

DAILY ORAL THEOLOGY

Parousia

Parousia [puh-roo-zee-uh] n.

1. The Parousia is a theological concept that comes from the Greek and means “coming” or “presence.” The term Parousia is used in reference to the coming of Jesus Christ.

Geerhardus Vos observes, “The word denotes ‘coming,’ ‘arrival.’ It is never applied to the incarnation of Christ, and could be applied to His second coming only, partly because it had already become a fixed Messianic term, partly because there was a point of view from which the future appearance of Jesus appeared the sole adequate expression of His Messianic dignity and glory . . . The Christian use of the word ‘parousia’ is more or less colored by the consciousness of the present bodily absence of Jesus from His own, and consequently suggests the thought of His future abiding presence, without, however, formally coming to mean the state of the Saviour’s presence with believers (1 Thess. 4:17). – “Eschatology of the New Testament,” *ISBE*