

The Coming and Kingdom of Christ - The Prophetic Bible Conference,  
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As there are distinct stages in the judgment program of Christ, so there are two distinct stages in His second coming. In the first stage He comes for His saints. In the second stage He comes with His saints. This recognition of the distinct stages of our Lord's coming affords reconciliation for two apparently contradictory passages in the New Testament:

Jesus said to His disciples and tous, "Be ye ready, for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh," His coming is thus declared to be imminent. Again He said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." Here is the declaration that certain results in gospel progress must be secured before the ending of the present age in His "appearance and kingdom." The only reconciliation of these passages is by observing that the first "Be ye ready," has reference to His coming for His saints, while the second marks the time of His coming with His saints for world judgment."

"The Kingdom View of the Gospel As Related to the Missionary Program of Christ", The Rev. Robert McWatty Russell  
President of Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa., and  
Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian  
Church.