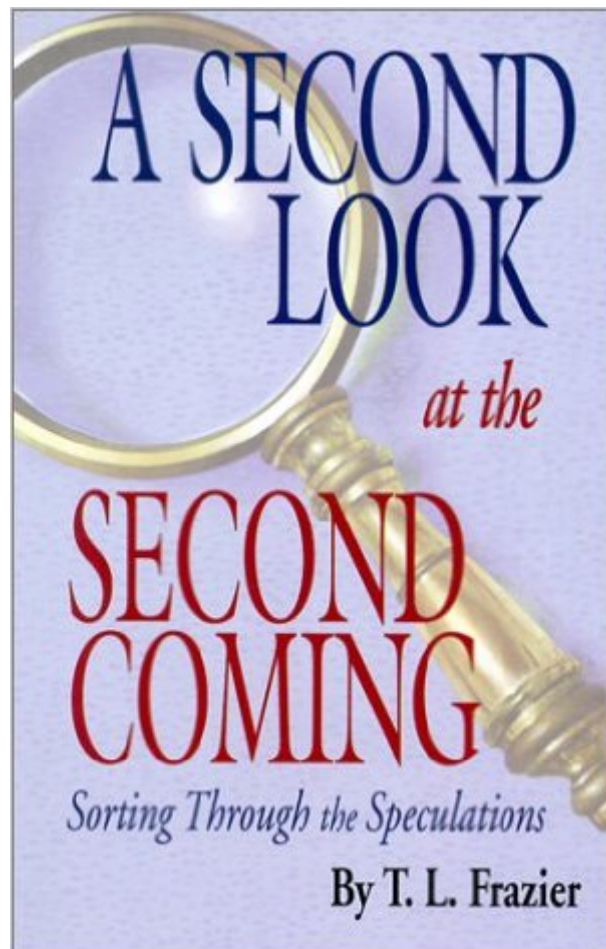


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A Second Look At The Second Coming (Sorting Through The Speculations)



Synopsis

An Eastern Orthodox Christian perspective on eschatology. Read a balanced, well-researched treatment of the end times, interpreted from the Christian East by faithful Orthodox saints, martyrs, and Spirit-filled Fathers of the Faith. Historic Christian teaching on the rapture, the millennium, the state of Israel, and the role of the Church in the last days is something quite different from what is commonly taught in the pop religion of today's evangelicalism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the early 70s, I was a big fan of Hal Lindsey's book "The Late Great Planet Earth," which predicted that the Second Coming of Christ was immanent because of his interpretation that it was to occur within one generation of the founding of the modern state of Israel (in 1948). This position is one that he continues to update, and modify, and is also popularized in the writings of others, such as the "Left Behind" series, by Tim Lahaye and Jerry Jenkins. Back then, as I began my own studies of the Book of Revelation, I was shocked to discover that most major Bible commentaries did not share the view promoted by Lindsey and other preachers of the "pre-tribulation rapture." Not only that, I learned that this particular interpretation was a novel one in Christian history, and relatively recent, first appearing around the 1800s. Over the years, as I have retreated from this minority view (with many parallels to those of the Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists) to a more traditional position, I have often wished for a volume that would present the

historic view of the Christian Church on the Second Coming of Christ in a clear and thoroughly researched manner, especially as it pertains to views popular in many circles of Evangelical Protestantism. This book by T.L. Frazier is that book! I would recommend this volume to students of biblical prophecy, to people who want to critically examine the views of pre-tribulation writers like Lindsey and LaHaye, and to people who love Church history (or theology) and would like a survey of the historical views of mainline Christianity (whether Orthodox, Catholic or Protestant) on this important subject.

Any Christian studying eschatology will encounter the theological system known as dispensationalism. Enter any Christian bookstore and survey the books on endtimes themes and the vast majority will likely be dispensationalist titles. One might easily conclude that it is the Church's traditional eschatological position. Thus it may come as a shock that dispensationalism is a novel doctrine without historical support. Furthermore, it does not, as its backers claim, take the Bible literally but rather forces contextually isolated Scripture passages into a system with little concern for original intent. Having its origins in the eighteenth century, it gained a foothold among Fundamentalists with their acceptance of the Scofield Reference Bible and then in wider Protestant circles with the publication of Hal Lindsay's *The Late Great Planet Earth*. Since then, it has grown even more pervasive through the wide popularity of the *Left Behind* novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. Into this mess steps T. L. Frazier of the Eastern Orthodox Church. In *A Second Look at the Second Coming*, Frazier provides a powerful critique of dispensationalism that shows the reader the Scriptural missteps, newspaper exegesis, historical ignorance, and cultural parochialism at its core. Not only does he succeed in laying waste the entire system, but he also places in contrast the eschatological understanding of the Church Fathers. Their wise and humble council stands in sharp contrast to the lurid sensationalism championed by today's "prophecy teachers." Frazier begins with a discussion of the cultural upheaval that took place in the late 1960s and provided dispensationalism a receptive audience.

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