

He came then
He has come now
&
He will come again



*He came then, He has come now,
& He will come again*

Jesus spoke of trouble ahead

When Jesus was preparing to face the cross for our sins He warns His followers they will also face trouble and difficulties because they follow Him and are not of the world. They have been chosen out of the world, and therefore the world hates them just as it has hated Christ. John 15:18-27

We are told clearly in God's word that the whole world is in the power of the evil one. (1 John 2:7) So it should not surprise us when we see it in religious extremism, and when we see it in political corruption; when we see it in the exploitation of minorities. We can see it in the work place as workers are taken advantage of by unscrupulous bosses. We see it in our own lives as we fail to love others as we would be loved ourselves, let alone loving God with all our hearts and minds and strength.

However, as difficult as things might become for the faithful after He went back to the Father, Jesus

made sure we were not on our own; Jesus would come because we would have God the Holy Spirit to help us. The Holy Spirit would not prevent us from being persecuted, He would not give us a life of comfort; instead He would come to live in us and testify to us about Jesus our Lord and saviour. It's all about Jesus, when He came to live amongst men, when He comes to abide in us, and when He comes again. It is the testimony of Jesus, it's all about Jesus, who He is and what He has done for us that comforts us when they face trouble in this fallen world. And this is the testimony the Spirit brings, *Christ in us, is our hope and glory.*

Col 1:27

The Lord Jesus does say to us, *“These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.”* John 16:1-4

Although Jesus was leaving the world physically, He would be with us in the Holy Spirit. His followers will need Him if they were not to fall. So we must believe His promise to be with us, for if we are faithful we will suffer for Him. Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2 Tim 3:12

If we as believers are to be comforted by His promise to live in us through the Holy Spirit, we need to have a very good idea of who He is if we are to stand firm and not stumble. The gospel of John begins by telling us who He is. *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'*

John 1:1-5

He came in the past

He was the one who came to live amongst men in the flesh, even though He created all things by the word of His mouth.

Eight times God spoke forming His creation, (Gen 1:2, 3, 6, 9, 11, 20, 24) and twice He gives instructions for how man was to live in His creation. And God spoke again to Adam, giving clear instructions of how he was able to remain living his life with God, or lose his life through the death which comes from disobedience. (Gen 2:15-17) But Adam listened to his wife instead of listening to God to obey Him; so they died in their spirit so that one day God would have to come to earth in order to redeem His children from the penalty of sin and death.

In the gospel of John, John speaks of Jesus as the very same Word who was in the beginning God who made all things. He was the life and therefore the light of all men. He came into the world of darkness and the darkness did not cover come Him. Jesus is the creator of all things and the giver of life which enlightens all men. He came that all those who believe in Him might once again have life eternal.

John 3:16

In this gospel Jesus promises He will come to live in us. *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are*

many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

John 14:1-3, 18, 21

He has come now

He came in the flesh to redeem mankind from sin; He died and rose again to sit at the right hand of God. Now He comes in the Spirit to live in those who believe and obey Him. He comes to His Church of the Spirit for those who are born of the Spirit who seek to walk in the Spirit in order to fulfil the commandment of God to go into all the world and make disciples of all peoples.

It is surely clear from John that the 'return' of Jesus Christ is to be understood in a different way from how many Christian have ideas that the only hope we have is in the return of Christ at the end of time to take us to heaven. Therefore, when the

Lord Jesus said “*I will come to you*” (v18) He meant that soon after His death, and because of His sacrifice for our sins, His followers will be joined with Him in life as their living Lord, and through Him they will also be joined with the Father, and so enter eternal life. That is what He meant later when He said, “*I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am you too may be.*” (17:24-26) His coming to be in us as His disciples who are born of the Spirit is the true ‘manifestation of His remarkable appearance.’ This appearance is a revelation of the presence of God in us, the same God who in the beginning made all things.

The personally manifestation of Jesus to His followers as saviour of the world, as Messiah, as Son of God, and as Son of Man, is essentially the first stage of His final coming to judge the heavens and the earth. The promises of the coming Holy Spirit at Pentecost and Jesus’ appearance to them are not separate events, but one and the same event. This first coming of the Lord to abide in His subjects is not the external event many think will happen when we die; it is an inner manifestation of the Spirit of God in us who are

being changed day by day into His likeness, where Jesus comes to live in us as the King of King and the Lord of Lords. This is the victory which Jesus wins for us when faith comes to life in a man by the power of God in overcoming sin through the sacrificial death of Jesus as Lord and saviour of the world.

Therefore Jesus declared we will receive the Spirit as another helper. *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”* (John 14:15-17) The Holy Spirit will be our advocate, and because He will live in us He will bring the comfort of God to abide in us if we will just obey Him and abide in Him.

But this is not granted the unbeliever. The whole world is still in darkness, even though the light of the world has come to defeat that darkness, simply because many prefer the darkness to light. (John 3:19) But the Lord God has promised these

who love Him, even though they walk in the darkness, they will have the light of life. (John 8:12) But even better than that, Jesus said He would be with us and never leave us alone. *“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matt 28:20) The secret of living in peace in a dark world is the assurance and confidence that the Lord God has come to live in all those who believe in Him and love to obey all He has commanded.

Even while the darkness has its present time to torment those in the world who do not recognise our God and saviour Jesus Christ; we can be at peace, just because Jesus has told us He will live in us regardless of our circumstances. The God who created all things, the word of God, the great I AM, the prince of peace, the lamb of God, the Son of man; has come to live in the faithful children of God who are now children of light and are no longer of the darkness.

Who He is who has come to live in us

‘He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,

whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.'

Col 1:15-20

God has spoken in the last days in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things; through whom He also made the world. (v2) He is the radiance of God's glory. (v3) He is the exact representation of God's nature. (v3) He upholds all things by the word of His power. (v3) He made purification for sins. (v3) He sits down at the right hand of Majesty on high. (v3) Having become much better than angels, He has inherited a more excellent name than they. (v4)

Heb 1:1-4

Therefore, since the Holy One of God has come to live in us, we can be confident of our life in Him. And we need to remember He has given us a life

of holiness so that we can abide in Him, and He in us. So we need to live holy lives, for one day when He comes again, we will be like Him, for He will come again. *‘And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.’*

1 John 3:3

He will come again

Jesus, the Word of God has spoken again. *“For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”*

John 5:26-29

To the apostle John at Patmos He said; *“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”* Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have

the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."

Rev 22:12-21

Jesus Christ, the Lord God and creator of all things will judge the wicked who will not believe and obey Him, and He will take the faithful home

to be with Him in the new heaven and the new earth. *Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."*

John 11:25-26

Faith in him and receiving him means to receive the one who is resurrection and life. Therefore, the one who believes in him will have a life that carries him beyond death. *"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron sceptre.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."*

Rev 19:11-16

He is coming, and we need to be ready in order *'that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honour and eternal dominion! Amen.'*

1 Tim 6:14-16

For the Lord God to reign as King of kings and Lord of Lords from heaven, means He has ultimate authority and complete sovereignty over all other rulers, powers, authorities, whether spiritual or earthly. This is precisely what the Bible teaches us concerning the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ if He is Lord and saviour in the hearts of men. And this needs to happen in the hearts of His disciples in this life on earth, and only then in the life to come in heaven.

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our

lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

Phil 3:20-21

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority." (Col 2:9-10) Jesus said "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."

John 14:27-29

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen."

Rev 1:5-6

He will come again. Are you ready? Does He live in you preparing you for His return?

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He has come now
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