

suppose that words spoken on different occasions are here grouped together in a continuous address. It is not likely that we have here an utterly confused report of our Lord's words. We have no good reason for abandoning the record as substantially correct. When Jesus said to the Twelve, "Verily, I say unto you, ye shall not have gone through the cities of Israel, till the Son of Man be come" (31), he doubtless thought of his return as coincident with the historical catastrophe of the Jewish nation. All the Synoptists preserve the saying: "Verily, I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all these things be fulfilled" (32). The destruction of Jerusalem, then, was evidently one of the events which found a place in his thought of the "Parousia." Does not this conflict with our conclusion that his Coming was essentially spiritual? By no means. He must be a very superficial student of history who fails to see that the fall of Jerusalem was essentially a spiritual phenomenon. It was doubtless such in the mind of Christ. "Moses' seat" was then cast down. The temple, the great bulwark of the Hebrew faith, was destroyed. The ceremonial religion of the Jews was conquered once and for all by the spiritual religion of Jesus. Judaism then and there went down before Christianity. Was not this a spiritual Coming of the Son of Man? But this was not his consummate Coming. He did not predict the speedy realization of his Kingdom in its completeness. The disciples had no warrant from him for straining their eyes, gazing into heaven, in expectation of his speedy Advent in full power and glory, for he had plainly told them: "The day and the hour knoweth no man, not even the Son" (33).

The entrance of the Gospel to the Gentile world also stood out prominently in Jesus' thought of the "Parousia." This is evident from that sublime passage in Matthew xxv. : 31-46 : "When the Son of Man shall come in his glory and all the

(31). Matthew 10 : 23.

(32). Matthew 24 : 34. Mark 13 : 30. Luke 21 : 32.

(33). Matthew 24 : 36.