

**THE SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST: A MESSAGE
FOR THE TIMES**

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The second coming of Christ: a message for the times by James M. Campbell

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JAMES M. CAMPBELL

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FOR THE TIMES**

The Second Coming of Christ

A MESSAGE FOR THE TIMES

BY
JAMES M. CAMPBELL



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	7
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PART I

THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING REGARDING THE SECOND ADVENT

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. "THE COMING ONE".....	15
II. THE FIRST COMING OF CHRIST, OR HIS COMING IN THE FLESH.....	19
III. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, OR THE GREAT REVISITATION.....	20
IV. WITH WHAT EVENT DID THE SECOND COM- ING OF CHRIST SYNCHRONIZE?.....	22
V. WHEN DID HE COME?.....	25
VI. FOR WHAT ENDS DID HE COME?.....	27
VII. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IN THE SYNOPTICAL GOSPELS.....	33
VIII. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IN THE APOSTOLIC WRITINGS.....	45
IX. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION.....	56
X. A CHANGE OF VIEW.....	69
XI. TESTIMONY OF THE FOURTH GOSPEL TO THIS CHANGE.....	71

PART II

IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

1. That Christ Having Returned, According to Promise, Is Now Here in All the Fullness of His Redeeming Power.....	79
---	----

CONTENTS

	PAGE
2. That the Promise of the Parousia is Fulfilled in Christ's Abiding Presence.....	81
3. That Christ Is Personally Present, and Not Representatively Merely.....	84
4. That Christ Is Spiritually Present, and Not Merely Present "in Spirit".....	86
5. That Any Future Coming of Christ to Man Must Be Upon the Plane which He Now Occupies.....	88
6. That Christ Is Now Here Carrying to Completion the Work which He Began in the Days of His Flesh.....	91
7. That the Saving Power of the Hidden Christ Is Being Increasingly Displayed.....	94
8. That the Presence of the Indwelling Christ Is to Be Increasingly Manifested.....	98
9. That the Unseen Christ Is the World's True King.....	101
10. That the Second Coming of Christ Marks the Advance from the Outward to the Spiritual, and from the Limited to the Universal, in Religion.....	103
11. That the Second Coming of Christ Has Given a New Meaning and Value to the Lord's Supper.....	106
12. That by His Second Coming Jesus Has Brought to His People the Fullness of His Redemption.....	107
13. That His Presence Is the Pledge of the Final Triumph of Righteousness.....	109

PART III

A CATECHISM ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.....	117
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FOREWORD

THE subject of the second coming of Christ is at the present time being pushed into the forefront of the world's thought by the portentous events happening on European battlefields, and by the equally portentous changes looming up in the industrial, social, and political worlds. Many in their sore perplexity are raising the question whether the startling things now taking place may not presage the speedy coming of Christ to roll back the forces of evil, and to establish his kingdom. Upon that background of questioning the following pages have been written.

The hope of the second coming of Christ, which the events of recent years have so greatly intensified, has persisted throughout the Christian centuries. Naturally enough, it took much of its coloring, at the first, from the religion

FOREWORD

of Judaism, out of which Christianity grew. It was expected to take place in a visible, spectacular fashion; but in the course of time, as Christianity became spiritualized, it was transmuted into a spiritual event. The imagery in which it is set forth in the New Testament was borrowed from the Jewish apocalyptic sources, from the later prophets, and especially from the book of Daniel, and is to be explained in harmony with the highly dramatic and symbolical character of these writings.

It was in perfect keeping with their way of looking at things that the first Christians should expect to see the forces of evil destroyed, and the kingdom of righteousness set up by the brightness of the Lord's appearing. They doubtless kept saying, as many are doing to-day, "Everything will be set right when the Lord comes." That this attitude of eager expectancy and unshaken hope ought, in its essence at least, to be recaptured by the church of

FOREWORD

to-day, goes without the saying. Those who expect most from Christ in the future honor him most, and occupy the surest ground. Upon his mighty arm we cannot lean too heavily; upon the certainty of his final victory we cannot count too confidently. What he has already done is only a hint of what he is able to do. We are at the beginning and not at the end of his power. When his reserves are called up, and the great offensive is on, the world will wonder at the result.

The desire for outward demonstration of what is spiritual and invisible is a natural one. Men have always passionately prayed to a God who seems to be concealing himself, "O that thou wouldest rend the heavens and come down." They have always sought outward tokens of unseen realities. We see this desire for a sign expressed in spiritism, which cries for "the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still"—not being content with