

GOD'S PROPHECIES

FOR

PLAIN PEOPLE

by William L. Pettingill

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Prophecy Question Box

Christ Not to Return A Mere Spirit

How shall we be like Him and see Him as He is, if we do not die (or be changed "in the twinkling of an eye")? Do not the Scriptures teach that He will never be seen in the flesh any more, but return a 'spirit being'?

- An Alabama Reader

WE SHALL all either die or be found alive at His coming for us; and, living or dying, "**we**, [that is, all believers] **shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye**" (I Corinthians 15:51, 52). But this does not mean that we shall not see Him. The Scriptures do not teach that He will never be seen in the flesh or that He will return a spirit being. On the contrary, they teach that He will return in like manner as He went away, in a body of flesh and bones. See Luke 24:36-40; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20, 21; I John 3:1-3.

Who are the Foolish Virgins?

1. *To whom do the five foolish virgins (cf. Matthew 25) refer?*
2. *Is the church going to save the world?*

- A Pennsylvania Reader.

The five foolish virgins represent Jews who at the time of CHRIST's coming at the end of the Great Tribulation will be professing to believe on Him and to be waiting for Him. They are destitute of oil, which represents the Holy Spirit. This shows that their profession is false and that they do not belong to CHRIST. Compare Zechariah 4:1-6; I John 2:20, 27; Romans 8:9; Jude 19.

2. The church is not appointed to save the world; but to be saved out of the world, and to save out of the world all who believe (John 3:16; Acts 5:14).

What is "The Restitution of All Things?"

Where is there found the harmony of the Scripture in the teaching of damnation? Surely the third of Acts teaches the restoration, or restitution of all things in the resurrection time.

- A California Reader

The third of Acts (v. 21) teaches only the restitution of all things "**which GOD hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets.**" There is no Scriptural authority for expecting further restitution than this. As for damnation, see the testimony of the True and Faithful Witness, as recorded in Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:42-50; Luke 16:19-31, and John 5:28, 29. It is quite true, as you point out in your letter that the word "damnation" in such passages as John 5:29 might be correctly understood as "judgment." But that could make no difference to a lost man. For him, judgment is damnation.

Hell Punishment Not "Corrective"

A prominent religious teacher here is teaching that GOD's purpose in Hell's punishment is corrective and that eventually every soul in Hell, even Satan himself, will be converted, so that "all things shall be in subjection to" GOD. If "eternal" means only "age-lasting," what about "the eternal God" and "the everlasting Father"?

- A Pennsylvania Reader.

Precisely so. In Matthew 25:46, for example, the same Greek adjective occurs twice - the word *aionian*. First, it describes the duration of life for the saved: it is eternal; second, it describes, the duration of punishment for the lost: it is everlasting. But we are not confined to this one word, by any means, in arriving at the truth concerning eternal punishment. Our LORD settles the matter for us in such passages as Mark 9:42-48 and Luke 16:19-31. These passages offer no hope for those who depart this life out of CHRIST; nor, indeed, do any other portions of GOD's Word.

When Will the New Temple Be Built?

Does the temple have to be built in Jerusalem before CHRIST comes? If so, how is it possible to contend that "CHRIST may come at any moment?"

- A California Reader

THERE must be a Temple in Jerusalem before CHRIST comes the second time *to the Earth*, but not before His coming into the air to catch us up unto Himself. It is this coming to catch us away that may occur at any moment. The seven years of Daniel's Seventieth Week, which will intervene between our catching up and the Return of CHRIST to Judgment, will prove ample time for the rebuilding of the temple and all the other things that must be accomplished before CHRIST's Return as King. The mosque of Omar now occupying the ancient temple site, could be transformed into a magnificent temple within a short time.

No Justification for Polygamy

Would not your statement in the issue of March 22 concerning the two wives of Jehovah the Old Testament wife who proved recreant, and the New Testament bride - give support to the claim of the Mormon teachers that CHRIST was a polygamist?

- A Pennsylvania Reader.

JEHOVAH is a name which is used interchangeably in the Bible, and applied sometimes to the FATHER and sometimes to the Son. Israel is pictured in the Scriptures as the unfaithful and now disowned wife of JEHOVAH the FATHER. The church is the bride of CHRIST the Son. There is no polygamy even in figure there.

Will Any Christians Die in the Millennium?

You say there are two resurrections, and that the first is only of the saved, and the second only of the lost. Will there be any of CHRIST's followers during the thousand years; between those resurrections, and if so, and if they die, what will become of them if they rise not?

- An Ohio Reader.

Scripture gives no clear answer to this series of questions, and inferential conclusions in connection with Bible study are dangerous. That there will be conversions during the Millennium is clear enough, and it is also certain that sinners will die during that period. As to what will happen when a sinner is born again during the thousand years, one cannot speak positively. In the account of the second resurrection, given in Revelation 20, there is no intimation that anyone in that throng assembled before the Great White Throne has his name recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. From this it may be inferred (but, remember, inferences are dangerous) either that no saints die during the Millennium, or that, if they die, they are immediately raised from the dead. See Isaiah 65:19-25.

Confusing Rapture and Revelation

What Scripture have we to indicate that the unbelieving world shall not see JESUS when He appears?

Will every believer be caught up? The following passages seem to show a contradiction:

"Unto all them also that love His appearing."

"Unto them that look for Him shall He appear."

But if all the "dead in Christ" are raised, would you not think that all the living in CHRIST would be caught up? And yet if He will appear to those who do not look for Him (and they are many), it seems to make these Scriptures foolishness and void. I have puzzled much about this.

- A Washington State Reader

You seem to have the Rapture and the Revelation confused here. At the Rapture of the saved,

when they are caught up to meet the Lord in the air, the unbelieving world will probably hear nothing, and see nothing, except that the saved ones are all missing. This is typified by the rapture of Enoch, who, "**walked with God**, and one day he was gone. In the language of Scripture, "**he was not; for God took him**" (Genesis 5:24). The Scriptures you quote (II Timothy 4:8 and Hebrews 9:28) find their primary application in connection with the Second Coming of CHRIST to the Earth (the Revelation) rather than to His presence, in the air to receive His own (the Rapture). In the days of His appearing, in the clouds of Heaven with power and glory, coming to judge and to make war, "**every eye shall see Him**" indeed, but to those who at that time, having turned to Him since the Rapture, shall be looking for Him and loving His appearing, He will bring salvation and reward.

What Does the Number 666 Mean?

Who is the Beast in Revelation 13, having seven heads and ten horns? What are the seven heads and the ten horns? What was the deadly wound that was healed? Who or what is the second Beast with two horns, which looks like a lamb and speaks like a dragon? What is the number 666, or who is it, or he?

Who and what was Pontifex Maximus? Who was the first Pope of Rome, and was he the Apostle Peter? Who is the woman of Revelation 17, arrayed in purple and scarlet? Is the Babylon referred to a city, a nation, or a person? Who are the seven kings mentioned in the tenth verse, and who are the ten kings in the twelfth verse?

-A Georgia Reader.

The Beast out of the sea is the Roman Empire, seen in the person of its Emperor, who shall occupy its throne when the Empire shall have been revived, in the end-time. The ten horns are ten Kings, or Kingdoms, which give their power to the Beast, that is, they become a part of the Empire. The picture corresponds with the seventh chapter of Daniel. The Beast is the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8, 24, who begins by subduing three of the ten Kings, thus leaving "seven heads." The deadly wound which was healed was the Empire itself, which, after being so long reckoned as dead, shall have been restored to life.

The Second Beast is the False Prophet, the ecclesiastical head, as the Emperor is the political head, of the revived Roman Empire. This False Prophet looks like a lamb and speaks like a dragon: like all false Prophets, he claims to represent CHRIST, but his doctrine is the doctrine of devils.

The number 666** is man's number, thrice repeated, as explained by the text itself, - it is "**the number of man,**"** man's number. It indicates man's failure to accomplish completeness without GOD, even though aided by the immense power of Satan. The number is always 6, it is never 7. Seven is GOD's number, and 6 is man's.

Pontifex Maximus is a title worn by the Popes as head of the priestly college in ancient Rome. Peter was never a Pope, and was probably never in Rome - at all. There were no Popes for eight hundred years after the death and resurrection Of CHRIST. It is impossible to say who was the first Pope, for there were many Bishops of Rome who sought Papal recognition and power

before it was finally accorded to any of them.

The woman of Revelation 17 is apostate Christendom, headed up in the Papal system.

The Babylon referred to there is the same thing as the woman; it is ecclesiastical Babylon as distinguished from political Babylon. Ecclesiastical Babylon is Roman Catholicism and apostate Christendom generally, while political Babylon is the revived Roman Empire, headed by the Beast-King of the end-time. The seven kings are identical with the seven heads, and the ten kings with the ten horns, of Revelation 13:1, already explained.

***Editor's Note: The number of the Beast is six hundred and sixty six - not triple (three) sixes. It is the number that his name adds up to. Also, Revelation 13:18 says "It is the number of a man." It is the number of the end-time Antichrist.*

What and When is the First Resurrection?

It is in general stated and accepted that the saints will not pass through the Great Tribulation, but be caught up before that takes place,- and I grant that there seems to be considerable ground for believing this,- but I cannot harmonize it with what Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, that "the dead in Christ shall rise first," and what is stated in Revelation 20:4, 5. From verse 4 it is plain that the first resurrection takes place after the Great Tribulation, while, if the living saints are not to precede the dead ones (1 Thessalonians 4:16), it should take place before the Tribulation. Provided that you accept the general belief, how would you explain these things?

I am much interested in prophecy, and especially that part which relates to CHRIST's coming and contemporary events." I became a subscriber to The Sunday School Times in order to be able to read your articles.

- A Wisconsin Reader.

Unquestionably, the church is taught, in 1 Thessalonians 4 and other Scriptures, that the coming of the Lord for us is imminent - that it may occur at any moment; and that when it occurs it will be accompanied by the resurrection of all those who have up to that moment fallen asleep in JESUS. There can be no Great Tribulation before this great impending event, for we are constantly exhorted to wait, not for the Great Tribulation, but for the Lord from Heaven.

It is also equally clear that in Revelation 20 we are taught that certain martyrs of the Great Tribulation are raised from the dead at its close, leaving only the lost - "**the rest of the dead**" - to be raised at the close of the Millennium. In connection with the raising of the Tribulation saints, in Revelation 20:4-6, it is written, "This is the first resurrection." But we are not by all this forced to believe that the Tribulation saints - who alone are raised at that time (Revelation 20:4) constitute the whole number having part in the first resurrection. The teaching, that the first resurrection includes all those raised at the Rapture, as well as those raised at the end of the Great Tribulation is not only reasonable but Scriptural.

"The hour" of spiritual resurrection, passing from death unto life, spoken of in John 5:24, 25, which "**is coming; and now is,**" has embraced a period of nearly two thousand years; and "the

hour" of physical resurrection, referred to in John 5:28, 29, which "is coming," and "**in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth,**" will stretch over the Millennium itself, and include both "**the resurrection of life**" and "**the resurrection of damnation.**"

Why, then, should not "the first resurrection", include all those raised before the Millennium, as the second resurrection will include all those, raised after the Millennium? To believe this is reasonable.

Then, too, it is Scriptural, for it is in keeping with the Levitical types. In the great calendar chapter, Leviticus 23, the resurrection of CHRIST is typified by the wave-sheaf of the firstfruits presented to GOD on the first day of the week "**on the morrow after the sabbath**" (verses 9-14). Then comes the church, in another wave-offering - "the bread of the firstfruits for a wave-offering before the LORD" (verses 15-21). This, includes the completion of the church and her presentation to GOD in resurrection and Rapture. After that, in verse 22, the raising of the Tribulation saints is pictured as the gleaning of the harvest. Compare 1 Corinthians 15:22, 23 and James 1:18.

How good it is to know that the LORD JESUS has delivered us, from the wrath to come, and that therefore we are not appointed "**to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him**" (I Thessalonians 1:9, 10; 5:9, 10)!

"Out Resurrection from Among Dead Ones"

To what did Paul refer in Philippians 3:11 - "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead?"

-An Illinois Reader

The matter is not perfectly clear to me, but I believe Paul was expressing his hope that he might live until the first resurrection, and thus pass into the Lord's presence without death. Rotherham explains the verse, "If by any means I may advance to the earlier resurrection, which is from among the dead." The description of this earlier resurrection is very vivid in the Greek Testament: it is the *ex anastasin ek nekron*, which is, literally, the out-resurrection from among the dead ones. Paul believed it possible that this might occur before his death, just as we believe it possible before ours. This is the normal Christian attitude.

Elijah Will Reappear

What is "the great and dreadful Day of the Lord" mentioned in Malachi 4:5? Are we to look for a second coming of Elijah, or is that prophecy answered by John the Baptist? Has Revelation 11:3-12 any bearing on a second appearance of Elijah and possibly Enoch (the "two witnesses")?

- A Connecticut Reader

The Day of the Lord is that period beginning with the coming of CHRIST to judge and make war (Revelation 19). Elijah must first come, since the Jews did not receive John Baptist (Matthew 11:14; 17:10-13). Elijah is undoubtedly one, of the two witnesses of Revelation 11. Who the second one may be is uncertain.

"In CHRIST" the Key to the Rapture

In Hebrews 12:14, we read: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Does this mean we would not see Him, should He come, unless we are growing more holy? Hebrews 9:28, note (10) at the bottom of the page, says: "Imperfectly sanctified believers, missing the sight of Him." Does this imply that humble Christians will be left behind?

- A Reader

Certainly the Scriptures teach that no Christian will be left behind. Every born-again person will be taken, since he is "in CHRIST." This is the key. "The dead in CHRIST" and the living "in CHRIST" will all go. See I Corinthians 15:22, 23, 51, 54; I Thessalonians 4:13-18. CHRIST Himself is our sanctification, our holiness (I Corinthians 1:30; 31).

Salvation During the Tribulation

Will people be saved during the Tribulation period?

- A Reader.

Yes, and great numbers of them. Read the seventh chapter of The Revelation, particularly the fourteenth verse.

"Unto the Ages of the Ages"

Please explain the meaning of "unto" in the expression, 'unto the ages of the ages.' Does it ever mean "until?"

- A Maine Reader.

I think not. The expression means unlimited duration.

The Seat of the Judging Church

Where, as you understand it, will the church be, or where is its place, as it "judges the world" in the Millennium? Here on the Earth, or "in the air?"

- A Connecticut Reader.

THE bride, the Lamb's wife, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from GOD situated over the Earth in the air, is evidently the church in her Millennial glory. But doubtless the saints

will have free access to both the Heavenly and Earthly cities, as well as to all the cities of Earth during that period.

The Origin of Postmillennialism

- 1. How could CHRIST reign from Jerusalem, without putting those living at a distance from there at a disadvantage?*
- 2. Is time-setting coupled with premillennialism?*
- 3. Is it true that premillennialism is a seed-plot for faddists?*
- 4. Does premillennialism cut the nerve of missionary and evangelistic effort?*
- 5. How old is postmillennialism, and who or what brought it about?*

- A Saskatchewan Reader.

CHRIST is omnipotent and omniscient. His ruling from Jerusalem would not be a disadvantage to anyone.

2. Time-setting is not a necessary part of premillennialism. "Timists" have done much to bring premillennialism into disrepute.
3. Satan has associated many fads with premillennialism, for that is a sure way to drive many timid souls from its study.
4. Premillennialism is a great incentive to missionary and evangelistic effort. The great majority of missionary letters and missionaries are premillennialists, as are practically all evangelists, including Moody, Torrey, and Chapman.
5. While Origen was the father of the school of allegorizing the Scriptures, it remained for Daniel Whitby, who lived in the seventeenth century, to put forth the definite doctrine of "postmillennialism," in what he called a new hypothesis. Up to Origen's time postmillennialism was unknown, and even after that and up to Whitby's time "postmillennialism" was by no means widespread in the church. The "premillennial" doctrine of the coming of CHRIST was almost universally accepted in the Christian church for sixteen centuries.

Four Questions

- 1. What is the interpretation of Revelation 3:9 in its possible application to Adventists and Mormons?*
- 2. Is there Biblical authority for expecting a great revival of spirituality just before the Rapture?*
- 3. Will the faithful of the Old Testament dispensation go to Heaven, or will they be reinstated in the Land?*
- 4. In the Tribulation period will men have to go back to the Mosaic institutions for their access to GOD or will some new plan be revealed that is not wholly clear to-day?*

- A Wisconsin Reader

ANSWERING question 1, Revelation 3:9 applies to any one who claims to be a Jew and is not.

2. I know of no authority for expecting such a revival.

3. Israel will inherit the Earth during the Kingdom age. I believe that the whole nation of Israel, including those who lived and died during the dispensations before "grace," and who believed, and were saved through that belief, will inherit the Earth for the millennial age. I am not able to

dogmatize about it, although I have no possible doubt in my own mind.

4. Salvation in the Tribulation period will come through believing the testimony of the Jewish Remnant as to the coming KING and Kingdom.

When "The Day of the LORD" Begins

Every book which I have read on premillennialism states that the church will be caught up into the air before the Tribulation. Revelation 3:10 is used as a proof-text of the fact that the church shall not be in the hour of trial or Tribulation. In II Thessalonians 2:1-12 Paul teaches that the Day of the LORD will not be except the falling away come first and the man of sin be revealed. When the LORD does come, it is to destroy the man of sin, or Antichrist. If the LORD is not going to come for the dead in CHRIST and the living in CHRIST until the man of sin is to be destroyed, it stands to reason that the Antichrist's history has been completed, or run its course. If the Tribulation is to be in the reign of Antichrist, then the church must be included in the Tribulation.

-A Long Island Reader

YOUR perplexity comes from confusing two things that differ: namely, *the coming of the LORD* for His church (which precedes the Tribulation) and "*the Day of the LORD*" (which follows the Tribulation). This latter expression, "the Day of the LORD," is frequently found in the Scripture, and it always speaks of the time of judgment beginning with the LORD's personal return to the Earth as Son of Man to take up His great power and reign. This doctrine is found in the Old Testament, as well as in the New. But the coming of the LORD for His people is a new doctrine in the New Testament, first revealed to Paul, and first made known by him in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and other Epistles to the Churches. This is the ever imminent event, and nothing is prophesied to occur before it comes to pass.

"Recognition" in Heaven and Hell

- 1. Please explain Matthew 27:52, 53. How could the corruptible bodies of the saints come up out of their graves and be seen of many?*
- 2. What is the incorruptible body?*
- 3. Does the sinner go directly to Hell when he dies?*
- 4. Do the saved in Heaven know anything about their parents and children in this world, or is that all forgotten?*
- 5. Do the saved know each other in Heaven?*
- 6. Do the lost know each other in Hell?*

- A Michigan Reader.

I CANNOT explain it, though, I thoroughly believe it. Doubtless the corruptible bodies were "changed" at their raising.

2. The incorruptible body is the transformed body of a saved person at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). It will be like CHRIST's resurrection body (Philippians 3:20, 21).

3. No. He goes to Hades,** awaiting the resurrection and judgment, after which he is cast into the Lake of Fire, which is Hell (Revelation 20:4-13).

4. I doubt not that the saved in Heaven know all that they knew here, and much more.
5. Yes.
6. Yes. (In connection with these questions, study carefully our LORD's teaching in Luke 16:19-31).

***Note: Hades is one of the NT Greek words that is translated as Hell, and is the temporary form of Hell - where the lost are kept until the Great White Throne Judgment. Then they will be thrown into the eternal form of Hell - the Lake of Fire (also referred to by the NT Greek word Gehenna).*

Premillennialism and the Kingdom

Is it true, as charged by a certain writer

- (1) that premillennialism teaches that the Kingdom of GOD is not yet here, and will not be until CHRIST comes;*
- (2) that premillennialism ignores CHRIST's command to preach the Gospel to the whole world;*
- (3) that premillennialism teaches that when CHRIST comes again the whole Mosaic system will be restored, including the offering of bloody sacrifices; or*
- (4) that the whole world is to go up every week to Jerusalem to attend the feast and offer sacrifices?*

- An Ohio Reader.

I CANNOT speak for all premillennialists, but I teach, and, so far as I am aware, premillennialists generally agree:

- (1) that while the Kingdom of GOD is already established wherever men or angels are subject to GOD's will, and that men who are born again are at once brought into that Kingdom, yet there is a literal Kingdom of Heaven to be set up one day upon the Earth, (centering in Jerusalem, with the Son of GOD occupying David's throne and ruling over the whole Earth);
- (2) that the blessed hope of CHRIST's coming is GOD's greatest incentive to missionary endeavor; most of the great missionary leaders have been and are premillennialists, including J. Hudson Taylor, Andrew Murray, D. L. Moody, J. Wilbur Chapman, C. I. Scofield, and many others
- (3) that Jerusalem will be the center of the world religiously as well as politically, and that the final chapters of Ezekiel pertain to that time when the Kingdom shall be here in manifestation; an
- (4) that all the families of the Earth shall go up yearly (not weekly) to worship the LORD and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles at Jerusalem, according to Zechariah 14:16-21.

Old Testament Saints and the Church

Why are not the Old Testament saints included in the church?

- A Missouri Reader.

THEY will be included in the Rapture, for they are among those who "sleep in JESUS." They were saved by His death, as truly as are we (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:15). And yet they are not in the church, which did not come into existence until the second chapter of Acts. Our LORD's only references to the church were to something then future. He did not say, "I have built," nor "I am building," but "**I will build my church.**"

Who Holds Palestine Now?

I am told that the Jews have already gone back to Jerusalem in large numbers, and are now recognized as a regularly constituted nation. Is this true?

- A Michigan Reader.

NO. THERE are many Jews in Jerusalem and throughout the Land, but the British are holding the reins of government, pending the action of the Allies as to the future of Palestine. (This book was written prior to May, 1948).

"As the Waters Cover the Sea"

Will the Millennial glory be confined to Palestine, or will it take in the whole Earth?

-A Georgia Reader.

IT will cover the whole Earth, as the waters cover the sea.

Will There Be Any Saints in the Tribulation?

Why do you teach that the saints will not be in the Great tribulation?

- A Texas Reader.

I DO not so teach. GOD will have saints in the Great Tribulation, but they will be those who have turned to the LORD after the church is caught away. What I am insisting upon is that the church will not go into the Tribulation. She is delivered from the coming wrath. Of course, by "the Church" I mean those born again during this age. No mere professors are included in that term as here used.

The Remnant and the "Whole House"

How may I distinguish between the Old Testament prophecies relating to Israel's restoration from the Babylonian captivity, and the final restoration?

- A New Mexico Reader.

IT IS quite simple, when you remember that the post-captivity restoration was that of a small remnant, while the final restoration is to be of the "**whole house of Israel.**" See, for example, Ezekiel 37.

GOD'S reckonings and Railway conductors

How can the church be at once CHRIST's body and His bride? I can see how my wife and I are "one flesh", but no railway conductor has ever considered us as one body.

-An Illinois Reader.

GOD's reckonings are often at variance with those of railway conductors. Genesis 2:21-24 and Ephesians 5:25-32 are conclusive. Notice, also, Genesis 5:1, 2 - "**GOD . . . called their name Adam.**" The man and the woman were included in that name. Neither was complete without the other.

Wherein Historicist Interpretations Fail

Wherein lies the fallacy of the historicist interpretations of the book of The Revelation?

- A Canadian Reader.

THE best that can be said for them is that they are often suggestive and interesting, but they do not fulfil the prophecies. Too much is left to imagination, which is never GOD's way. We may confidently expect His Word to be fulfilled to the last jot and tittle.

Children in the Rapture

Will the children of those who are Caught away in the Rapture be taken up also?

- A Reader.

IF YOU mean little children, too young to accept or reject CHRIST, I should say yes. Not only such little children as have believing parents, but all such little children. CHRIST died for the sins of the whole world, and little children are safe in Him during their infancy. When they die, their spirits (and their souls also) go to Him in Heaven; and while they live, they are under His care. Therefore, since the Rapture is to include all "**they that are CHRIST's at His coming,**" it will include all the little folks. There, will be no babies in Hell for they will all be in Heaven; which is another great reason for wanting to go to Heaven ourselves.

Only Their Bodies Are "Asleep."

*How can the dead in CHRIST, be now "**with their Lord**" as you say, when the Word says they are asleep?*

- A Virginia Reader.

THEIR bodies are asleep, awaiting the resurrection; their spirits and souls are "**absent from the body ... present with the LORD**" (II Corinthians 5:8).

When Jews will be Missionaries

1. Will the Jews be missionaries during the time between the taking away of the church and the visible coming of the LORD?
2. Will they preach the coming of CHRIST during the time of Tribulation?
3. Will the SPIRIT be taken away with the bride?

- A Colorado Reader.

YES. It is written, "**They shall declare my glory among the Gentiles**" (Isaiah 66:19).

2. They will preach "**the Gospel of the Kingdom,**" saying, "**Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand**" (Matthew 10:7). "**And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come**" (Matthew 24:14).
3. He will be "taken away" as the Restrainer of iniquity (II Thessalonians 2:7); but, since He is omnipresent, He will still be on Earth, as He was on Earth in Old Testament times.

The Number of Man

In commenting on Revelation 13:18, you say: "It is the number of man, or man's number. Man's number is six. The Beast King's number is a trinity of sixes - 666." What are your reasons for this conclusion? Is not the King an individual?

- A New Jersey Reader.

THE Beast King is undoubtedly an individual, but he is human, though energized by Satan; and his failure fully to do works like the works of GOD will demonstrate that, after all, he is only a man. Compare Ezekiel 28:9, where the Prince of Tyre doubtless prefigures the Beast King of the end time, as the King of Tyre (vs. 12-19) typifies Satan as "the power behind the throne." See also Psalms 9:20 and 10:18.

"Bride" and "Body"

Are the bride of CHRIST and the body of CHRIST constituted of the same persons?

- A New Jersey Reader.

YES; and those persons are the born-again ones of the present dispensation (I Corinthians 12:12, 13; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-32; compare Genesis 2:21-24).

A Bible "Tale of Two Cities"

1. Are the Jews to inherit Palestine and the Earthly Jerusalem, or the Heavenly Jerusalem?
2. Is the "**city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God**" the Heavenly or the Earthly Jerusalem?

- A Michigan Reader.

THE Jews are an Earthly people, with Earthly promises. Palestine and the Earthly Jerusalem are to be theirs for ever (Genesis 17:8; Amos 9:14, 15).

2. The "**city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God,**" is undoubtedly the Heavenly Jerusalem. Abraham "looked for" it (Hebrews 11:10), and doubtless will have an interest in it, for he is the father of all believers, whether of the circumcision or of the uncircumcision (Romans 4:11, 12).

Who is the Woman?

Of whom is the woman referred to in Isaiah 66:7 and Revelation 12:1 a type?

-A Minnesota Reader.

BOTH point to Israel, "**of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came**" (Romans 9:5).

When the Gentile Age Began

When did the Gentile age begin?

- An Ohio Reader.

"**THE Times of the Gentiles**", began with Nebuchadnezzar's rule in Jerusalem, 606 B. C. In the year after the battle of Carchemish, the vassalage of Judah was transferred to Babylon, and Jerusalem has been "**trodden down of the Gentiles**" ever since. This is to continue, according to our LORD's testimony in Luke 21:24, "**until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**"

Those Invited Guests

Who are those (Revelation 19:9) who are called to the marriage supper of the LAMB, if the church is the bride?

- New York Reader.

THEY may include all the saved of past ages. The church consists only of those saved during the present dispensation. Compare Psalm 45:9-15.

Can a Christian be Lost

1. *Kindly explain Revelation 3:4, "**Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.**"*

2. *Would it be possible for a Christian to be rejected at last?*

- A Canadian Reader.

THOSE referred to in Revelation 3:4 are Christians who have walked with GOD in separation. For this there is reward (see I Corinthians 3:11-15.)

2. A Christian may be rejected in the sense of being disapproved (*adokimos* ~ I Corinthians

9:27). No child of GOD will be lost (John 10:27-30).

Is Prophecy always Literally Fulfilled

Has all prophecy been fulfilled with absolute literalness? Explain Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 34:23; Hosea 3:5.

- A South Carolina Reader.

MUCH prophecy remains to be fulfilled; but all, *fulfilled* prophecy has been fulfilled literally. The passages you cite belong in the realm of unfulfilled prophecy, all of which will be fulfilled, and literally fulfilled, in due time. "**GOD is not a man, that He should lie**" (Numbers 23:19).

The Mosque at Omar and the Next Temple

- 1. Will the mosque of Omar be removed (under protection of some strong political powers) before the erection of the Tribulation temple?*
- 2. Will the temple be built before the reign of Antichrist begins?*
- 3. Does anyone know where, the ark of the covenant is?*

- A California Reader.

THE Mosque of Omar, now occupying the temple site in Jerusalem, may be converted into a temple for Jewish worship. This need not consume a long period of time.

2. It is not necessary that there should be a Jewish temple in existence when the Beast begins to reign, but there must be one in Jerusalem at the breaking of the covenant "in the midst of Daniel's seventieth week of years" (Daniel 9:27).

3. John saw the ark of the covenant in Heaven, (Revelation 11:19) - Another ark may be provided for the Tribulation temple.

The Duration of the First Resurrection

Is not the First Resurrection a somewhat prolonged affair, so as to include the taking up of those who had not worshipped the Beast, spoken of in Revelation 20:4?

- A Florida Reader.

YES; the First Resurrection includes those who are CHRIST's at the time of the Rapture, as well as the Tribulation saints who are killed for their testimony under the Beast's reign (1 Corinthians 15:22, 23, 51-54; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:4-6).

Tribulation and Trumpets

- 1. Will the church be kept from the hour of Tribulation (Revelation 3:10), or suffer part of it, being saved out of it as some believe?*
- 2. Will not the Rapture take place before the middle of the Tribulation?*
- 3. Is the seventh trumpet of The Revelation identical with "the last trump," at which the dead in*

CHRIST shall rise?

- An Iowa Reader.

THE whole Church (that is, all born-again ones) will be caught up before the Great Tribulation begins.

2. The Rapture of the church is the next thing in the revealed program. It may occur at any moment.
3. No; the last trump of I Corinthians is not a trumpet of angels at all; it is "**the trump of GOD**" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Why Wish to Escape the Tribulation?

1. *I have been wondering just what necessity, apart from the needs of a certain theory, there is for handing a large part of the Olivet Discourse over to the Jewish remnant of the Tribulation period.*
2. *If it is true that there are to be many conversions during the Tribulation period; and many more during the Millennium, how are we to preach the coming so that it may be a warning to the unsaved now? How can CHRIST's coming be a terror to the unprepared, if men are still to be converted in great numbers afterward?*

- An Iowa Reader.

IT IS not at all a question of "the needs of a certain theory;" for the writer of these notes has no zeal for theories, except as they conform to the teaching of the Word of GOD; but to this writer it grows more and more certain that Matthew is a Jewish book throughout, and distinctly the Gospel of the Kingdom.

2. It is perfectly plain that there are to be conversions during the Great Tribulation; but to escape the awful horrors of the Tribulation is surely an incentive to move men to action now.

Four Questions about the End Time

1. *Is the church, the bride of CHRIST, complete at the time of the Rapture, or do the Tribulation saints constitute a part of it?*
2. *Does the company spoken of in Revelation 7:9 include Jewish martyrs, as well as Gentiles?*
3. *Does the company mentioned in Revelation 20:4 reign with the church? If not, what is their relation to it, and where do they reign?*
4. *Are the companies mentioned in Revelation 6:9, 10; 7:9; and 20:4 the same?*

- A Michigan Reader.

THE church will be complete before it is caught up.

1. The Tribulation saints are not included in the church.
2. No; the preceding verses in the chapter refer to Jews.
3. The statement is that they reign "**with Christ**." Their relation to the Church is not shown.
4. Yes; except that in Revelation 6:9 the company is not complete.

Who are the Four-and-Twenty Elders?

1. Will the "sheep" and "brethren" of Matthew 25, after passing through the Millennium, have their bodies changed before passing into the eternal state?
2. Whom do the four-and-twenty elders represent (Revelation 4:10)?
3. If Revelation 7:14 alludes to the believers who died for the testimony of JESUS, the first resurrection having previously occurred, when will their bodies be raised?
4. What are represented by the woman, the child, and the flood, in Revelation 12?
5. If Jerusalem be suspended in the air over the Earth in the eternal age, how can the nations bring their glory and honor into it, if they are on the Earth, and walk in its light? (Revelation 21:26)
6. What is your idea of the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations? (Revelation 22:2)

THE Scriptures do not yield an answer to this question.

2. The enthroned church. Twenty-four is the number of priesthood, (I Chronicles 24:4) and the thrones (not "seats")** on which the elders sit suggest royalty. The Church is a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).
3. At the close of the Great Tribulation. In Revelation 20:4 the word "lived" means "revived" or "lived again."
4. The woman represents Israel; the child is CHRIST, but here He is seen as including the church which is His body; caught up as soon as fully born; the flood is Satan's persecution of Israel during the Great Tribulation.
5. It is not revealed how this is to be done, but only that it will be done.
6. It is GOD's provision for the Millennium, during which there will still be need of healing for the nations. It will not be so in the eternal state. Contrast Genesis 3:6, 7, and compare Ezekiel 47:12.

**KJV has "seats".

The "Out-Resurrection from Among the Dead"

In referring to the "out-resurrection, from among the dead ones," might not Paul have in mind the fact that those who are resurrected "out from among the dead" are those who have part in the first resurrection, with all its peculiar blessings or rewards - including an active part in reigning with CHRIST upon Earth during the thousand years?

- An Iowa Reader.

SURELY; for that is what awaits those who have part in the first resurrection.

Will You be a Governor or Mayor?

Is it not consistent with Scripture to believe that the "ruling saints," Kings and Priests of GOD, Will be allotted certain Earthly territory over which to rule in the wisdom supplied by CHRIST Himself, and which, wisdom, will be unerring, enabling them to judge justly, meting out

inflexible justice?

- An Iowa Reader.

YES. "**Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?**" (I Corinthians 6:2; Luke 19:17-19)

An Unwarranted Translation

1. A writer on the Sunday-school lesson on "the LORD's Supper" makes this statement: "He [JESUS] takes the bread and a memorial is instituted that is to be kept till time shall be no more." Is that a proper equivalent of the expression in I Corinthians 11:26: "**Ye do shew the Lord's death till He come?**"

2. What is the meaning of the word "end" in Matthew 24:3, 6, 14 - "**The end of the world,**" "**The end is not yet,**" "**Then shall the end come?**"

3. How do you reconcile the sixth verse with the thirty-sixth: "**The end is not yet,**" "**But of that day and hour, knoweth no man,**" etc.?

4. How can we say CHRIST may come at any moment when certain events must precede His coming?

- A Pennsylvania Reader

NO. SUCH a translation is unwarranted. "**Till He come**" is correct.

2. "The end," all through the Olivet Discourse refers to the end of the Jewish age, which synchronizes with the end of the Great Tribulation.

3. There is no need of reconciling them, for there is no discord between them. "That day and hour" are concealed from man, but those who shall be living in Judea at that time (v. 16) are given instruction in this Discourse, to guide them when the time comes.

4. No events are predicted to precede His coming for His people; though there are many events predicted to occur before His coming with them at the close of the Tribulation period.

He is Still Loose!

Was Satan chained on the day of Pentecost? Give Scripture proof, if so.

- A Pennsylvania Reader.

NO HE was not. He still **as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour**" (I Peter 5:8).

He will Beckon the Babies Up

1. *Will young children be in the Rapture?*

2. *What is the difference between "the body of CHRIST" and "the Kingdom of CHRIST?"*

- A California Reader.

1. YES; all children below the age of accountability will be included, since they are among those who are CHRIST's. He died for the whole world, including the children; and, since they have not rejected the knowledge of GOD, they are safe.
2. The body of CHRIST is the New Testament church; the Kingdom of CHRIST includes all, of every age, who acknowledge His rule.

Identifying the "virgins"

1. *Who do you think the foolish virgins were?*
2. *Do you think the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14 the same? One calls them servants, and the other virgins.*

- A California Reader.

THEY are false Jewish professors of the end time after the church is caught away. The wise virgins are true Jewish believers of the same time.

2. Yes; they are the Jewish remnant of the end time.

The Biggest Census

Will the blessings of CHRIST's Millennial reign be confined to those comparatively few people who happen to be living on Earth at that time?

- An Illinois Reader.

THEY will not be "comparatively few." Under CHRIST's beneficent sway the earth will doubtless be peopled as it has never been before.

When Does the Millennium Begin?

1. *You quote Revelation 20:4 as referring to "the first resurrection," which I do not question; but is not the worship of the Beast to come after the first resurrection? The passage quoted implies that the Millennium does not begin until seven years after the Rapture of the saints, but do people generally not reckon the Millennium as beginning when the dead are raised?*
2. *Who is the author of the beautiful verses at the close of your articles on "The Rapture and the First Resurrection?"*
3. *See I Thessalonians 4:16, 17. How can we avoid the conclusion that all persons then living on the Earth will hear the voice of the archangel and the trump of GOD?*

- A Colorado Reader.

1. SO FAR as we know, Bible students agree that the Millennium will not begin until the end of Daniel's Seventieth Seven. There will be a resurrection of Tribulation saints, at the end of that period, but the Rapture of the Church will be at its beginning.

2. The author is unknown to this writer. The hymn is included in Dr. A. J. Gordon's "Coronation Hymnal," and is signed "*Times of Refreshing, 1870.*"

3. The conclusion is avoided by many enlightened students but there is room for difference of

opinion.

Preaching and Trading in the Millennium

- 1. Will evangelism continue during the Tribulation and throughout the Millennium?*
- 2. Will either the saints or the wicked multiply during the Millennium?*
- 3. How and to what extent shall righteousness rule, and how and by whom administered?*
- 4. Will commerce and manufacturing continue during the Millennium?*
- 5. Did the Apostles expect the LORD to return during their lifetime? They speak of the subject in the present tense.*

- An Ohio Reader.

1. YES. During the Tribulation, the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world (Matthew 24:14). And, since multitudes will be born during the Millennium, the Gospel must be preached to them also.
2. Yes, both will multiply, though evil will be restrained until the end of the Millennium and then sifted out, as shown by Revelation 20:7-9.
3. Righteousness will rule absolutely, being administered by the LORD JESUS and His bride, which is the church. See Isaiah 11; Revelation 1:5, 6; 5:9, 10.
4. This must be inferred, though the Scriptures do not explicitly declare it.
5. They believed and taught that He might come during their lifetime, and this is the normal position for believers throughout the age.

The League of Nations and Daniel

If the Bible teaches, as I believe, that the Jews are to be restored to Palestine in unbelief, before the Second Coming of CHRIST, do you feel that the terms of the Peace Treaty are sufficient to be considered as a fulfillment of these prophecies? If not, just what is lacking? Do you consider that the political realignment of Europe and the League of Nations could be considered a fulfillment of the prophecies of Daniel in reference to the form of the old Roman Empire at the time of CHRIST's Second Coming, the League of Nations being the ten-nation confederacy there foretold?

- A Virginia Reader.

NO ONE yet knows precisely what the realignment of Europe will be, and therefore it is too early to arrive at conclusions along this line; but students of the Word of GOD cannot fail to be keenly interested in present developments.

Will CHRIST Come at the Feast of Trumpets?

I should like to ask you if you think, as some do, that the time of CHRIST's coming in the air for His saints will occur at the Feast of Trumpets or the Jewish New Year?

- A South Dakota Reader.

NO. CHRIST'S coming for His saints is to be looked for every day (I Thessalonians 1:9, 10). Any theory that would defer it until some certain season of the year is mischievous.

If you are "Caught Up" While Sinning - What?

Will believers who have died with sins unconfused be brought to confession at the Judgment Seat of CHRIST, and will wrongs committed against others come into judgment there? Will there be a chance then for such adjustments, and will believers not at peace with each other and who died in that condition, be reconciled?

- A Pennsylvania Reader.

THE only possible answer to your question is that under the discerning eye of the JUDGE of all the earth, everything will be made right, and every one concerned will be satisfied and happy. See I Corinthians 4:5.

Will Babylon be Rebuilt?

Will Babylon be built again and become a great wicked, rich city - a seething pot of the vilest sins - and then will GOD visit her with the awful judgments and punishments as described in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth chapters of Revelation?

- A South Dakota Reader.

TEACHERS differ about it. My own view is that the two Babylons of the Revelation are symbolical, one being political, and the other religious. Political Babylon is the revived Roman Empire, and ecclesiastical Babylon is apostate Christendom in its last and vilest form, with the true church of GOD absent.

~ end of book ~