

Mr. T

His final epistle, 2 Timothy, contains these words:

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his

kingdom."* The last book of the Bible, the Revelation of John,

*2 Timothy 4:1.

centers around the great theme that Jesus Christ is to return to this earth to put an end to everything that is evil and to establish His power as absolutely supreme.

Someone has counted 318 references to the second coming of Christ in the two hundred and sixty chapters of the New Testament. If we pay attention only to what Jesus has done, and neglect what ^{in the past} He has promised to do in the future we are ignoring one of the elements of our religion which was most stressed in the days of the apostles. ~~and in the writings in the New Testament~~

In view of the great prominence which the New Testament gives to the return of Christ, it is important that we know something about it. What does the Bible teach as to its details? Is Christ to be born into this world again as a babe, or is He to return as a full grown man? Is it possible to interpret the return of Christ as merely a way of describing His reception of Christians when they die? Was His coming fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?

This last suggestion need not concern us long. While it is true that Christ promised ~~at the time~~ that He would be our spiritual companion in this life, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is not what is meant by His return. Since the New Testament ^{has many} ~~is filled~~ with statements ~~of~~ looking forward to the return of Christ which were written after Pentecost, it is plain that they indicate something which was still future long after the descent of the Spirit. At the very end of the Bible we find the prayer: "even so, come, Lord Jesus".*