

Parousia —coming or presence e.g. 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 4:15

Apocalypsis —revelation or unveiling 1 Peter 1:7-13, 1 Corinthians 1:7

Ekiphaneia —appearance or manifestation 2 Thessalonians 2:8, 1 Timothy 6:14

### His Second Coming

**1. It is a coming with power and glory**

Daniel 7:13-14, Matthew 25:31, Luke 21-27

**2. It will be sudden, coming like:**

Lightening Matthew 4:27

A Thief Matthew 24:43-44

A Snare Luke 21:35 catching a bird unawares

**3. It will be unexpected**

What will people be doing?

Matthew 24:36-39 c.f. Luke 17:28-29

The time is not given to us

Matthew 24:36 C.f. Mark 13:35

**4. It will be a time of separation**

Matthew 24:40-41, Luke 17:34-35, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, 1 Peter 4:17-18

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## Advent Promise

### A Bible Study

#### Study Four —Looking Forward

**Study Text**— Acts 1:11 *'This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven'*

**Readings:** Matthew 25:31-46

Luke 21:25-28

#### Collect for Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son, Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead; we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

#### Introduction

Belief in the second coming is a very important part of the life and practice of the early Church.

In Paul's letters, particularly the earliest, it would seem that he expected it in his life time.

In the Acts this is also prominent c.f. Acts 2:19-21

C.f. Hebrews 9:28, 1 Peter 1:7, 2 Peter 1:16-18

The church has never wavered in its faith in the Lord's return though this faith has taken somewhat different forms in different ages. In the middle ages it was thought of in terms of judgement, while other times have stressed 'a glorious hope'.