

THE ADVENTS OF CHRIST

CORRECTING SCOFIELD – PART IV: TWO ADVENTS

“...but now once in the end of the world hath [Christ] appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” – Hebrews 9:26-28

1. God's Promise of One to Come

- a. OT clear about a promised Holy/Anointed/Chosen One (Messiah/Christ) to save the nation Israel
 - i) Scofield says → “...prophecy foretells a splendid and resistless Sovereign purging the earth with awful judgments, regathering dispersed Israel, restoring the throne of David in more than Solomon’s splendor, and introducing a reign of profound peace and perfect righteousness...”
 - ii) Some of his correct references → Isa 1:1-12, Jer 23:5-8, Dan 7:13-14, Luk 1:31-33
- b. The prophecy of this Messiah was known from the beginning (Gen 3:15) but a pride of all Jews since later promised to and about Israel – Deu 18:15-18, Jer 30:9-12, Amo 9:11-15, John 1:41 & 4:25, Mat 2:2-6
- c. Advent – *def.* anticipated important arrival; – *etym.* (ad) near (vent) coming
- d. The world anticipated the arrival of the Promised One for 4,000 years (6,000 and counting for Jews...)
- e. For 2,000 years, all who believe Jesus is Christ recognize his first coming in MMLJ (even if inordinately)
- f. While many prophecies of his coming were literally fulfilled, the most obvious ones were not, so scripture (Scofield correctly notes) requires Jesus return to earth “personally and bodily” to fulfill them
- g. All (even full preterists & Muslims) believe Christ returns after Acts 1:9... but how, when, for whom, for what purpose, what proceeds/follows, and how many returns is highly debated (part of eschatology)

2. Confusing & Conflating Comings

- a. Generally assumed and accepted by Christians there are two comings of Christ – Heb 9:28
- b. Scofield correctly asserts that the “Second Coming”/ “Two Advents”/ “Return of Christ” is made clear in NT from Jesus’ own words, apostles’ writings, and angels—Mat 24:30, 2Th 1:7-8, Acts 17:31
- c. He myopically states both comings are easily seen in OT (20/20?) & misses progressive revelation op
- d. People see what they want (mystery; the news) or don’t want (1st coming) in prophecies – 1Pe 1:10-12
- e. Scofield says the reason 1stcc. Jews rejected Jesus was because they spiritualized the scriptures...meh...
- f. Likely they associated “suffering servant” with the nation itself, not Christ (like today) – Mark 9:12, 9:32
- g. Scofield wrongly claims “the second advent is a promise to the Church as well as the Jew” and begins conflating Christ’s prophesied return for Israel (1Jn 3:2, Mk 13:33-37, Mat 24:42-44 & 25:13, Rev 22:20) with his unprophesied return for the Body of Christ (1Co 15:51-52, 1Th 1:10 & 4:16-17, Ti 2:13)
- h. Christ’s prophetic return brings judgment & wrath followed by glory in Israel on earth – 2Th 1:7-8
- i. There is no judgment or wrath when Christ returns for the church in the air– Col 3:4, 1Ti 6:14
- j. If Christ’s appearing is (rightly) used synonymously with coming, then there’s also 2Tim 1:10, Acts 26:16
- k. Scofield spends the rest of the chapter attempting to refute those who oppose a literal, personal, bodily return of Christ by spiritualizing the passages to mean:

- i) The pouring out of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost (or other manifestations of the Spirit in believers)
- ii) The conversion of a sinner to Christ
- iii) The death of a Christian
- iv) The destruction of Jerusalem (preterists and most amillennialists)
- v) The diffusion of Christianity (most postmillennialists)
- vi) The second coming cannot occur until after the world has been converted and/or has submitted to the spiritual reign of Christ for one thousand years.

3. Separating Comings with Commas

- a. Much of the confusion surrounding the returns of Christ and eschatology in general is cleared up by respecting the mystery revealed to Paul.
- b. Rightly dividing requires understanding a greater context. Others grasped this more than Scofield.

c. Examples of Multiple, Separate Comings in a Single Prophecy/Passage

- i) Matthew 2:2-6 (Micah 5:2)
- ii) Luke 1:31-33
- iii) Luke 4:16-21 (Isaiah 61:1-2)
- iv) Isaiah 53:10
- v) Isaiah 9:6
- vi) Matthew 21:4-5 (Zechariah 9:9)
- vii) Matthew 12:16-19 (Isaiah 42:1-4)
- viii) Acts 2:16-21 (Joel 2:28-32)
- ix) 2 Timothy 4:1-2

[From E.W. Bullinger's Appendix 72 in his Companion Bible] "The object of this appendix is to show that, in the Old Testament, while this present dispensation was kept secret there are remarkable breaks which can be explained only after we have the key put into our hands."