

### *THE THREE APPEARINGS OF OUR LORD.*

In the 9th Chapter of Hebrews the past, present, and future appearances of the Lord Jesus are set forth. The past: "Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared, to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." The present: "Christ is not entered into the Holy Places made with hands, which are figures of the true; but unto heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." The future: "Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Reader, do you believe that sin has been completely, eternally put away in the death of Christ? Do you look back at the Cross of Christ and say—"There God once for all put away my sin; there Jesus, God's only Son, once for all, suffered in my stead, and bore the burden of my guilt, so that I shall bear it no more forever?" It is "now" still "the end of the world." The sacrifice of Christ continues to proclaim the putting away of sin—this now—"now is the day of salvation" "once" in all eternity Christ has been slain—"There remains no more sacrifice for sin." Redemption is an accomplished fact. "It is finished." Seek to realize this great truth. But where, is Christ now? "He has entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." There he presents each believer. The Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus, presents alike each believer in equal acceptance, equal glory, equal perfection before God. When God looks upon Jesus, He sees every pardoned sin-

ner, "complete in Him." He never beholds us as believers apart from Jesus. Mark the words, "now to appear in the presence of God, for us," "now," at this very moment, in this season of weakness, weariness, fainting; "now," while Satan tempts, and conscience upbraids, "now" though the heart be cold and the soul despairing.

Appearing first upon earth to put away sin, every believer has met his death and judgment in Christ crucified for him; there is now therefore no death, no judgment, to those who believe in Him. Rom. 8: 1. They are both behind him, already past, and now, instead of looking for death and judgement we are looking for Christ—for His third appearing for us, for himself to come in the clouds and call us up to meet Him in the air. So surely as men beheld Him agonizing on the cross, so surely will our eyes behold Him when He comes to earth the second time, not in a vision, not a spirit, but Himself. He whose visage was once marred, shall appear crowned with glory and honor, in the clouds of heaven, not then coming down to earth, but calling those who are looking for Him, them "that love His appearing," "who are watching, to meet Him "in the air" "What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch!"

It is related of Bishop Wilberforce that once, when he was examining the son of an English merchant settled in Greece, he was so horrified by his pronunciation of certain passages of the Greek Testament, that he cried: "Where did you learn Greek?" To which the candidate made humble reply: "At Athens, my lord!"