

The Parousia

A careful look at the New Testament doctrine of our Lord's Second Coming

By James Stuart Russell

Written in 1878

"This is the most popular introduction to and defense of the preterist view of Bible Prophecy in print today. Most theologians in Europe a century ago took a preterist approach, so it is not surprising to hear some of Russell's well-known contemporaries say nice things about his book: **F. W. Farrar** said the book was "full of suggestiveness." **Milton Terry**, who wrote *Biblical Hermeneutics*, quoted extensively from Russell's book and fully endorsed Russell's preterist approach. **Charles H. Spurgeon**, who did not hold the preterist view, nevertheless stated that the book "throws so much new light upon obscure portions of the Scriptures, and is accompanied with so much critical research and close reasoning, that it can be injurious to none and may be profitable to all." (For the full text of this review, please read [C.H. Spurgeon on "The Parousia"](#))

Well-known conservative writers and theologians in our day are saying similar things about Russell and the preterist view. Listen to these statements by **Gary DeMar**, **Dr. R. C. Sproul**, **Dr. Kenneth Gentry** and **Walt Hibbard**." (Edward E. Stevens)

"How many times have you struggled with the interpretation of certain Biblical texts related to the time of Jesus' return because they did not fit with a preconceived system of eschatology? Russell's *Parousia* takes the Bible seriously when it tells us of the nearness of Christ's return. Those who claim to interpret the Bible literally, trip over the obvious meaning of these time texts by making Scripture mean the opposite of what it unequivocally declares. Reading Russell is a breath of fresh air in a room filled with smoke and mirror hermeneutics." - (**Gary DeMar** - Author of *Last Days Madness*)

"I believe that Russell's work is one of the most important treatments on Biblical eschatology that is available to the church today. The issues raised in this volume with respect to the time-frame references of the New Testament to the Parousia are vitally important not only for eschatology but for the future debate over the credibility of Sacred Scripture." - (**Dr. R. C. Sproul** - Chairman, Ligonier Ministries)

"Although I do not agree with all the conclusions of J. Stuart Russell's *The Parousia*, I highly recommend this well-organized, carefully argued, and compellingly written defense of Preterism to serious and mature students of the Bible. It is one of the most persuasive and challenging books I have read on the subject of eschatology and has had a great impact on my own thinking. Russell's biblico-theological study of New Testament eschatology sets a standard of excellence." - (**Dr. Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr.** - Author of *Before Jerusalem Fell*)

"In view of Dr. Russell's marvelous and insightful observations, no serious student of Biblical eschatology should attempt to construct a systematic scheme of apocalyptic events without first consulting this 19th century work, *The Parousia*." - (**Walt Hibbard** - Chairman, Great Christian Books)

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