

# **GLIMPSES OF THE COMING**

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Glimpses of the Coming by Richard Gleason Greene

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**RICHARD GLEASON GREENE**

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THE COMING**



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"Yet, Jesus said not unto him—He shall not die; but—If I  
will that He tarry till I come."

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BY

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PREFACE.





## PREFACE.

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THIS little book is large enough. To have right to be larger it would need to be a more thorough treatment of its great theme, concerning which it is only a series of hints. And for the arrangement of these, while a natural order has been sought, no attempt has been made toward a scientific method.

It enters on no history of doctrine concerning the Second Coming of The Son Of Man; it gives no analysis of any of the various systems of interpreting the prophecies, such as have been learnedly argued under the designations of literal, normal, figurative, spiritual, symbolical; it attempts nothing on the seductive field of a specific reference of specific prophecies, each to its nation or its person on the scene of history—a field elaborately traversed by innumerable explorers through paths interlacing or colliding; it is not even devotional or practical in form, though it is hoped that a devout mind may find in it most practical suggestions; it attempts no thorough exe-

genesis of prophetic texts, which may be deemed a serious defect, though indeed it does seek to make audible at least the constant undertone of the grand Scriptural Anthem of The Coming, and to voice its one pervasive strain and to mark its rhythmic and unfaltering time.

Certain principles herein stated can be shown to be grounded solidly on the Word of God: these must stand, whether with or against any learned theories of the Second Advent. Where, as at many points, this little treatise takes the form of an explorative hypothesis ranging out upon a vast mystery, the single question is—how closely the main lines of guidance and the holding-points revealed by The Holy Spirit, are adhered to?

If the right or profit of hypothesis on this theme be questioned, the answer is instant—that Holy Scripture leaves us herein not without some ground of formulated thought, and in numerous passages invites us to search for it; and that our search being tentative must be in the manner of hypothesis; and that for us to speak slightingly of a reverent study of the prophecies, is to follow the fashion of an easy and shallow and not ancient piety, rather than to copy the Apostles and our Lord Himself, Who con-

stantly hold up to view the Final Coming as the strong practical rebuke to worldliness and an inspiration to faith. The Church of our time stands in line of battle on the field of thought. It can not afford to discard this keen weapon of The Spirit. The Great Coming of The Lord, plainly taught in Holy Scripture, scoffed at by unbelief, and half-doubted in vast sections of the very Church whose business on the earth is to wait for it and to hasten it, must be not only replaced in its rightful rank of truths, but must be newly set in such presentment and array as shall confront the unbelief of the times—unbelief which doubts the Lord's Coming as it doubts The Lord.

The reason therefore for probing this theme in part with hypothesis is valid, even should any given hypothesis be found untenable. This treatise is an attempt to suggest a possible harmonizing of the two sharply divergent interpretations under which the Church has set forth the future Advent—thus a humble contribution to unity among the Christian forces: it is also an attempt to set the Advent in terms of thought which can take their place not only in arbitrary creeds, but in a cognizable system of history and of Nature—a system of unailing laws. Let the theory now suggested be found as faulty on certain