

Thus we see what an important place the return of Christ occupied in the thought of the Apostle Paul.

Peter also had this theme constantly in mind. A much smaller portion of the New Testament was written by Peter than was written by Paul. However, in I and II Peter we have this theme very clearly brought out. He refers to it in I Peter 1:7 and 13; also in 4:13 and 5:4. In the last chapter of II Peter he warns against doubting the fact that the Lord will return because a longer time has elapsed than had been generally expected. Thus he says in verses 3 and 4: ". . . there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming?"

John also dwells upon this theme in I John 2:28 and 3:1-3.

In the three earliest Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, we find many verses and sometimes whole chapters that have it as their principal subject. The last chapter of the Gospel of John contains a very interesting reference by Christ Himself to His second coming, following a prediction by the Lord that John himself would live much longer than his associates. It is expressed as follows: "Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" (John 21:21-23).