

The Coming of the Lord #2

When someone introduces a different slant on what we have formerly accepted, our first impulse is to brand it with some denigrating name and counter it with a few familiar proof-texts. However, that only deals the issue superficially and prejudicially regardless of whether our assumption is true or false.

When we began hearing claims more recently that the prophecies relating to the coming of the Lord were all fulfilled in the first century, that was the sort of knee-jerk reaction. The matter was called the *A.D 70 theories* and was dismissed quickly by a few proof-texts upholding traditional concepts without giving any sufficient harmonizing explanations of the many references to the imminent return of Christ.

In our last issue, I noted numerous references from Malachi and the Gospels to the imminent return of the Lord. Now we will extend our look through Acts and the Epistles. We will note that terms and expressions like *day of the Lord, coming (parousia – either arrival or continuing presence), the great and terrible day, the day approaching, the day of his coming, the day of his appearing, coming in the clouds, last days, end of the world-age, last days, last time, last hour, end of all things, day of vengeance, coming in his glory, and coming in his kingdom* all spoke of something imminent and within the lifetime of many of those addressed.

These things are being offered to challenge restudy. I am forming some more solid conclusions without claiming to have all the answers. Let us restudy non-defensively realizing that this not a life-or-death issue.