

Since the return of Christ ^{was} is of so much importance to the early apostles and since it has played a very great part in the thought of those who have been leaders in the spread of the Christian religion, it is vital that each of us should know something about it. What does the Bible teach is to be the manner of the return of Christ? Is He again to be born into this world as He was at His first coming — a babe in Bethlehem? Does the coming of Christ mean, as some have suggested, merely His Spiritual ^{a R} coming to receive ~~the dead~~ ^{adherents} Christians to Himself? Was His coming fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?

This last suggestion can be immediately disposed of. The New Testament ^{is} filled with statements looking forward to the return of Christ, ^{with} looking after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Clearly, it is something distinct from that ^{statements} something still future. The references refer to it as a time when He will judge those upon the earth, as a time when He will put down all that is evil. Certainly these do not find a satisfactory fulfillment in the death of a Christian, or in any individual great forward movement in the world. The verse in Acts 1:11 which tells us what the angels said to the apostles when Christ left them to ascend into heaven give us a very clear idea of certain vital features of the return ^{of} Christ. He will return in like manner as ^{you} have seen Him go into heaven. His ascension into heaven was physical and His return is to be physical. His ascension into heaven was in a human body and His return will be in a human body. His ascension was visible. They could see it; and we are ^(Rev. 1:7) told in the Bible that when He comes back every eye will see Him. His ascension into heaven was a sudden thing. As they stood talking there He was lifted up from them into heaven. His return is, similarly, to be sudden.

He has told us repeatedly that in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. ^{Thus, in view of what the angel said in Acts 1, we can} Thus there are many points which we can learn simply by ob-

servicing the way in which He went in view of what the angel said, that His

learn much about His return from the way in which He went away.

(Matt. 24:42, 44
25:13.)