THE CHRIST HAS COME: THE SECOND ADVENT AN EVENT OF THE PAST, AN APPEAL FROM HUMAN TRADITION TO THE TEACHING OF JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES

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The Christ Has Come: The Second Advent an Event of the Past, an Appeal from Human Tradition to the Teaching of Jesus and His Apostles by Ernest Hampden-Cook

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ERNEST HAMPDEN-COOK

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THE CHRIST HAS COME.

The Second Advent an Event of the Past.

AN APPEAL FROM HUMAN TRADITION TO THE TEACHING OF JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES.

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καθηγητής ύμων έστιν ε.'ς ό Χριστός. πάντες δε ύμεις άδελφοι έστε.—Matt. απίδι. 8, 10. πως ό προάγων και μή μένων έν τή διδαχή του Χριστού θεών ούκ έχει. ό μένων έν τή διδαχή, ούτοι και τόν πατέρα και τόν υίδν έχει.—2 John 9.

Affectionately dedicated

TC

JAMES STUART RUSSELL, D.D.,

AUTHOR OF

"THE PAROUSIA."

"Even now, after eighteen centuries of Christianity, we may be involved in some tremendous error, of which the Christianity of the future will make us ashamed."-Vinet.

"The outward and visible signs which were immediately to precede the appearance of the Son of man in heaven have long ago been accomplished. All these things had their place in the external history of the world, and they are known to us through contemporary historians. What happened in the invisible and eternal world immediately after the tribulation of those days is known to us through these words of Christ, as far as can be made known to us in earthly symbols. To use His own words, 'He came in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.'"—R. W. Dale.

"It was to this event, the most awful in history (the destruction of Jerusalem) that we must apply those prophecies of Christ's coming in which every one of the apostles and avangelists describe it as near at hand. To those prophecies our Lord Himself fixed these three most definite limitations—the one, that before that generation passed away all these things would be fulfilled; another that some standing there should not taste death till they saw the Son of man coming in His Kingdom; the third that the apostles should not have gone over the cities of Israel till the Son of man be come. It is strange that these distinct limitations should not be regarded as a decisive proof that the fall of Jerusalem was in the fullest sense the second advent of the Son of man which was primarily contemplated by the earliest voices of prophecy."—F. W. Farrar, Early Days of Christianity : Bk. v., ch. 29.

" Brethren, we are now quickly to part from one another, and whether I may ever live to see your face on earth any more, the God of Heaven only knows; but whether the Lord hath appointed that or no, I charge you before God and His blessed angels, that you follow me no further than ye have seen me follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

If God reveal anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as ever ye were to receive any truth by my Ministry; for I am verily persuaded, I am very confident, the Lord has more truth yet to break forth out of His holy word. For my part I cannot sufficiently bewail the condition of the Reformed churches, who are come to a period in religion, and will go at present no further than the instruments of their reformation. The Lutherans can't be drawn to go beyond what Luther saw, what ever part of His will our good God has revealed to Calvin, they will die rather than embrace it. And the Calvinists, ye see, stick fact where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things.

This is a Misery much to be lamented, for though they were burning

and shining lights in their times, yet they penetrated not into the whole counsel of God; but were they now living, would be as willing to ambrace further light as that which they first received. I beseech you remember it, 'tis an article of your Church covenant. That ye be ready to receive whatever truth shall be made known to you from the torition word of God.
Remember that, and every other article of your sacred covenant. But I
must herewithal exhort you to take heed what ye receive as truth."—From
the Francis Character of the Direction Professional Character Islands. the Farewell Charge to the Plymouth Pilgrims, by their Paster John Bobinson. (Neal's History of New England, vol. i., p. 84.)

"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. . . . If ye abide in My word, then are ye truly My disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU PREE."—Jesus Christ.

CONTENTS.

1	INTRODUCTION.									
	Revelation has b	man	mean	.aoni	***	252	850	/20	0	Page
	Man's understar					WOOTE	egive	alan		9
	The Kingdom of		7	70.70	anie I	- T		OTIO	-	ě
	The spiritual na							7.7 0 .0	500	10
	A world-wide jud						(#)() •	10.00		18
	200		2500	100.55	0000000					41575
Ц.	THE EVIDENCE PROM T	HB]	Ернг	LES.						
	1 Thesealonians		8	15	:5	5.70		•	-	17
	2 Thessalonians	2		2	<u> 305</u>			25	-	18
	1 Corinthians	4	2	22	32	-	4	27	2	21
	Romans -	23		-	55€	•		#3		25
	Philippians -	6 5		*	:Œ	(*)		•		2
	The Pastoral Ep	istle	es -	380		S(+ 0)	(O.	*3	×	2
	1 Peter -	8 2			15	11(6)	S .	•		24
	2 Peter .	7.0		-	27					24
	James			-		•		-8		2
	1 John			12	12					25
	Hebrews -	<u></u>	20	2	12	400				26
	The inference to	be .	drawn	1 -	€	1	((4)	•		80
III.	THE EVIDENCE PROM TO	EB (Josep	ıs.						
	Matt. xxiv., Mar	k xi	ii. Lu	ke x	xi	1 - 2	00400			86
	"At hand" -	#.	C. B. C.			10.00	117	-	-	44
	John a herald of	BD	edv i	uder	nent			9		48
	Before their min	7 - 2 - X						2		46
	Until the end of	17.00			ge-		3740	40	-	47
	At the end of th									48
	" White already				8.				*	48
	Within the lifeti				rho li					45
			*1							50