

This was quite a surprise to the disciples. They did not know what to make of it. Acts 1:10-11 tells us that as they saw Him disappear in the clouds "two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Thus the life of Christ on earth ends with a prediction that He is to return to this earth. "This same Jesus" will come back as He went. When He left He had a human body, yet a resurrected body capable of transcending the ordinary limitations of human life. He looked like a man, spoke like a man, and was indeed truly a man, although He was also God. This One is to come back in the same manner in which He went. He was gradually lifted up from earth until a cloud received Him out of their sight. The last book of the Bible--the Revelation of John--says in its first chapter: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him" (Revelation 1:7). This idea that there is to be a second coming of Christ, that this unique character, the most wonderful Person who ever lived, will return to this earth in human flesh in a manner similar to that in which He left it is touched upon frequently in the New Testament. Historians agree that the Christians of the early centuries constantly looked for and expected a second coming of Christ, feeling that it might well occur right in their own day.

One of the earliest books of the New Testament to be written was probably the Epistle of James. James says, "Be patient therefore. . . unto the coming of the Lord . . ." (James 5:7). In the following verse he says, "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."