

then all the sudden he is here and how disgusted we feel that we were not busier in presenting His Word and winning souls for Christ. Then after the time in which this great tribulation comes upon this earth, and in which many new people are won to the Lord through reading the Scripture and seeing its wonderful promises and many of them suffer martyrdom for the Name of Christ, then there comes the return of Christ to this earth to put an end to all that is wicked and to set up His kingdom.

Is there only one return of Christ, or are there two? Well, when was the first coming of Christ? Was it the annunciation to the Virgin Mary? Was it at His birth? Was it when He began His preaching? Was it when . . . After all Jesus went to heaven after His crucifixion, and then he came back to earth. Surely that is at least a second coming then? It is the third coming we are now looking for. To say there was only one coming of Christ then is ridiculous. There were many events which gathered together into a great complex of which we speak as the first coming of Christ. It seems to me it is unreasonable to object to the possibility that the second coming also has various aspects or parts in it.

Another objection I've heard made is this: These pictures are all in an eschatological context. In other words when the Great Tribulation comes, when certain events happen, and a certain situation comes on this earth, then we can say Now we must begin looking for the coming of Christ because in such a hour as you think now He is coming. It applies only then." It seems to me that makes Christ's words utterly out of context. Well, they say, They are in eschatological context, these statements in Mat. and in Mk. Suppose we even admit that about Mat. and Mk. Look at Luke, in ch. 12, there is nothing eschatological except the prediction of the rapture in Luke 12. The whole ch. is devoted to saying how his disciples shall live: What kind of people they shall be, and about a fourth of the chapter deals with this specific thing: that they shall be like men who are waiting for their Lord and who are serving Him and they should be watching constantly.