introduced by the Messiah. Christ gave glimpses of such an age. More prominent in OT, hope was in Messiah, and what he would bring. Eyes were on His deliverance, not on Him as a person. In NT times this is reversed. He appears as the priest to put away sin. Personal knowledge, and adoration in the NT. NT looks to the return of the blessed Saviour. This plays a large part in Apostolic times.

Jno. 14:3 Come again and receive you unto myself.

Matt. 26:64 Identifies himself with Daniel 7:13. He will return and with power. Do these vss. refer to resurrection? No, he did not then receive them or come in power.

Acts 1:11. After the resurrection by 40 days, He will come again. They were still looking for Him. Was this the H.S. at Pentecost? Or at death, when He takes believers to himself? or a revival? Speaks too literally here, "This same Jesus" Angels anxious to avoid misunderstanding.

Did longing for Christ cool? Earliest letters show church has spread and has not taken the place of this hope.

I Thess. 1:9-10 Emphasis is not on betterment etc. but on Jesus' return.

I Thess. 4:16 A personal return.

II Thess. 1:7-10 Not death. Some would interpret these passages of death, or conversion, or revival. A punishment and removal of evil here.

I & II Tim. Late. How about them? Not trying to "correct" former teaching.

II Tim. 4:8 Crown for those who love His appearing.

Titus 2:13 Urges to deny lust, looking for the blessed Hope.

We see a great emphasis on expectation of coming of Christ to introduce the Golden Age. Dimming of the hope for the Golden Age came when Church became so large and powerful. Constantine seemed to usher in such an age. Idea grew until Augustine stressed bringing in the Age by the church. At 1000 A.D. many expected the return.