

Expositors tell us of various Comings referred to by Jesus—such as the “eschatological,” the “historical,” the “spiritual,” the “dynamic,” the “individual.” The average bible student finds these sharp lines of demarcation confusing rather than helpful. It is doubtful, too, how far they are warranted. In the New Testament the Coming is sometimes described as a period and a process ; again, as a particular epoch and event. Stress is sometimes laid upon the moral and spiritual laws of the Kingdom ; again upon its external occurrences. Many commentators say there must be a mistake somewhere. The evangelists are accused of giving us a confused and erroneous record of the Lord’s teaching. We blame everyone but ourselves. Is it not possible that it is we who are laboring under a misapprehension ? This at least may be said for the Gospel records : They were made by men who stood so near the prime source as to be in all probability correct in their statements, and they were put in circulation at a time when they could be brought to the actual test of history. Nevertheless, they have been allowed to stand there, in all their evident erroneousness, if many modern exegetes are right (21).

Here are specimens of Jesus’ utterances : “From this time forward, ye shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven” (22). (His coming in the clouds is to be as truly visible “from henceforth” as his sitting on the right hand of power.) “The Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels ; and then shall he render to every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some of them that stand here, which shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom” (23). This seems to us an extravagant description of anything the readers of the first century witnessed. Here Christ gives an explicit announcement of (1) his Coming, (2) his Coming as King,

(21). Thayer : *Historical Element in the New Testament*.

(22). Matthew 26 : 64.

(23). Matthew 16 : 27-28.