## JESUS THE CHRIST (SECOND COMING)

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* Circulating Files & Research Bulletins are available from A.R.E. membership services at (800) 333-4499 or: http://www.edgarcayce.org/health/circulatingfilesinfo.html.
... come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live;
and I will make an everlasting covenant with you ...  
Isaiah 55:3

Covenant
An A.R.E. Membership Course

Lesson XXXVI: The Second Coming
Our Part in Making the Way Passable

The Lord, then, will come, “even as you have seen him go.”

Q-. How soon?
A-. When those that are His have made the way clear, passable, 
for Him to come.

Think of it for a moment. Imagine it. Consider the implications of what is being
said. We are told that He who made the worlds became flesh and dwelt among us. And, 

further, that He will come again, that all will see Him as He is, that such an event may 
occur in our own lifetimes, and that we as individuals may have a significant role to play 
in bringing about such an event.

Many people in these times are speculating about coming events, but few are 
reflecting deeply enough about the immensity and import of such an occurrence as the 
Second Coming. They tend to focus on the disasters of the last days rather than the 
glorious significance for every soul of this next great step in His continuing work on 
behalf of us all.

Those of us who have become interested in the readings of Edgar Cayce will want 
to know what he had to say about this singularly meaningful event. Indeed, along with 
the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, this event has greater significance for every soul 
incarnate in the earth than anything that has ever happened.

A number of questions regarding this event were asked of Cayce’s source. 
However, on one special occasion in the spring of 1934 in anticipation of a talk Edgar 
Cayce was to give on this topic, he asked in a reading for information about the Second 
Coming. Apparently, the posing of such a question constituted an occasion for the 
gathering in the spirit plane of innumerable well-known entities, both from the United 
States and from lands abroad, who in their lives on the earth had spoken to many people 
on the subject of the Second Coming. The reading said:

Many of these have ministered, have preached concerning this Second 
Coming. Not a one but what has at some time left the record of his contemplations 
and experiences in those environs, whether made in the heart and mind of his 
hearers or in the written word; yet here today, in what ye call time, ye find them 
gathering in a body to listen to that as may be given by one who is to be a forerunner 
of that influence in the earth known as the Christ Consciousness, the coming of that 
force or power into the earth that has been spoken of through the ages.

Listen, while he speaks!
There follows a warning that many have spoken in ignorance and zeal and have not listened and hearkened to the words of the Master Himself, that many have closed their ears to what was going on about them.

After this warning a discourse is given on the nature and purpose of man’s experience in the earth. We are reminded that our true nature is spiritual, that we cut ourselves off from a full awareness of our Oneness with Him in Spirit, and that it was only possible for us to become conscious of who we are and of our separation from Him by coming into the earth experience. God’s work for us was to prepare dimensions and spheres of activity and experience so that we might, through the soul’s evolving in awareness, return to full awareness of our Oneness with Him.

Then, “only in Him who was the creator, the maker, the experiencer of mortality and spirit and soul could this be overcome.” He became then the first of “those that put on immortality that there might be the opportunity for those forces that had erred in spiritual things….” (5749-5)

Having overcome, then, He set the pattern and showed the way that all must follow. But this is a work that He began in Adam and continued through experiences in Enoch, Melchizedek, Joshua, Joseph and on to Jesus.

... He has come in all ages when it has been necessary for the understanding to be centered in a new application of the same thought, “God is Spirit, and seeks such to worship Him in spirit and in truth!”

Then, as there is prepared the way by those that have made and do make the channels for the entering in, there may come into the earth those influences that will save, regenerate, resuscitate, hold-if you please-the earth in its continued activity toward the proper understanding and proper relationships to that which is the making for the closer relationships to that which is in Him alone. 5749-5

Notice that it is said that He comes, “as there is prepared the way.” In this preparation there must be the obliteration of “Hate, prejudice, selfishness, backbiting, unkindness, anger, passion, and those things of the mire that are created in the activities of the sons of men. Then again He may come in body to claim His own. Is He abroad today in the earth? Yea, in those that cry unto Him... He comes again in the hearts and souls and minds of those that seek to know His ways... those that call on Him will not go empty-handed...” (5749-5)

We may participate in His coming to individuals; yet, we may also participate in the preparation for an event of another order of such magnitude that it can neither be overestimated nor overstated in its significance.

The Second Coming or the Reappearance?

Much is made of the expression “the Second Coming.” However, we must keep in mind that this appearance of the Christ has its significance in the greater context of His continuing work through the ages with the souls of men.

The readings are very clear that there never was a time when there was “not a Christ and not a Christ mass.” This work had no simple and recent beginning of just two thousand years ago. He has come “again, and again, and again.” (262-103) In the King James translation we are told that His “goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2) And, indeed, today, He may be born into our own
consciousnesses, not in a physical birth, but what is more important, in what we are doing in our daily lives, in our daily conversation.

How may He today be born into our own consciousness, our own understanding?
“‘As ye do it unto the least of these, thy brethren, ye do it unto me!’ For as ye behold the face of thy friend, or thy neighbor, of thy foe, yea thine enemy, behold the image of thy Savior.” (262-103)

But we also speak specifically of His coming in another manner. We are told of the incarnation, as described in the first chapter of the Gospel of John. He, through whom all that was made was made, became flesh and dwelt among us! This seems to be a great stumbling block for many – to contemplate that the Divine, the Infinite, in this special event became incarnate in the flesh at a finite time in history in a certain place.

Once again, let us be reminded that the claim for the incarnation of the divinity of the Christ in Jesus of Nazareth is a proclamation regarding the nature of all mankind as souls, spiritual beings incarnate in the flesh. His claim for divinity is a claim for the divinity of us all. There is only one Spirit, of which we are all a part. We were one with Him in our beginnings and we are destined to return to be one with Him in the end. Thus, the Master said, “I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.” (John 14:20)

But in His incarnation as Jesus nearly two thousand years ago, there was given expression in the life of a man in the flesh, the fullness of attunement with the God of the universe. In this event in His full obedience to the laws of the earth, these laws were overcome and He gained a mastery over the flesh that enabled not only the resurrection of that body at that time but also enabled Him to manifest – literally physically – at any time and at any place to this day.

“Be not weary that He apparently prolongs His time. . .”

Thus, we are told that He presently resides in space, as it were, “not in a body in the earth, but may come at will to him who wills to be one with, and acts in love to make same possible. For, He shall come as ye have seen Him go, in the body He occupied in Galilee. The body that He formed, that was crucified on the cross, that rose from the tomb, that walked by the sea, that appeared to Simon, that appeared to Philip, that appeared to ‘I, even John.’” (5749-4)

However, the event to which we refer as the Second Coming will be of an extraordinarily different and special nature! For this time, “having overcome He shall appear even as the Lord and Master. Not as one born, but as one that returneth to His own, for He will walk and talk with men of every clime, and those that are faithful and just in their reckoning shall be caught up with Him to rule and to do judgment for a thousand years!” (364-7)

In this reading we are assured not only that His return will be in the fullness of His being as Lord and Master, but also for a millennium, a period of rule of a thousand years as indicated in the Bible.

Regarding the comment that He will walk and talk with men of every clime, it was asked in a later reading if this meant that He would appear to many at once or appear to various peoples during a long period. The answer was: “As given, for a thousand years He will walk and talk with men of every clime. Then in groups, in masses, and then they
shall reign of the first resurrection for a thousand years; for this will be when the changes materially come.” (364-8)

As to His appearance, we are assured, “we shall see Him as He is. He will walk among men. He will be in thy midst. Be thou, then, those that will make His paths straight; for narrow is the way yet straight is the gate that leads to that knowledge that may be had in Him.” (294-174)

When?

Q-. He said He would come again. What about His Second Coming?
A-. The time no one knows. Even as He gave, not even the Son Himself. Only the Father. Not until His enemies-and the earth-are wholly in subjection to His will, His powers.

Of course, people wanted to know when. In spite of the indications that no man knows save the Father, people who came to Edgar Cayce for information asked this question. They were given the same answer as is found in the Bible, with additional comments on occasion.

For example, a 68-year-old man asked in 1943:
Q-. We have been told that the Second Coming of the Master in the flesh would not take place until 1985. Is this approximately correct? Can’t we expect to see Him sooner?
A-. How doth He interpret, as to the day or the hour? No man knoweth save the Father.

Live ye then, each soul, as though ye expected Him today. Then ye shall see Him as He is, when ye live such a life.

Another, a 65-year-old woman, asked in 1944:
Q-. In view of the inconsistency of opinion held by various groups of earnest students of the Holy Mysteries regarding the Second Coming of the Master, what should be our attitude?
A-. As has been indicated, be prepared each day to meet thy God. He will bless those, as is the promise, who love His coming. Then, whether it be in this experience or when ye have returned, let thy prayer ever be, “Lord, use me in Thy way. Thy will be done, not mine.”

And so, while there is no information in the readings that is specific with respect to the exact time of this event, there is indication that it is potentially imminent and we have a role to play in the preparation for it and there are stipulations that certain conditions are to be met. “Not until His enemies – and the earth – are wholly in subjection to His will, His powers.” (5749-2) This indication of the conditions of preparation is reiterated in other readings, as seen in the following:

Again we find individuals raised in certain sections for specific purposes. As the cycle has gone about, time and again has there arisen in the earth those that manifested these forces in a more magnificent, more beneficent, way and manner. And, as has been given, again the time draws near when there shall be seen and known among men, in many places, the manifestations of such forces in the material
world; for, “As ye have seen Him go, so will He return again.” Be thou faithful unto
those words He has given while yet with you. Hence it behooves every individual to
take cognizance of that force that may manifest in their material lives, even in this
material age…. 364-11

“….those that are faithful and just in their reckoning shall be caught up with Him to rule
and to do judgment for a thousand years!”

Q-. What is meant by “the Day of the Lord is near at hand”?
A-. That as has been promised through the prophets and the sages of old, the
time-and half time-has been and is being fulfilled in this day and generation, and
that soon there will again appear in the earth that one through whom many will be
called to meet those that are preparing the way for His day in the earth. The Lord,
then, will come, “even as ye have seen Him go.”

Q-4. How soon?
A-4. When those that are His have made the way clear, passable, for Him to
come. 262-49

What Is Our Part?
The conditional nature of His return and the role that we, as His followers, are to
play in preparing for this return is most challenging. What are we to do? How are we to
make the way clear and passable? “Live ye then, each soul, as though ye expected Him
today.” (3011-3)

A 60-year-old woman was told: “And He will come again and again in the hearts,
in the minds, in the experiences of those that love His coming. But those when they think
on Him and know what His presence would mean and become fearful, He passeth by.”
(1152-1) And another was told that He “may come at will to him who wills
be one
with, and acts in love to make same possible.” (5749-4)

A 49-year-old man was told: “Keep the faith that ye magnified in the Persian
experience, as ye sought for Him who is the light, the hope of the world today. For until
there is again the seeking of such as ye not only proclaimed but manifested, He cannot
come again.” (1908-1)

A woman [993] who was a member of that first Study Group that gathered around
Edgar Cayce in the early ’30s indicated that she had been thinking about the coming of
the Kingdom on earth and His Coming. She was told:
How long has been the cry of those that have manifested in the earth the
glory of the Father through the Son, “Hasten, O Lord, the day of thy kingdom in the
earth!” How have the promises read that the Son has given? “I go to prepare a
place, that where I am there ye may be also. I will come again and receive you unto
myself.” Then, as the individual heart attunes its mind and its body-activity into
that consciousness of the desire for the hastening of that day. Yet the merciful
kindness of the Father has, in the eyes of many, delayed the coming, and many have
cried even as the parable He gave, “We know not what has become of this man.
Show us other gods that may lead us in this day.” Yet the cry in the heart and the
soul of those that seek His way is to hasten that day. (continued on the next page)
Yet, as He has given, in patience, in listening, in being still, may ye know that the Lord doeth all things well. Be not weary that He apparently prolongs His time, for-as the Master has given, “As to the day, no man knoweth, not even the Son, but the Father and they to whom the Father may reveal the Son prepareth the way that all men may know the love of the Father.”

And as ye would be the channel to hasten that glorious day of the coming of the Lord, then do with a might that thy hands find to do to make for the greater manifestations of the love of the Father in the earth. For, into thy keeping, and to His children and to His sons, has He committed the keeping of the saving of the world, of the souls of men; for, as He has given, “Who is my mother? Who is my brother? Who is my sister? They that do the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my mother, my brother, my sister.”

So, as He gave, “I leave thee, but I will come again and receive as many as ye have quickened through the manifesting in thy life the will of the Father in the earth.” Hence, know that, as thine mind, thine activities, long more and more for the glorifying of the Son in the earth, for the coming of the day of the Lord, He draws very nigh unto thee.

We see that there is a great work to do! All of us may play our proper roles in living a life of love in the Spirit and in our activities and relationships one to another. And let us remember more and more deeply and more and more fully that

It is no longer, then, afar off; but lo, it is within the heart and mind of each soul – everywhere!

For, whosoever will may take of the cup of life, and drink – in such measures that the thirsting is no more for those things that put fear and dread into the hearts of the children of men.

For it is neither in this temple, that city, nor the other land, but in thine own heart, in thine own mind.

And finally, “Keep, then, to that same hope and faith, that ye expect others to have in thee, in thy fellow man; looking to Him who is the author and the finisher of faith. For, know that Jesus – as the Christ – is the power of God unto salvation to all that believe and trust in Him.” (1793-2)

We have then, from this point in 1982 until 1998, about 16 years of growing challenges. In 1998 a polar shift has been predicted. It may be accompanied by extreme changes in the earth’s crust. Will this time of travail culminate in the birth of the New Age, of the Second Coming? Or will it leave us with unimaginably difficult circumstances? Apparently it depends upon us far more than we may ever imagine.

Ye, too, may minister in those days when He will come in the flesh, in the earth, to call His own by name.

Do we love His coming into our lives? Will we make the way passable? Will we see Him in everyone, even our enemies? Will we pray, “let this cup pass from me” or will we add, “nevertheless, not my will but Thine, O Lord. . .”? 

Herbert Bruce Puryear
(Q) He said He would come again. What about His second coming?
(A) The time no one knows. Even as He gave, not even the Son Himself. ONLY the Father. Not until His enemies - and the earth - are wholly in subjection to His will, His powers.
(Q) Are we entering the period of preparation for His coming?
(A) Entering the test period, rather. [5749-2, 6/28/32]

(Q) When Jesus the Christ comes the second time, will He set up His kingdom on earth and will it be an everlasting kingdom?
(A) Entering the test period, rather.

(Q) Please explain what is meant by “He will walk and talk with men of every clime”. Does this mean he will appear to many at once or appear to various peoples during a long period?
(A) As given, for a thousand years He will walk and talk with men of every clime. Then in groups, in masses, and then they shall reign of the first resurrection for a thousand years; for this will be when the changes materially come.

(Q) In the Persian experience as San (or Zend) did Jesus give the basic teachings of what became Zoroastrianism?
(A) In all those periods that the basic principle was the Oneness of the Father, He has walked with men. [364-8, 4/15/32]

As to the changes physical again: The earth will be broken up in the western portion of America. The greater portion of Japan must go into the sea. The upper portion of Europe will be changed as in the twinkling of an eye. Land will appear off the east coast of America. There will be the upheavals in the Arctic and in the Antarctic that will make for the eruption of volcanoes in the Torrid areas, and there will be shifting then of the poles - so that where there has been those of a frigid or the semi-tropical will become the more tropical, and moss and fern will grow. And these will begin in those periods in '58 to '98, when these will be proclaimed as the periods when His light will be seen again in the clouds. As to times, as to seasons, as to places, ALONE is it given to those who have named the name - and who bear the mark of those of His calling and His election in their bodies. To them it shall be given. [3976-15, 1/19/34]
...Again we find individuals raised in certain sections for specific purposes. As the cycle has gone about, time and again has there arisen in the earth those that MANIFESTED these forces in a more magnificent, more beneficent, way and manner. And, as has been given, again the time draws near when there shall be seen and known among men, in many places, the manifestations of such forces in the material world; for “As ye have seen him go, so will He return again.” Be thou faithful unto those words He has given while yet with you. Hence it behooves every individual to take cognizance of that force that may manifest in their material lives, even in this material age...

(Q) What is meant by “the day of the Lord is near at hand”? [See 262-47, Par. 21-A.]

(A) That as has been promised through the prophets and the sages of old, the time - and half time - has been and is being fulfilled in this day and generation, and that soon there will again appear in the earth that one through whom many will be called to meet those that are preparing the way for His day in the earth. The Lord, then, will come, “even as ye have seen him go”.

(Q) How soon?

(A) When those that are His have made the way clear, PASSABLE, for Him to come. [262-49, 7/9/33]

(Q) We have been told that the Second Coming of the Master in the flesh would not take place until 1985. Is this approximately correct? Can't we expect to see Him sooner?

(A) How doth He interpret, as to the day or the hour? No man knoweth save the Father.

Live ye then, each soul, as though ye expected him today. Then ye shall see Him as He is, when ye live such a life. [3011-3, Male 68, 9/29/43]

And He will come again and again in the hearts, in the minds, in the experiences of those that LOVE His coming.

But those when they think on Him and know what His Presence would mean and become fearful. He passeth by - even as the experiences of the entity through that sojourn found many that harkened not to the simple words of Him who gave, “Know thyself, know that thy Father abideth in thee. And if ye love Him, ye may know His ways, His experiences.” [1152-1, Female 60, 4/20/36]

(Q) In view of the inconsistency of opinion held by various groups of earnest students of the Holy Mysteries regarding the Second Coming of Master, what should be our attitude?
(A) As has been indicated, be prepared each day to meet thy God. He will bless those, as is the promise, who love His coming.

Then, whether it be in this experience or when ye have returned, let thy prayer ever be, “Lord, use me in Thy way. Thy will be done, not mine.” [5277-1, Female 65, 7/1/44]

Join with all of those who declare that the Lord has come and that His day is again at hand. [1152-11, Female 66, 8/13/41]

(Q) Is Jesus the Christ on any particular sphere or is He manifesting on the earth plane in another body?

(A) As just given, all power in heaven, in earth, is given to Him who overcame. Hence He is of Himself in space, in the force that impels through faith, through belief, in the individual entity. As a Spirit Entity. Hence not in a body in the earth, but may come at will to him who WILLS to be one with, and acts in love to make same possible.

For, He shall come as ye have seen Him go, in the BODY He occupied in Galilee. The body that He formed, that was crucified on the cross, that rose from the tomb, that walked by the sea, that appeared to Simon, that appeared to Philip, that appeared to “I, even John.” [5749-4, 8/6/33]

As has been indicated, things material are the shadows of that which is spiritual in its essence.

Now He gave, “I am the breath of life - I am the water of life - he that drinks shall never thirst.”

What meaneth this? How may it be put into words that one may grasp the meaning of what it means for that Spirit of the Christ - as manifested in Jesus - to be present as it were in a million places, as ye say, at once?

Now ye experience that H2O is water - everywhere! Then water is water, and a part of the whole, with all the essential elements that make for the ability of manifestations in bringing life, in quenching the thirst. And it becomes active thus in WHATEVER sphere or phase it finds itself; whether in the frigid, as ice; in the temperate, as water; or in that phase as steam. Yet EVERYWHERE - in EVERY PHASE - its activities are the same! And it may be illustrated as shown; three-fourths of the earth, three-fourths of man, three-fourths of all matter we find a composition of that which He gave IS a manifestation of His presence, His force, His influence!

(continued on next page)
Then it may be understood as the individual entity grasps that idea that it is as we deal, as we mete, as we measure to our fellow man, that the water of life flows through us.

Hence how applicable becomes that as He gave, “He that gives a cup of water in my name shall in no manner lose his reward!” [1158-12, Female 47, 11/19/37]

(Q) Should I hope and seek for personal experiences or contacts with Jesus as a personality now?

(A) As has been indicated, this may be - but this ye live. Not as a desire for self-exaltation; that is, self-proof, self-evidence; but it is evidenced IN thee when ye ARE (in thy living, in thy thinking, in thy acting) One with Him.

Then, and thus - how hath the angel given? “As ye have seen Him go, so will ye see Him come.” Were those just as words? No.

Thou hast seen Him oft in the acts of others and the personality ye called by another name, yet ye may see Him. And when He speaks, “Be not afraid, it is I.” Know He is near. And in the breaking of bread ye may know Him! [1158-9, Female 47, 3/28/37]

In the present, then, - by keeping self reminded, the entity may remind others of the needs to live that life which was wholly, truly exemplified in the life of the man Jesus, who became the Christ through the things which He suffered, and through demonstrating in the earth the abilities to overcome DEATH, the law of death. [1877-2, Female 45, 4/18/40]

The individual has used opportunities for self, of others; but leave not out of thy faith nor thy hope those purposes that should be the promptings of this individual entity. For when ye walk with Him, in purpose and in ideal, ye will find that ye are never alone. Think not that ye or any other individual may be the only one serving a living God. For since His entry into the world, and His making it possible for man to find his way back to God, there has been and will continue to be an increase. For God has not willed that any soul should perish. Though the lights of hope may oft grow dim, in the violence that is created by those who become self-conscious of ability and who use self and others for gratifying of selfish desires, let it ever be said of thee that ye will make, ye will cause the welkin to ring for the glory of the coming of the Lord. For He will one day come again, and thou shalt see Him as He is, even as thou hast seen in thy early sojourns the glory of the day of the triumphal entry and the day of the Crucifixion, and as ye also heard the angels proclaim “As ye have seen Him go, so will ye see Him come again.” Thou wilt be among those in the earth when He comes again. Glory in that, but let it be rather the one reason why ye keep the faith, the faith in the coming of the Lord, (continued)
to call those who have been faithful; that they, as He prayed, “may be where I am, and may behold the glory which I had with thee before the worlds were.”

[3615-1, Female 53, 1/2/44]

Study each to show self approved unto God, in the light of that which may be had by each in their concerted, cooperative efforts to bring the knowledge of the power of the Holy One in the experience of those that would seek His face.

Not as unto self-exaltation, that in the experience of each has brought those things that in their associations in the present make for doubts and fears and desires and disturbances that burn and burn, yet all must be tried so as by fire. And the fires of the flesh in their activity in material associations must be purified in the love even as the Father gave, that all may know that each walk together with the Son, with the Father, with the Giver of all good and perfect gifts. That there may come, through those promises that have been given - that in the body may be found that signifying the purposes in which the activities of the very hearts and souls may bring into the experiences of others, those things that will make for harmony, joy, peace, to those that seek to know His face. For, we shall see Him as He is. He will walk among men. He will be in their midst. Be thou, then, those that will make His paths straight; for narrow is the way yet straight is the gate that leads to that knowledge that may be had in Him.

[294-174, Male 57, 4/12/34]

Search deep into the heart, the soul of self, and see from whence cometh that motivating force that DRIVES self on to activity. If it is for laudation of self alone, if it is for the aggrandizement of the interests in material things alone, then know - while you may materially succeed - the ENDS thereof are not well. But seek through those activities that bring the analyzing of same in the human body, in the human relationships, that may be spiritualized by the desires of the heart - and you will find joy and peace, and - yea - in those days - when His forerunner may come into the earth for preparing the place for the Son of man, that His kingdom may be established in the earth, wilt thou be ready? Seek ye Him.

[487-17, Male 16, 6/7/34]

Keep the Faith that ye magnified in the Persian experience, as ye sought for Him who is the light, the hope of the world today.

For until there is again the seeking of such as ye not only proclaimed but manifested, He CANNOT come again.

[1908-1, Male 49, 6/15/39]

(Q) Any suggestions as to how I may best aid in the healing group work of the Association for Research and Enlightenment, Inc.? (continued next page)
(A) Join with those that are helping, aiding others. The more oft in prayer for
others, the closer ye draw to Him. For as He gave, - as ye do it, as ye pray for them, as ye
meet thy fellow man, so ye meet thy Lord.

It becomes then the more necessary for each soul to come to the awareness that as
they speak, as they pass their fellow man, they are passing their Lord. For He, too,
served on the Cross for them. And that is significant to each soul, as an individual entity,
in its opportunity for expression. For the Lord hath seen fit to show His face, His love to
such.

Would ye do less?

Thus as ye meet, as ye pray with all - as in this group - for others, ye help thyself,
ye glorify thy Savior, thy Brother.

Yet a little while and He will come again and speak to those who will listen. For
as ye comprehend from His message to His brethren, and the prayer to the Father:
“Father, I ask that I may have that glory with thee before the world was, and that where I
am these may be also.”

That is to thee, and to all who love His coming. [2574-1, Female 53, 8/14/41]

Through that ability to make Himself one with the Father, He has gained that
right, that honor to declare Himself unto as many as will harken.

Let thy light, then, shine ever in the dark, in the light; in the sorrow, in the
 gladness of thy purpose, of thy desire; that He may be glorified even as He asks of the
Father.

Ye - each of ye, as individuals - may do this. So ye, as ye come into His
presence, may be given “Well done, thou good and faithful brother - enter into the joy of
thy Lord.” [5749-13, 3/12/41]

The entity was among the five hundred who beheld Him as He entered into glory
and saw the angels, heard their announcement of the event that must one day come to
pass - and will only be to those who believe, who have faith, who look for and who
expect to see Him as He is. [3615-1, Female 53, 1/2/44]

(Q) [993]: For some time I have been thinking continually about the coming of
the Kingdom on earth and His coming. Has it any bearing upon the lesson? Please give
me more light upon the Kingdom and His coming.

(A) How long has been the cry of those that have manifested in the earth the
glory of the Father through the Son, “Hasten, O Lord, the day of thy kingdom (continued)
in the earth!” How have the promises read that the Son has given? “I go to prepare a place that where I am there ye may be also. I will come again and receive you unto myself.” Then, as the individual heart attunes its mind and its body-activity into that consciousness of the desire for the hastening of that day. Yet the merciful kindness of the Father has, in the eyes of many, delayed the coming, and many have cried even as the parable He gave, “We know not what has become of this man. Show us other gods that may lead us in this day.” Yet the cry in the heart and the soul of those that seek His way is to hasten that day. Yet, as He has given, in patience, in listening, in being still, may ye know that the Lord doeth all things well. Be not weary that He apparently prolongs His time, for - as the Master has given, “As to the day, no man knoweth, not even the son, but the Father and they to whom the Father may reveal the Son prepareth the way that all men may know the love of the Father.” And as ye would be the channel to hasten that glorious day of the coming of the Lord, then do with a might that thy hands find to do to make for the greater manifestations of the love of the Father in the earth. For, into thy keeping, and to His children and to His sons, has He committed the keeping of the saving of the world, of the souls of men; for, as He has given, “Who is my mother? Who is my brother? Who is my sister?” They that do the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my mother, my brother, my sister.” So, as He gave, “I leave thee, but I will come again and receive as many as ye have quickened through the manifesting in thy life the will of the Father in the earth.” Hence know that, as thine mind, thine activities, long more and more for the glorifying of the Son in the earth, for the coming of the day of the Lord, He draws very nigh unto thee.

(Q) Please give the important re-incarnations of Adam in the world's history.

(A) In the beginning as Amilus, as Adam, as Melchizedek, as Zend [?], as Ur [?] [Enoch? GD's note: Perhaps Ur was prehistory person [364-9, Par. 3-A] who established Ur of the Chaldees? I don't think he was mentioned anywhere else in the readings as an incarnation of Jesus.], as Asaph [?] [Songs of Asaph? See Ps. 81:5 indicating that Joseph and Asaph were one and the same?], as Jesus [Jeshua] - Joseph - Jesus. [See 364-9, Par. 3-A.]

Then, as that coming into the world in the second coming - for He will come again and receive His own, who have prepared themselves through that belief in Him and acting in that manner; for the SPIRIT is abroad, and the time draws near, and there will be the reckoning of those even as in the first so in the last, and the last shall be first; for there is that Spirit abroad - He standeth near. He that hath eyes to see, let him see. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear that music of the coming of the Lord of this vineyard, and art THOU ready to give account of that THOU hast done with thine opportunity in the earth as the Sons of God, as the heirs and joint heirs of glory WITH the Son? Then make thine paths straight, for there must come an answering for that THOU hast done with thine Lord! He will not tarry, for having overcome He shall appear even AS the Lord AND Master. Not as one born, but as one that returneth to His own, for He will walk and talk with men of every clime, and those that are faithful and just in their reckoning shall be caught up with Him to rule and to do JUDGEMENT for a thousand years!

[364-7, 4/5/32]
Indeed man through all periods has with one voice blessed God and with the same cursed his brother. This, as the entity understands, should not be! Yet it is such in the world today that is bringing the seeking for might and power.

As to the manners in which the entity applies those influences which it attained or gained through the periods when it again announced to the children of men the great and mighty day of the Lord being at hand, - ye are coming to the realization that the fulfilling of that promise in Him is TODAY; for He IS the way, the truth and the light!

It is no longer, then, afar off; but lo, it is within the heart and mind of each soul, - EVERYWHERE!

For, whosoever WILL may take of the cup of life, and drink - in such measures that the thirsting is no more for those things that put fear and dread into the hearts of the children of men.

For it is neither in this temple, that city, nor the other land, but in thine own heart, in thine own mind.

Keep, then, to that same hope and faith, that ye expect others to have in thee, in thy fellow man; looking to Him who is the author and the finisher of faith. For, know that Jesus - as the Christ - is the power of God unto salvation to ALL that believe and trust in Him.

Search deep into the heart, the soul of self, and see from whence cometh that motivating force that DRIVES self on to activity. If it is for laudation of self alone, if it is for the aggrandizement of the interests in material things alone, then know - while you may materially succeed - the ENDS thereof are not well. But seek through those activities that bring the analyzing of same in the human body, in the human relationships, that may be spiritualized by the desires of the heart - and you will find joy and peace, and - yea - in those days - when His forerunner may come into the earth for preparing the place for the Son of man, that His kingdom may be established in the earth, wilt thou be ready? Seek ye Him.

As thou hast seen Him in body, so may ye see Him in the spiritual body, in the GLORIFIED body, in the experiences in which ye see Him in those that ye would serve.

(Q) Wherever He is, how may I contact Him so that I may see Him and hear Him speak? (continued)
(A) The making of the will of self one with His will makes a whole attunement with Him. He WILL, with the making of self in accord and desiring same, speak with thee. “Be not afraid, it is I.” [5749-4, 8/6/33]

(Q) Regarding spiritual awakening: The sermons at a recent Revival have disturbed me a great deal because they were not in accord with what I believe as Truth. Am I correct in that which I have accepted?

(A) In this it becomes, as we find, a matter of EXPERIENCE based upon opinions that may or may not be merely opinions or ideas. This to self should EVER be the test, for He hath given no uncertain way to those that would know - and seek to know - His ways, and that which is the way of truth and life: [John 14:21]

Hence in self the experiencing of those words in the mental and the spiritual and the material SELF WILL BE the answer to self in no UNCERTAIN terms.

For the way of the Lord is not past finding out. [Rom. 11:33] While the experience of man with his fellow man may indicate to an individual that this or that manner may be a MEANS OF approach, yet from the individual viewing same his experience being different, has not made it different as to the point of contact nor as to those definite laws; for the VISION is of the individual.

Look upon those experiences of Him who is not even questioned by those that proclaim, profess, or are active in any moral aptitude of life, when He gave, “There be some standing here that will see me come in my glory. And He taketh with Him Peter, James and John and goeth into the mount, and THERE was transfigured before them.” [Mark 9:2] [Mat. 17:2]

What is happening then, as is in thine own experience, when thou art listening to those - as were those of the nine left in the valley? Were they not great preachers, great ministers? Did they not have a close contact with the very Truth and Life itself? Yet it is not that He had departed, not that He was withdrawn. Yet their ability to heal as in former times, as in experiences later, did not become effective. Did it take from the activities or add to the activities of Peter, James and John - their being in the Presence? Peter denied. John held to himself. James - by his very exertion - Herod laid his hands upon him.

All of these should be as ensamples, as lessons in thine own experience; that ye may be either upon the mount in thine experience with Him, or in the valley with the nine, and still of Him, should not disturb thee. For hath He not given (and His promises are sure), “Believe in me, abide in me, and I will bring to thine remembrance ALL necessary that YE MAY KNOW the way”? His words are TRUE! [John 14:26]

Hold FAST to that thou hast set in thine HEART as concerning Him. For He has promised to come to thee, to all who seek… [478-4, Male 45, 11/7/35]
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This psychic reading given by Edgar Cayce at the Edmonds' home, 611 Pennsylvania Ave., Norfolk, Va., this 20th day of December, 1936 requested by those present.

PRESENT
Edgar Cayce; Gertrude Cayce, Conductor; Gladys Davis, Steno. Hannah Miller, Florence & Edith Edmonds, Frances Y. Morrow, Hugh Lynn Cayce, Helen Storey and Helen Ellington.

READING
Time of Reading 3:20 to 3:50 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

1. GC: You will have before you the members of the Norfolk Study Group #1 who have gathered here seeking a reading which will give them a better understanding and deeper appreciation of the birth of Jesus, the Christ, which will be celebrated this week as Christmas 1936.

2. EC: Yes, we have the group as gathered here and their desires and their seeking as a group, as individuals.

3. In giving to these, then, that seek to know more of that circumstance, those conditions as surrounded that ye call the first Christmas: Do not confuse thyself. While to you it may be a first Christmas, if it were the first then there would be a last; and ye would not worship, ye would not hold to that which passeth.

4. For time never was when there was not a Christ and not a Christ mass.

5. But in giving that interpretation of what this Season means - that birth of Jesus as became the Christ - to this world: In giving the circumstance, much has been recorded as respecting this by the writers of the Gospel, especially by Luke; but little perfect concept may be gathered except ye as individuals seek to experience what such an advent meant or means to thy life as an individual.

6. For knowledge of a thing or a condition and the wisdom that is presented in that happening are two different things. What ye hear ye may believe, but ye will rarely act as if ye have experienced and do experience that “God so loved the world as to give His Son” to enter into flesh, that flesh, that man, might know there IS an advocate with the Father; and that - as ye in thy material experience see - Life coming from out of nowhere to enter into materiality, to become a LIVING expression of those promptings of the heart.

7. That has been the experience of that SOUL in its varied spheres of consciousness, to give such an expression. That is the purpose for which it has entered - to give the more perfect concept of the relationships of man to the Creator.
8. Such we find as that happening in Bethlehem of Judea ages and years ago, when that channel had so dedicated itself to the service of her Maker as to become MOTHER, wherein the whole world is shown that this must come to pass in the experience of those who would make themselves channels through which the Holy Spirit of God may manifest; that the world may know that He, God the Father, keepeth His promises with the children of men!

9. And the hour approaches when nature is to be fulfilled in the natural courses in the experience of the Mother, and His Star has appeared - and the angels' choir, and the voices of those that give the GREAT MESSAGE!

10. Who heard these, my children? Those that were seeking for the satisfying of their own desires or for the laudation of their own personality? Rather those close to NATURE, to the hours of meditation and prayer, and those that had given expression, “No room in the Inn!” For no inn, no room, could contain that as was being given in a manifested form!

11. For He came unto His own. For there was nothing made that was made to which He had not given life, to whom He had not given, “Be ye fruitful, multiply - “ in THYSELF; IN THYSELF may there be the propagation of thine own specie, of thine own self!

12. Only then to those that sought could such a message come, or could there be heard the songs of the angels, or that music of the spheres that sang, “PEACE ON EARTH - GOOD WILL TO MEN!”

13. For this, then, is in EVERY birth - the possibilities, the glories, the actuating of that influence of that entrance again of god-man into the earth that man might know the way.

14. Thus this comes at this time to bring to the hearts and minds of those of that Glad period the fact that not only 1900 years ago but TODAY, He may be born into thine own consciousness, thine own understanding; He comes unto His own!

15. Art thou His? Have ye claimed Him? Have ye put on the Christ, even as was and is exemplified in that life, that birth, that death of Jesus, the Christ?

16. For He is thy Elder Brother, He IS the babe in thy heart, in thy life; to be then even now - as then - nourished in the heart, in body, in mind. And indeed do His words become more and more then of meaning, “As ye do it unto the least of these, thy brethren, ye do it unto me!”

17. For as ye behold the face of thy friend, of thy neighbor, of thy foe, yea thine enemy, ye behold the image of thy Savior.
18. For ye are all His, bought not only with the birth of the God-Child into flesh but with the death - that ye might know that He, thy Brother, thy Savior, thy Christ, has been and is the Way to the Father in this material plane.

19. For as He chose to enter, so YE have entered. As He chose to live, so may ye live. As He chose to give of Himself that there might be a greater understanding, a greater knowledge; yea, the showing forth of the wisdom of God that God IS love, poured forth upon the children of men in this experience.

20. And as these changes come and as ye make known that as has been the raising of that consciousness of His Presence in THINE experience, by thy dealings with, by thy conversation with, by thy life with thy fellow man, so may ye hasten the day when HE, CHRIST, may come into thine own heart, unto His OWN peoples, to reign; yes, in the hearts and lives!

21. Then indeed should each of you at this Glad Season make the hearts of others Merry by thine own happiness in the birth, the life, the death of thy Jesus, thy Christ!

22. Know this had no beginning in the 1900 years ago, but again and Again and AGAIN! And it may be today, He may be born into thy consciousness; not as a physical birth - but each moment that a physical birth is experienced in the earth is an OPPORTUNITY for the Christ-entrance again!

23. Then what are ye doing about it in thy daily life, thy daily conversation? For not by might nor in power, but in the still small voice that speaks within, ye may know as He hath given so oft - “Peace - it is I! Be not afraid, it is I,” thy Savior, thy Christ; yea, THYSELF meeting that BABE in thine own inner self that may grow even as He to be a channel of blessings to others!

24. For as ye do it unto others ye do it unto Him.

25. May the Peace, the Joy of His Consciousness, His Presence, His Joy be thine this day; yea, all thy days in the earth! For He is nigh unto thee, He is in thy midst!

26. Praise ye the Lord that gave, then, His Son; that ye might know Him!

27. We are through.
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BACKGROUND OF READING

1/19/34 See 3976-15.

*5/1/34 see detailed dream listed at end of 5749-5 (which EC had in the A.M. reading, or during the A.M. reading 378-28,) which he told to those present on waking from the reading. (At beginning of 5749-5, before it started, GD saw Sphinx-face alive, expressive, with wise owl on its right shoulder.)

TEXT OF READING 5749-5

This psychic reading given by Edgar Cayce at his home on Arctic Crescent, Virginia Beach, Va., this 1st day of May, 1934, in accordance with request made by those present.

PRESENT
Edgar Cayce; Gertrude Cayce, Conductor; Gladys Davis, Steno. Mildred Davis, L. B. and Hugh Lynn Cayce.

READING
Time of Reading 3:35 to 4:00 P. M.

1. GC: You will have before you Edgar Cayce, present in this room, and his enquiring mind in relation to the talk which he expects to give next Monday evening on the “Second Coming.” You will give what he should present at this open meeting on this subject.

2. EC: That which crowds in at the present may be well for those present, but would it be well for those in open meeting? From this experience, though, there may be gathered that which has been given and that which may be helpful to many in the comprehension of that which is the experience of those that seek through such channels to have for themselves the experience that may be had by those here in this room in the present.

3. Be mindful then, each of you, of that ye may inwardly experience in that which may be given you.

4. For, those experiences that have been told you of the vision [See EC's dream of a.m.] of the gathering of those that were known to many in this present land and in the lands abroad were in reference to just those things that may be said respecting the Coming.

5. Many of these have ministered, have preached concerning this Second Coming. Not a one but what has at some time left the record of his contemplations and experiences in those environs, whether made in the heart and mind of his hearers or in the written word; yet here today, in what ye call time, ye find them gathering in a body to LISTEN (continued on next page)
to that as may be given them by [Edgar Cayce?] one who is to be a forerunner of that influence in the earth known as the Christ Consciousness, the coming of that force or power into the earth that has been spoken of through the ages.

6. Listen, while he speaks! [Edgar Cayce?]

7. Ye, my brethren, in your ignorance and in your zeal have often spoken of that influence in the earth known among men as the record made by those that would influence the activities in the religious or spiritual life of individuals through the ages, as a record of the Son of man as He walked in the earth. Rather would ye listen and harken to those things as He spoke when He made those inferences and illustrations as to how those had closed and did close their ears to what was actually going on about them; yet they knew Him not! He, our Lord and our Master, was the first among those that put on immortality that there might be the opportunity for those forces that had erred in spiritual things; and only through experiencing in a manner whereunto all might be visioned from their greater abilities of manifesting in the various phases, forms and manners as they developed through that ye know as matter, could they come to know how or why or when there was made manifest in any realm spirit that was good and spirit that was in error. For, He gave thee, had ye not KNOWN the Son ye would NOT be condemned in thine own self. For, condemnation was not in Him, but “ye are condemned already.” And in the coming into the influence of those that would open themselves for an understanding might there be the approach to Him. He has come in all ages through those that were the spokesmen to a people in this age, that age, called unto a purpose for the manifestation of that first idea.

8. Readst thou how the sons of God came together, and Satan came also? “Hast thou considered my servant? Hast thou seen his ways?” And the answer, even from the evil force, “Put forth thine hand - touch him in those things that pertain to the satisfying of desire that is flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.” Then, “He is in thine hand, but touch not his soul - touch not his soul!”

9. So we see how that the coming into the earth has been and is for the evolution or the evolving of the soul unto its awareness of the effect of all influences in its experience in the varied spheres of activity; and that only in Him who was the creator, the maker, the experiencer of mortality and spirit and soul COULD this be overcome.

10. Then, the necessity. For, has it not been said, has it not been shown in the experience of the earth, the world, from any angle it may be considered, that He has not willed that any should be lost - but has prepared the way of escape in Him, the Maker?

11. But who is the worthy servant? He that has endured unto the end!
12. Then, He has come in all ages when it has been necessary for the understanding to be centered in a NEW application of the same thought, “God IS Spirit and seeks such to worship him in spirit and in truth!”

13. Then, as there is prepared the way by those that have made and do make the channels for the entering in, there may come into the earth those influences that will save, regenerate, resuscitate, HOLD - if you please - the earth in its continued activity toward the proper understanding and proper relationships to that which is the making for the closer relationships to that which is in Him ALONE. Ye have seen it in Adam; ye have heard it in Enoch, ye have had it made known in Melchizedek; Joshua, Joseph, David, and those that made the preparation then for him called Jesus. [GD's note: Essenes, School of Prophets started by Elijah. See Malachi 3 and 4] Ye have seen His Spirit in the leaders in all realms of activity, whether in the isles of the sea, the wilderness, the mountain, or in the various activities of every race, every color, every activity of that which has produced and does produce contention in the minds and hearts of those that dwell in the flesh.

14. For, what must be obliterated? Hate, prejudice, selfishness, backbiting, unkindness, anger, passion, and those things of the mire that are created in the activities of the sons of men.

15. Then again He may come in body to claim His own. Is He abroad today in the earth? Yea, in those that cry unto Him from every corner; for He, the Father, hath not suffered His soul to see corruption; neither hath it taken hold on those things that make the soul afraid. For, He IS the Son of Light, of God, and is holy before Him. And He comes again in the hearts and souls and minds of those that seek to know His ways.

16. These be hard to be understood by those in the flesh, where prejudice, avarice, vice of all natures holds sway in the flesh; yet those that call on Him will not go empty handed - even as thou, in thine ignorance, in thine zealousness that has at times eaten thee up. Yet HERE ye may hear the golden sceptre ring - ring - in the hearts of those that seek His face. Ye, too, may minister in those days when He will come in the flesh, in the earth, to call His own by name.

17. We are through.

*****
I went just a while ago (before the reading) and looked at the newspapers to see what the picture was on tonight, and it was something about a train east or some such thing as that, (Sleepers East), but when I had this experience it all happened on a train.

I do not know whether this made it - does this make it? Of course, it wasn't anything, I am sure, like the picture must be because on this train was Mr. Moody and Sam Jones and George Stuart, (all deceased evangelists) and all those people going to a meeting where somebody was going to teach and it was someone we had seen before, for it appeared to me to be that it was John who was going to teach, John the Disciple.

I was on the train there with them and they were discussing as to what they had preached when they were here and what their experiences were since they had been on the other side. (Someone asked EC what they said.) Well, some of them said that they didn't think any of it was so, that they thought was so when they were here. Another said “Yes, it is exactly what you preached”. Another one said, “Well, that wasn't just my experience.”

Then I asked Mr. Moody if he remembered me. [EC had some experiences with Mr. Moody on earth]. He said, “Oh, yes, but you are not just like we are. You are not in the same place with us. You are on this same train with us right now, but don't forget you have to go back and don't you get too far away.”

Mr. Moody seemed to be sort of a listener, yet when he spoke everybody kept silent, and as usual Sam Jones was one who would speak quite often, and he was still having some joke on somebody there and he was still chewing tobacco - that I don't understand. He did spit just like this [EC demonstrated].

Sam Jones said, “Well, things are quite a bit different from what I preached or imagined they were;” then he turned to George Stuart and said, “George, don't you find it that way?” I heard Sam Jones say that Excel was going to lead the singing when they go over to this meeting. George said they were quite a bit different. “We are going to meetings and still going to meetings; the only difference is that we are being preached to instead of preaching, for we have found that we didn't know it all.” Some of them turned to Mr. Moody and I think Sam Jones said, “D. L., how do you find it?”

He said, “Well, it isn't so different. You know what we called human nature is still human nature - it isn't so different.” They seemed to be having just as good a time as they ever did.

Mr. Moody said to me, “Oh, yes, I remember you and I remember the tale I told you about the little girl.” [Question asked EC: “Did they speak of any others and call them by name?”] They had to stop and let Smith on the train.

[On being asked further questions:] I simply found myself on this train. It was all white and gold inside and the chairs were like club seats, nice, big downy cushions. Someone said, “Sam, aren't you afraid you will get that tobacco juice on the cushions?” I rather liked it because I might get a chance to smoke.

What did they say about the meeting? They said they were going to a big meeting, when I asked Sam Jones where they all were going. They stopped at this place when Mr. Smith got on.

Sam Jones asked a riddle: “Do you know why they have twin beds?” Some other man said, “No why?” He said, “On account of onions.” Everybody laughed.
[This brought quite a bit of discussion by those present. EC said everything had to have a source in the spiritual before it could manifest in the earth. Everything in the earth is a pattern of that in the spiritual.]

They said, “You must get off before it goes too far.”

[Ques.: “Did you have any desire to go on?”] I wanted to go ahead and I knew that if they went through the next tunnel I wouldn't get off.

There was another man on there that I knew and he was the one that was insisting that Mr. Smith was going to get on the train. There was another funny thing about it - all of them were dressed in white. I didn't notice what I had on.

The lights were on the side of the wall and on the ceiling. It certainly was a very nice experience - I could hear that train, the noise of the wheels and the whistle.

That makes two or three times that I have heard that John was going to talk in a dream, but I never heard him talk. I would like to have gone on to the meeting.

[In discussion which followed the telling of this experience Mrs. Cayce said that Sam Jones frequently referred to the song, “Life's Railway to Heaven” in his sermons or liked to have it sung. This may or may not have a bearing on the means of conveyance which Edgar Cayce used in the dream.]

5/7/34 EC gave a lecture in Norfolk on THE SECOND COMING, based on material in the 5749-5 reading. [5/17/71 GD's note: See 1/1/61 Searchlight, The Visible & Unvisible.]

7/9/34 See 5756-13, Par. 9, re. above meeting and the evangelists mentioned.
10/21/37 See 281-38 Par. 16, saying EC should be called John.
1/13/40 EC's dream see under 294-189 Reports in re Jesus volunteering to go to the earth to “strengthen my brethren,” using EC as messenger [forerunner]. Also see 12/12/42, 1/5/43 and 7/10/43 recording of similar dream under 294-196 Reports.
8/11/72 GD's note: The Mr. Smith mentioned in EC's dream was a well known evangelist, a contemporary of Dwight L. Moody, Sam Jones, Excel, etc., whose first name I can not remember. Also Billy Sunday was a famous evangelist mentioned often in EC's correspondence and conversation (born 1863, died 1935), but not included in EC's above dream.
In 1944, Edgar Cayce gave the following reading for a fifty-three-year-old woman:

For He will one day come again, and thou shalt see Him as He is, even as thou has seen in thy early sojourns the glory of the day of the triumphal entry and the day of the Crucifixion, and as ye also heard the angels proclaim, “As ye have seen Him go, so will ye see Him come again.” Thou wilt be among those in the earth when He comes again.

This is a remarkable statement, for it appears to say quite clearly that the Christ will return, as the New Testament has promised, and that He will do so within this century.

The tendency today is to regard much that is contained in the Bible as symbolic only, and this may be all to the good, since a too literal interpretation has in the past led to many undesirable excesses. Human thinking tends to go to extremes - either the Bible is literal truth or it is entirely metaphorical. But why must we accept either of these standpoints? It seems likely that the Bible is in some cases symbolic and in others literal. It is possible that the prophecy of the Return was literally true.

That is to say, the Second Coming may not be only a metaphor for the attaining of the Christ consciousness in individual seekers here- and there, as some take it to mean, but a literal and factual approach toward humanity by the living Christ spirit at a definite point in time. The readings indicate that this may be so:

... as has been promised through the prophets and the sages of old, the time - and half time - has been and is being fulfilled in this day and generation, and ... soon there will again appear in the earth that one through whom many will be called to meet those that are preparing the way for His day in the earth. The Lord, then, will come, “even as ye have seen him go.”

The readings further indicate that this is not an isolated occurrence:

For time never was when there was not a Christ and not a Christ mass ... Know this had no beginning in the 1900 years ago, but again and AGAIN and AGAIN!

Thus, while the testimony of countless seekers through the centuries gives evidence to the fact that the Christ can be approached and reached at any time by those willing to pay the price, it seems as if there are definite times when He Himself makes the approach for a specific purpose. What is this purpose?

Then, He has come in all ages when it has been necessary for the understanding to be centered in a new application of the same thought, “God is Spirit and seeks such to worship him in spirit and in truth!”

In all of the great religious faiths the belief in a Saviour of man who is to come can be found. It is perhaps most clearly stated in the *Bhagavad Gita*: “Whenever there is a withering of the law and an uprising of lawlessness on all sides, then I manifest Myself.
For the salvation of the righteous and the destruction of such as do evil, for the firm establishment of the Law, I come to birth age after age.” (Chap. 4:7-8) For some it is the Messiah whose appearance is expected, for others it is Imam Mahdi or Maitreya. Perhaps these are all names for one great Being, called by Christians the Christ. The significant point is that many people of all faiths have believed in a divine mediator, an Elder Brother of the race, who will come to aid them when they wander in darkness, when they stray off course and need to be reminded of their true destination. It begins to look like a great Plan by which humanity is to be led back to its spiritual Source. We have never been abandoned by God, as some complain. Only, sunk in materiality and in self-ness, we ourselves have created a dense smoke screen by means of which His face is hidden from us. “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” (John 1:5)

But,

Yet a little while and He will come again and speak to those who will listen.

How will He manifest? The readings suggest that His appearance might take several different forms. First, He might come as a force through which spiritual consciousness will be stimulated in men and women everywhere.

Hence He is of Himself in space, in the force that impels through faith, through belief, in the individual entity. As a Spirit entity. Hence not in a body in the earth, but may come at will to him who wills to be one with, and acts in love to make same possible.

And He will come again and again in the hearts, in the minds, in the experiences of those that love His coming.

And it may be today, He may be born into thy consciousness; not as a physical birth - but each moment that a physical birth is experienced in the earth is an opportunity for the Christ-entrance again!

In this connection the readings speak of Edgar Cayce as

... one who is to be a forerunner of that influence in the earth known as the Christ Consciousness, the coming of that force or power into the earth that has been spoken of through the ages.

And, in fact, this phase of His manifestation may already have begun. Certainly there has been an upsurge in spiritual awareness in recent years, particularly among young people.

Is He abroad today in the earth? Yea, in those that cry unto Him from every corner... And He comes again in the hearts and souls and minds of those that seek to know His ways.

Alice A. Bailey, in her book *The Reappearance of the Christ*, 1 is in remarkable agreement with the readings when she states that the Presence of the Christ will manifest in three ways. The first is through “the stimulation of the spiritual consciousness in man” and “the nurturing - on a worldwide scale - of the Christ consciousness in the human heart.” The second manner of His coming is through “the impressing of the minds of enlightened men everywhere by spiritual ideas embodying the new truths, by the

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‘descent’ (if I may so call it) or the new concepts which will govern human living and by
the overshadowing of all world disciples and the New Group of World Servers by the
Christ Himself.” In this connection the readings state that:

He has come in all ages through those that were the spokesmen to a people
in this age, that age, called unto a purpose for the manifestation of that first
idea.

The third way in which the Christ might come, according to Alice Bailey, is in person,
to “walk among men as He did before. This has not yet taken place but plans are being
laid which will enable Him to do so. Those plans do not involve the birth of some nice
child in some nice home on Earth.” What do the readings have to say in this regard?

... He shall appear even as the Lord and Master. Not as one born, but as one
that returneth to his own, for He will walk and talk with men of every clime
...

. . . He shall come as ye have seen Him go, in the body He occupied in
Galilea. The body that He formed, that was crucified on the Cross, that rose
from the tomb, that walked by the sea, that appeared to Simon, that appeared
to Philippe, that appeared to “I, even John.”

Then again He may come in body to claim His own ... Ye, too, may minister
in those days when He will come in the flesh, in the earth, to call His own by
name.

This at first glance might seem contradictory - “not as one born,” “not in a body in the
earth,” yet “in the flesh,” in “the body that He formed” and that appeared to the disciples
after the Crucifixion. This is a mystery which we can only wonder at, for it seems that He
will be in a body which is not of earth, yet visible to the physical senses of men. In the
Hindu tradition and in the teachings of Theosophy, there is mention of the Mayavirupa, a
body of illusion. Alice Bailey, in A Treatise on Cosmic Fire, describes this as a “body of
temporary manifestation which the Adept creates on occasion through the power of the
will and in which He functions in order to make certain contacts on the physical plane
and to engage in certain work for the race.” It may be that the Christ will use something
similar to this in order to “walk and talk with men.”

But we need not concern ourselves with this aspect of the Reappearance. What is far
more relevant for us as individuals, ’what represents our opportunity and our
challenge is

How doth He interpret, as to the day or the hour? No man knoweth save the Father.

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Yet there are hints given as to the approximate time:

... and again is there seen that this occurs in the entrance of the Messiah in
this period - 1998.

And these [earth changes] will begin in those periods in '58 to '98, when
these will be proclaimed as the periods when His Light will be seen again
in the clouds.

Nevertheless, we are warned that the actual return will only be made possible through
the cooperation of mankind. The time of return depends on certain preparations. In
answer to the question, “How soon?” the reply came:

When those that are His have made the way clear, passable, for Him to
come.

And again,

Then, as there is prepared the way by those that have made and do make
the channels for the entering in, there may come into the earth those
influences that will save, regenerate, resuscitate, hold - if you please - the
earth in its continued activity toward the proper understanding and proper
relationships to that which is the making for the closer relationships to that
which is in Him alone.

How can we prepare? What can we, as individuals, do to make His way passable?
Edgar Cayce had a great deal to say about this. First, we must face ourselves squarely in
order to determine what we stand for.

Then, today, we are to answer within our individual consciousness, “Am I
my brother's keeper?” Not “What does the world owe me?” but “What
contribution can I, as an individual soul seeking God, seeking to know His
face, make that may hasten the day of the Lord?”

We can be among those who prepare the way. We are not chosen, but the choice is our
own to make. We can go on in the socially approved and expected way of self-seeking, or
we can forget ourselves in the great task of preparation.

Then, when we have made the choice, we can begin at once to work - upon ourselves!

Man can only begin, then, within himself. And as he applies that he knows,
that he understands of God, in his daily life, so there may be given him the
next step to make.

We realize that selfishness, jealousies, those things that make people afraid
must gradually be put away.

First, then, as an individual, self must be conquered. Rather than raising
thy voice, then, that YE may be heard, raise thy voice that HE, thy God may
be heard!

Then, we find, peace in the world must begin first within the heart and
purpose and mind of the individual, prompted by that something which
answers within - even as has been given, “My spirit beareth witness with thy
spirit, as to whether ye be the children of God or not.”
This is no easy task. The Christian message, two-thousand years ago, was one of love. Therefore, if we are to become channels for His force it is love which we must demonstrate today:

And as ye live, so may the Christian light of LOVE encompass the earth; not that of hate, selfishness, money, power, or fame! 3976-25

But if we are to express love then we must begin to relinquish those other qualities - so natural to us - which hinder love.

For, what must be obliterated? Hate, prejudice, selfishness, backbiting, unkindness, anger, passion, and those things of the mire that are created in the activities of the sons of men. 5749-5

Let thy daily life be free from criticism, from condemnation, from hate, from jealousy. And as ye give power to the Spirit of Peace, so may the PRINCE OF PEACE, the love of God, manifest.

So long as ye turn thy thoughts to the manners and means for meeting and overcoming those destructive forces, ye show forth that which may bring to the world that day of the Lord. For the promise is that in the latter days there shall be the purpose in the HEARTS of men, everywhere! 3976-23

It is not any grand scheme that we are called to participate in, but just simply to take ourselves as we are and build on that, to work in that place where life has put us, to brighten a little bit the corner where we are.

So live each day, each hour, as to put into practice those precepts, those influences in thine own life, and in the life of all ye contact day by day. 3976-14

Then study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman not ashamed, rightly dividing the words of truth, keeping SELF unspotted from the world. In this ye may build, here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept. 3976-27

Do not pray one way and live another! Be consistent, be persistent. 3976-20

Let those that live LIVE unto God; magnifying, spreading the fruits of brotherly love, kindness, patience; that this plague of war may be stayed. Ye cannot pray “Peace - Peace” when there is no peace in thine own heart and soul! but by knowing (for His spirit answers with thy spirit) that each Jay, each person ye meet is GLAD that you are alive! GLAD that YOU have come in touch with them; for you have brought - and bring - hope to their Ives, just in the passing!

This means, then, that you may so live the life as He emulated in the earth, that ye radiate life, joy, peace! that which casteth out fear - by living, by being, by doing unto others, for others, that ye would like others to do unto you. 3976-27
But we need not think there is anything unimportant or insignificant in this work. If enough people really put these words into effect, the world would be transformed.

For, as it has been given, “Yea, though there be only ten just men, they may save the city; they may save the nation; they may save the world,” if they will but practice in their daily experience that which has been the command from the first: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and thy neighbor as thyself.”

This is the basis of all spiritual law ...

As the Spirit of God once moved to bring peace and harmony out of chaos, so must the Spirit move over the earth and magnify itself in the hearts, minds and souls of men to bring peace, harmony and understanding, that they may may dwell together in a way that will bring that peace, that harmony, that can only come with all having the one Ideal; not the one idea, but “Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thine heart, thy neighbor as thyself!” This is the whole law, this is the whole answer to the world, to each and every soul. That is the answer to the world conditions as they exist today.

And as ye would be the channel to hasten that glorious day of the coming of the Lord, then do with a might that thy hands find to do to make for the greater manifestations of the love of the Father in the earth. For, into thy keeping, and to His children and to His sons, has He committed the keeping of the saving of the world, of the souls of men ...

Love we have had with us for a long time. Parents love their children, people “fall in love,” love songs are still being written, we watch television plays and movies on the theme of love, novels are written about it. Yet our problems do not seem to be solved. There must be something more to love than an emotion which we feel in relation to another person. If we want to put this one greatest commandment into action and fulfill the law, we must first come to a clear understanding of what love is.

In a certain sense it is a feeling of identity by which we can empathize with another and understand his feelings. It is the recognition of another human as being of intrinsic value, from which follows willingness to understand his point of view and concern for his welfare. It brings about in us an inability to do anything to further our own interests if it has the result of hurting or taking away from another, whether friend or stranger.

This might be termed impersonal love, and this phrase is not as paradoxical as it may seem. For it is love which is not personal in that it has nothing to do with the personality. It is not that emotion which we extend to those who are lovable and charming and withdraw from those who are disagreeable; for if all human beings are children of God, we must love that which is divine within them, disregarding that which is only on the surface and transitory.

Do not confuse affection with love. Do not confuse passion with love. Love is of God, it is Creative, it is all giving.

When there is less and less of the personal desires, more and more does patience become a portion of the whole being - and the awareness of the soul's longings, the soul's desires, (continued on next page)
the soul's expressions of Him in true, pure love . . . For when the soul is in its manifestations it is as God so loved the world, even those that hated Him, even those that put Him oft to shame, even those that called on other gods, even those that made a companion of Satan - the emissaries that are in direct opposition to the Christ Consciousness, even these - God so loved that He gave Himself, His Son, that we, His children, His brethren of the Christ, might - through the Christ - have the greater access to the Father . . . 696-3

Impersonal love has nothing to do with relationship; that is to say, if it is the kind of love that Edgar Cayce had in mind, that love which is “the answer to the world conditions as they exist today,” love which can redeem the world, then it must extend to strangers as well as to those close to us. It is not personal because in its truest expression it does not arise from the personality, but from the Soul, which channels it through the personality.

Be rather, then, in thine associations in friendships, the impersonal; yet with the love of thy fellow man so deep, so high, as to show forth that love that passeth understanding. For rest rather in those promises that He has given, in “A new commandment I give, that ye love one another,” and thus fulfill the law of love. Love is law, law is love, to those that love His appearing. 694-2

The Christ will appear again and we can hasten the day if we put into action, vigorously and persistently, those principles which are His and which we cherish in our own secret hearts. One of those given a life reading was instructed as follows:

Keep the faith that ye magnified in the Persian experience, as ye sought for Him who is the light, the hope of the world today.

For until there is again the seeking of such as ye not only claimed but manifested, He cannot come again. 1908-1

This suggests that the Christ can approach us only as we seek Him and follow the way He pointed out to us. There is also the suggestion that His approach can be hastened in response to the heartfelt call of humanity.

... the cry in the heart and the soul of those that seek His way is to hasten that day ... Be not weary that He apparently prolongs His time, for - as the Master has given, “As to the day, no man knoweth, not even the Son, but the Father and they to whom the Father may reveal, the Son prepareth the way that all men may know the love of the Father.” . . . Hence know that, as thine mind, thine activities, long more and more for the glorifying of the Son in the earth, for the coming of the day of the Lord, He draws very nigh unto thee. 262-58

Many are now coming to realize that united prayer creates a channel by means of which spiritual energies can flow into the life of humanity. This is the principle on which the healing circle is based, for instance. But this is a method which can be used not only in the healing of physical ills but also of spiritual ills. It is possible today to join thousands of people all over the world - a gigantic healing circle, so to speak - in a daily prayer which has been coming rapidly into widespread use over the past two decades. This prayer is as follows:
The Great Invocation

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
   Let light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
   May Christ return to Earth.

From the center where the Will of God is known
   Let purpose guide the little wills of men -
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the center which we call the race of men
   Let the Plan of Love and Light work out.
   And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on
   Earth.

If each of us were to use this prayer every day, concentrating upon its meaning and visualizing the flow of energies as we do so, it could not help but have a tremendous effect upon humanity, and it may hasten the day “when His light will be seen again in the clouds.” Even better would be to join with two others in this practice, linking up mentally with them each day, for “where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matt. 18:20)

Recent scientific experiments have demonstrated the powerful effect the human mind can exert upon plants and animals through the use of the creative imagination; We need no longer rely upon our faith that such things are possible for they are being proven beyond doubt. And we need not restrict this power for use upon the lower kingdoms of nature, but can apply it to the lifting up of the quality of human consciousness and the firm establishment of spiritual principles on earth.

An opportunity stands before us. It is nothing less than the creation of a new age, something far better than man has ever known, the kingdom of heaven, in fact. We can be a part of this great work if we choose.

... when His forerunner may come into the earth for preparing the place for the Son of Man, that His Kingdom may be established in the earth, wilt thou be ready? Seek ye Him?

487-17

REFERENCES
PREPARING THE WAY
by Charles Thomas Cayce, Ph.D

I'm sure most of you know about “Preparing the Way,” the Edgar Cayce readings on the Second Coming. One of the advantages of working at the A.R.E., aside from direct access to the readings, is that we, the staff, also have access to various students of the readings—people who have spent major blocks of their life studying carefully the material in the readings and who have both the information of the readings and their interpretation of some of that “confusing” information at their fingertips. I thought, perhaps, we could approach this topic of Preparing the Way from two perspectives: (1) the concept of the Second Coming as discussed in the readings and (2) the roles for that event, however it might be interpreted in our own lives. Someone who has helped me with that indirectly for a number of years is Everett Irion.

Everett has been a student of the readings for over 20 years. He has been at Virginia Beach since 1960, and then Treasurer of the A.R.E. He is a special student of what I would consider the more difficult concepts in the readings—the material on the Revelation and on vibration, for example. I asked him if he would discuss his understanding of the Second Coming as related in the readings and also mention a story from his own life that I will discuss later. Here, in his own words, is Everett's story:

**Everett Irion:** First, I would like to call your attention to something from the readings which definitely involves, in my opinion, any concept you may have of the Second Coming:

> For the time has arisen in the earth when men-everywhere-seek to know more of the mysteries of the mind, the soul, the soul's mind—which man recognizes as existent, yet has seen little of the abilities of same.

We, as a people, have seen very little of our mind's abilities. Only frequently do we get a glimpse of its operation and realize that it has far more abilities to control us than we think. Yes, we do have little hunches and insights at times, but to find the operation demonstrated within us is, for me, a rare jewel of experience that teaches me a lot about my mind's operation and helps me-in spite of the way I may sound-to squash down my ego a little. For it takes on enormous proportions at times; I've gotten such a big one I can't find a hat large enough to fit me! Yet when something happens that shows me that my mind is not all that I would like it to be and when I can't grasp ideas I would like it to grasp, I feel very, very small in the eyes of my ego. Let's consider again what this reading says:

> For the time has arisen in the earth when men-everywhere-seek to know more of the mysteries of the mind...

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3 Charles Thomas Cayce, Ph.D., is President of the A.R.E. and is responsible for general supervision and management of the Association. Before assuming this position, he directed the A.R.E.’s parapsychological research and educational programs, including youth activities. A specialist in child psychology, Charles Thomas works with psychically gifted young people and has conducted research to evaluate, the effects of meditation and dream study on psychic development.
Scientists, educators, and people working with people are examining this concept as never before in man's history. They're finding out, for instance, that the right brain and the left brain speak different languages to us. This will be illustrated in the story I'm going to relate later.

The unconscious mind, which is much more than the conscious mind, rules us far more than we think it does. To know how the mind operates and how we respond to the mind is pointed up in the fact that we don't read what we read. We don't get the message. We don't hear what we hear because we hear more our responses to what a speaker is saying. Later on, we are unable to repeat word for word what a speaker has said, which is what we all do when we listen, so we do not really listen to what we are hearing. We are merely listening to our responses.

We respond in the same way when things happen to us: we listen to ourselves, our responses, rather than listen to what is said. This is part of the message of my story.

Every time I go over the story in my mind, I marvel more profoundly at the experience, for I find a dimension in it that is ever new to me. The story shows how inappropriate we are sometimes to meet our experiences.

It happened about 1958. I was working with a group of people, one of whom was a girl I will call Helen. She gave a party once and, for those of you who know me, I'm always-as my wife says-preaching when I ought to be listening. This party honored (not that I was worth honoring!) my ability to read palms. The outcome was that this girl Helen wanted to know more about herself. She had problems all through early 1958, and she wanted to talk more with me. Toward the end of the year she made a number of appointments to see me but broke them all. Later, she called for another appointment, but it was the tax season, our busiest time, and I asked her to call again later on.

After the tax season, I took a vacation, and when I returned, I learned that Helen had committed suicide. Well, it was a great shock and a heart-rending thing to me, because she had wanted to talk to me and I had refused. Sure, she had broken several appointments, but the last time I had put her off.

I prayed as best I could, which may or may not have been adequate. About a year later, on business, I went to the bank, walked into the vault and, as I was looking through my safety deposit box, suddenly somebody tapped me on the arm. It was Helen! She looked just as clear and solid as any other person. I greeted her like an old friend, and she greeted me. We talked a moment. I asked her how she was getting along. She shrugged and said, "Oh, so so." "Well, can you tell me anything you're doing that's important, anything happening in your life that's wonderful?" "No," she said, "I do hope I can talk to you some time." I said, "Fine, I'd be happy to, but right now, I am busy and I need to get back to the office." Then we talked a few more minutes.

When I got back to the office, my wife asked me, "Anything happen while you were gone?" I said, "No, nothing. I tended to business." "Well, surely something happened." "Well," I said, "I met Helen down in the bank vault." She said, "You didn't." I said, "Honey, you asked me what happened. I'm just telling you I met Helen in the bank vault." She looked at me and said, "Irion, you're crazy." I said, "Why am I crazy? I just met Helen and talked to her a moment." She said, "Irion, you couldn't have. She's dead." I said, "Honey, I just talked to her. She couldn't be dead." "That girl is dead. She committed suicide," she said. "How could she have when I just talked to her?" She argued with me a moment, then said, "Okay, I'm going to get on the telephone and call
Ed.” Ed was Helen's former employer. So she called Ed and said, “Will you tell this crazy Irion that Helen is dead?”

The moment Ed came on the line, I remembered the whole thing, that she was dead and that she had taken her life. What had happened? All that I knew of her had been wiped out of my consciousness so that I could treat her as a human being. This was a work of the mind. It had not played a trick; it had merely shifted gears. This happening demonstrated the mysteries of the mind that we only think we know and talk about but do not yet experience. Within this same framework, according to Cayce in reply to the question, “Will we see Jesus again? Will He come again?” comes the answer that we will see Him come again as we had seen Him go.

Now how did we see Him go? How did I see Helen, who was there or who wasn't there, just as solid as a human being? A shift in consciousness, where former things have passed away and now we see with a different eye. This is an ability of not the conscious mind, but of the bigger mind within us, to shift gears and help us see the real. For as I saw and talked with this girl, in this vein, we will see the Christ.

Charles Thomas: In starting again, I'd like you to consider a few questions. If you had to bet something significant in your life (however you might conceive of that), something you'd live on each year for the rest of your life or something very meaningful in your life-if that were the stakes in this bet, how would you bet, yes or no, in response to these questions?

(1) Would you bet that in the next 20 years we are going to have an economic crisis of catastrophic proportions in this country?

(2) In the next 20 years, would you bet-now remember, you're betting something so very significant in your life that you would consider it a major loss if you had to give it up-that an energy crisis (gasoline, oil, etc.) of catastrophic proportions will hit this country?

(3) A food crisis of catastrophic proportions in the next 20 years in this country?

(4) A social crisis? That would include all sorts of possible factors: racial problems, problems related to young and old, interactions, women taking over the civilization-social changes that would reach a point that they are catastrophic in terms of our culture.

(5) A war and/or political crisis of catastrophic proportions involving our own country?

(6) Many people have had the most severe personal crisis of their lives in the last three years. Reflecting on your last three years and beyond, would you consider this statement true for you? Now, certainly any sort of “stretch” can be good and constructive; I mean “stretch” in the sense of growth or potential for growth; for example, a change with regard to your relationship to another person, a job change, a personal illness or illness of someone close to you, something related to your own life, something that caused a grinding and shifting of gears for you.

(7) Do you think there will be major world earth changes of catastrophic proportions in the next 20 years?

(8) Would you bet on the Second Coming of Christ in the next 20 years-however you conceive of the Second Coming?
I would guess that there would be more yes's than no's when these answers are tallied.

When the readings talk about the term New Age, three sorts of concepts or areas seem to be regularly and frequently addressed. One has to do with the 40-year period between 1958 and 1998. Another has to do with the concept of the readings' suggestion that at this particular point in time in the earth, every soul incarnate in the earth has experienced—as I understand it—on some kind of conscious level that “the Lord thy God is One.” The soul may have come to this consciousness in some past incarnation or past experience, not necessarily in this life. Now, there are various ways to attempt to look at and interpret that—that an increased potential is present at this particular time in the earth and that it's related to the number of souls close to a reawakening of the Christ Consciousness, the concept of “the Lord thy God is One,” or the oneness of spirit related to all of us. But let's leave that perspective for a moment.

The third concept has to do with the Second Coming as it relates to the New Age. I'd like to touch now on each of those areas.

First, concerning the period between '58 and '98, we are attempting to reach a definition of the Second Coming as I understand it from the readings. Nine points that seem important to me in this preparation for the Second Coming or for the New Age follow.

The first has to do with an increased awareness of how we respond to individual or world crises. You might have heard this story that I've told a number of times, but it so clearly illustrates for me the trickiness of our response to situations. In our Study Group one evening we were talking about this business of how we all enjoy negative attitudes and how we hold on to irritations with each other. All of this is central, I think, to preparing the way. It gets back to where we are as individuals. Frequently we tend to talk in the abstract about the Second Coming, and it's more difficult for us to bring it down to earth and manifest our understanding of the Christ in our own lives. But one member of our Group, an engineer with NASA, a very precise kind of guy, told this little story which he felt illustrated that tendency in each of us not to forgive or not to be so careful with our response to situations around us. He said he had read this in a local newspaper several weeks before.

The newspaper article described a husband and wife sitting at the breakfast table one morning and slipping into an argument about something. The longer they discussed it, the more fixed they got in their positions and the more adamant and tougher they got toward each other. Finally, the wife, in exasperation and irritation, went upstairs to get dressed for school. (She was a schoolteacher.) By mistake, she put on a dress that zipped all the way up the back, so she had to go downstairs and ask her husband to help her zip up the dress. This was his opportunity to respond, to stop this sort of building a cycle of irritation. He could have gently zipped up the dress, maybe given her a hug and a kiss, and sent her off to school. But he was so uptight and irritated, he couldn't bring himself to do that. He took the dress zipper and yanked it up and down a number of times as hard and as fast as he could. The zipper ripped out of her dress and, of course, this irritated the wife more. She stomped back upstairs, changed her dress and went on to school. All day she thought of how to get back at her husband. Now the cycle started in terms of thoughts, irritations, and karma or whatever. She came home and was surprised to find that her husband had arrived earlier. He had parked his car in the driveway and was
stretched out under it with his legs sticking out, working on the engine. I'm sure she smiled to herself. She marched over to him, took the zipper on his pants and yanked it up and down as hard and as fast as she could and stomped on into the house. There, to her horror, was her husband!

She explained to him what had happened and wanted to know who was out under the car. He said it was a next-door neighbor who had agreed to come over and work on the car. They ran outside and tried to talk to the neighbor, but he didn't move. They pulled him out from under the car; he was unconscious, but they were able to revive him. He said that when he felt the zipper on his pants moving, it startled him so that he reared up and hit his head on the car's engine and knocked himself out. I'm waiting for the written documentation of that story from the newspaper.

Anyway, this so clearly illustrates for me the complexity of things when we are not watching our responses to specific situations, whether it's a large crisis in our life or whether it's an individual interaction with another person. The key is not what happens to us but how we respond to what happens. So the first point: to begin to watch more carefully our responses to various crises in our lives.

The second has to do with working on the concept of expectation, that sense of patient waiting or patient focus. We all have expectations. Many of us spend a regular period of time working with what might be called positive thought forms or positive expectations. I don't mean the kind of expectation in which we scramble for something; for example, we focus on a million dollars and build it until we want it to manifest in our lives, but a patient kind of expectation that has to do with releasing and not hanging on to or trying to squeeze anything into being. It's related to hope, a term used over and over in the readings. So an expectation related to the Second Coming seems extremely important to me. I think we should all work on this regularly, especially in these times. (Let me insert here that in coming up with these items from the readings, I've tried to go back and look for them in the life of Jesus, and, as I read His life, they are all present.)

The third item: simplifying one's life. One of the difficulties, I think, with our culture today is the tendency to make our lives more complex. In fact, we don't even really have to work at it; it just happens to us if we simply take a neutral position. I'm speaking of not just the potential complexity of increased technology, but of the complexity related to all the kinds of material goods around us. Pick one specific aspect of your own life that you could simplify without a lot of difficulty. How about getting rid of some clothes or of a toaster that sometimes works and sometimes doesn't?

A great deal of my time is spent in a rather exasperated or frustrated sense of doing what I feel has to be done or needs to be done but isn't directly related to the priorities I've set for my life and work. I think an anecdotal indication of this feeling in our culture is the garage-sale phenomenon—people regularly cleaning out and giving items away. To some extent this has come full cycle: We have a garage sale one week, then spend the next few months at other garage sales buying items to fill up the spaces we created with our garage sale. The number of cars we have, the number of gadgets and clothes we have, the number of relationships we're trying to maintain—all these involve time and energy.

The fourth consideration concerns working with the business of nonattachment, or the ability to release. The fifth one, setting or clarifying priorities, is closely related to number four. To work with these, spend some time clarifying your own priorities with a
friend or on your own. What are the important things in your life? Is your relationship with God a high priority? One of the most important statements for me in the last couple of years is from a lecture given by Herb Puryear in which he was reflecting on times of crisis. Frequently, he said, we try to project the crisis out there in terms of economy, fuel, energy or whatever; yet it may very well have to do with our placing something, someone, some attitude or some aspect of ourselves between us and God. It's at that point that God may pull the rug out from under us a little. The readings again and again push us to reflect on what is our God. The clarifying of priorities may be helpful in that context, a kind of preventative, in a sense, with regard to times of individual crisis.

The next one, setting ideals. That's a key one, which we've all probably worked with.

Number seven: getting back to nature, to the soil. (Again, I would encourage you to look for illustrations of all of these in Jesus' own life.) This concept may be looked at from two perspectives. One interpretation is that, because of the impending earth changes, we should all be growing our own food. Just as important, I think, may be an interpretation with regard to the importance of the use of the forces or energies of nature for our own centering and grounding. Certainly this was a major part of Jesus' own life. This concept of getting back to the soil isn't just related to a possible material danger, such as earth changes, but its importance lies in each of us individually in terms of our own growth and centering.

Number eight involves our own inner work: meditation, journal writing, writing down our dreams and working with them; however we might do that on a regular basis.

And the last one: working in small groups in the sense of a spiritual community, a Study Group, a family or whatever. Certainly, in my opinion, some of the most powerful information in the readings has to do with the discussion of the laws manifested by the Essenes in their preparation for Jesus. What is so powerful about that information is the clear indication that those same laws are applicable for all of us, that our behavior, our thoughts, our attitudes, words and actions-as groups-create conditions that influence incoming souls. This concerns not just the parents' preparation prior to conception, but their association with other people and groups of people. So, all the time we are associating with people who are preparing for children-whether in-laws or friends-either directly or indirectly. We, as a group, as an Association, are creating energies in terms of our attitudes and thoughts that are influencing the souls coming into this Association. Therefore, group work at this time is extremely important.

For what are we preparing the way? Most of us are familiar with the information in the readings on the Second Coming. In a mailing that we did recently to 140,000 people, we asked them to choose from a group of topics one that was of particular interest to them; the Second Coming was the most frequently chosen topic. The readings seem to suggest that the Second Coming might be interpreted as a reawakening of the Christ Consciousness within each individual, or that there will be a physical Second Coming, a reincarnation of Jesus in the physical. Or the third alternative, illustrated by Everett’s story, that we will experience Him as we saw Him go, in the resurrected body, the astral body or whatever.

I think all three of those interpretations are true, but the one that is for me most real, most accessible and most exciting is the reawakening of the Christ Consciousness, the working from the Spirit or the God within, the awareness and manifestation of that.
What the readings suggest for me about this 40-year period is that, due to some set of energies or forces, there is the increased potential for direct interaction with the resurrected Christ. That idea has two possible directions. One is an experience with the Christ in an altered state of consciousness. That might be anything from being not quite awake in the morning in my barn milking a cow (which is really an altered state of consciousness!), or a dream, a reverie, or some such experience that seems very vivid and real and is a re-energizing factor in our lives.

But what's even more exciting and real for me is an experience with a physical manifestation—not a reincarnation—as Everett described it. It's funny how a story like that can trigger experiences and reflections about stories you've heard recently, experiences you've read about, or conversations that you've had or will have. Keep in mind the possibility of that kind of experience.

Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, who lectures on death and dying, describes a similar experience she had with a woman who had died of cancer. She had a conversation with this woman some time later—in the flesh and blood, as far as she could tell. Now, several important elements exist in that kind of experience to allow such an experience to happen. One has to do with the ability of the mind to block out the skepticism and the rational sorts of explanations that might filter out of such an experience. Everett clearly illustrated this in his description of not remembering or simply not knowing while he was communicating with her that this woman had died. It wasn't until later that the memory came back. It's important, I think, to be aware of the possibility of the mind doing that kind of filtering and blocking in terms of our own expectations, our own hopes, and our own concerns about the Second Coming.

The second important factor is related again to expectancy: to set up situations to knock on the door or lay the groundwork, however you do that, for such an experience of the Second Coming. For me, the best situation really is not a meditation room but my barn on the little farm where I live, a very unlikely place, although probably a place fairly familiar to Jesus.

Another way that's helpful in that sort of experience is asking oneself in a reverie or in a moment of contemplation or prayer, “What would I say to Jesus? What sort of experience would that be? Is there some profound question I might have for Him? Or would it be a passing of the time of day and simply a look?”

Let's reflect now on what's happened in the last 40 years with regard to a change in consciousness in the earth, particularly in our culture, which has to do with getting us ready this next 20 years as a culture and as a people who are trying to make a conscious commitment to spiritual growth. In about the late '50s, interesting editorials began to appear in magazines on the newsstands, and books came out making predictions about a New Age and the youth culture of that time. But now we have reached a point at which we are no longer paying attention to them. There's a disillusionment or seriousness being referred to about the '70s, a change in priorities that is very different from the '60s. I think the '80s and '90s are going to be periods of intensification and increased difficulties for us.

Let me close now with an admonition. A number of years ago an expert on spiritual communities, who is no longer living in a spiritual community, told me that she felt the biggest difficulty with spiritual groups, whether a physical community, an association such as the A.R.E., or a marriage relationship, is that, as we search spiritually,
we tend to project our need for wholeness out there. We tend to look to the Association, to the wife or the husband, for fulfillment, for that experience of wholeness, that completion, that sense of oneness with the Spirit, with the Divine. Or we move into a spiritual community hoping that the group will provide that wholeness for us.

It seems to me that in these times it is increasingly important that we not stick our hopes for wholeness on something out there. We need to continue to be aware of the importance of turning within.