

R 2 (1)

and is vital for us or we are mighty sure it doesn't and can explain why. If we come to a matter of real importance. And so I am coming to have a feeling I didn't have a short time ago, that the matter of the rapture is a matter of more practical importance than I had thought it before, something on which it is rather vital that we see just what the Scripture teaches.

R 1 (2)

Now I want to recall to your mind again as our starting point here the practical statements which the Scripture makes which have relationship to the, to His coming to His church. I think that it is all too easy in our discussion for us to assume that an event must be instantaneous. We've mentioned this before a number of times in class. There is hardly an event in history that is instantaneous. You say, "Is it one event or is it more than one event?" Well, what do you mean by one event? If you mean one event, something that takes place in one second, neither the first coming of Christ nor the second is one event. The first coming of Christ was a series of events, a series of events with as much as thirty years in between some of them, a series of events which stretched over a long period, and the Old Testament predicts some of them in one place and some of them in ^{an} other place and nowhere tells us the exact order in which they would take place. . There is a long series of events which together make up what we call the coming of Christ, and we cannot the coming of Christ was the instant in which the virgin Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit. You can't say the coming of Christ was the instant in which the birth pangs began or was the instant in which Christ was actually born, or it was the instant in which He began to preach, or it was the instant in which He was put on the cross or it was the instant in which He rendered up His spirit, or it was the instant in which the first step of the resurrection occurred. You might say there were many resurrections of Christ in the sense that He appeared to different people at different times. Which one of them was the resurrection? All together they make up the resurrection. We don't know the exact instant at