

By about 300 A.D. much of this anticipation disappeared. Then people began to try to find exactly where things happened, and to put a _____ in different places where events had happened in the life of Christ, and to look at these spots as if there were something sacred or wonderful in the places themselves. But nearly all of your books on Palestine will mention that fact. We know where in 315 A.D. people thought certain things happened. But during the first 300 years we don't have much ~~idea~~ ^{previous} idea about what people thought about where they happened because those people were busy watching for the Lord to return figuring that ~~it~~ was so much more important than looking back and trying to figure where things had occurred before. Practically everyone of the great leaders of the early Christian church in the first two ~~of~~ centuries, was definitely a premillennialist. There is no question about that.

Now this faith, this expectation, this anticipation was lost to quite an extent in subsequent years. But people certainly departed from the Scriptures in losing it. This is not the only passage by any means that speaks of the return of Christ. When Jesus ascended into heaven we find that after he ascended two men stood there beside the disciples and said in Acts 1:11, "Ye men of Galilee . . . (finish quote)" What could be clearer than this? It is clearly stated that this same Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Shailer Matthews who was Dean of the theological school at the U. of Chicago, a few years ago, ~~it~~ used to constantly stress the ridiculousness of people thinking that a man is going to come down from heaven to this ~~of~~ earth. Well from the human viewpoint it is ridiculous, but it is clearly taught in the Scriptures. And it was believed by the early ~~Christians~~ Christians. It is stressed over and over in the NT. Anyone who ~~it~~ takes the Bible as his foundation, certainly must believe in return of Christ in visible, bodily form to this earth. This is a fundamental doctrine of Christianity. You will find very few Christians through the ages who have been real Christians who have not believed that this would happen sometime. But a great many of them have shoved it so far off into the distance that it has been merely a theological doctrine, and not as Lk. 12 says, It should be something that enters into