

## Hebrews 9:28

Hebrews 9:28 is the last citation to be considered. As mentioned above, *parousia* is not used at all in this context, but rather *optanomai*, meaning, “appear, look, see, show self.” The writer of Hebrews is unknown, yet has an excellent command of Old Testament Jewish theology, as well as New Testament Christian theology and Christology. The book was probably written between AD 64 and 68 and the theme is “the superiority of Christ and of Christianity.”<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 9 talks about the Old Covenant priesthood compared to Jesus as the Priest of the New Covenant. This chapter finishes in verses 27 and 28 with, it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgement, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall *appear* (*optanomai*) a *second time* (similar to *come again* in John 14:3) for *salvation* (*soteria* and not judgment of the Second Coming) without reference to sin (since it was dealt with at the First Coming through the Atonement), to those who eagerly await Him (Christians versus unbelievers). This appears to be a clear inference to the deliverance from judgment theme of the Rapture previously addressed above. However, Biederwolf again equates this “second appearance” to the Second Coming.<sup>2</sup> Of interesting note is the commentary note made by Ephraem the Syrian in his *Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews* on 9:28, “Then, ‘he will appear a second time,’ not in order to die for the sins, for which he has already died once, but in order to appear in a new world, where there will be no sins on the part of those who in hope expect salvation through him.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ryrie, 1836.

<sup>2</sup>Biederwolf, 514.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas C. Oden, ed., *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: New Testament*, vol. 10 (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005), 147.