

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb." Revelation 15:2,3.

21. The Return of Jesus

The "Blessed Hope"

1. FOR what purpose did Jesus come to dwell among men?

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

2. As He hung on the cross, what triumphant claim was He able to make concerning His earthly mission?

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:30.

3. Since His return to heaven, what further phase of His work has occupied Jesus?

"We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens." Hebrews 8:1. "He ever lives to make intercession." Hebrews 7:25.

4. By what act will the great plan of salvation be consummated?

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Hebrews 9:28.

"The whole of history before Christ gravitates toward His appearance in time. That is the watershed of world history. Since the life of Christ on earth, the world moves on to its climax in the second coming of Christ, when He will exercise judgment and wind history up. From zero to the appearance of Christ in Judea; from the appearance of Christ as a man in Judea to His reappearance at the consummation of history as Lord and judge of all mankind-that is the real clue to world development." D. R. Davies in "On to Orthodoxy."

5. What solemn promise to this effect did Jesus give His disciples before He left them?

"I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14: 3.

6. How long has the hope of the Lord's coming in triumph been cherished by His people?

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all." Jude 1:14,15. Actually the hope may be traced back to Eden, for the promise in Genesis 3:15 is of the triumph of Christ.

7. Of what was Job confident?

"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job 19: 26. (See also Job 14:14, 15.)

8. For what did the psalmist look?

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people." Psalm 50:3, 4.

9. What hope did the followers of Jesus entertain while He was yet with them?

"When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, will Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6.

10. What assurance were the disappointed disciples given immediately after the ascension?

"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11.

11. What became the keynote of their evangelist?

"For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Hebrews 10: 37.

12. What has the second advent thus been to the church through the ages?

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." Titus 2: 13.

"Ah, loving God, defer not Thy coming. The Lord be praised, who taught us to sigh and yearn after that day. I hope that day is not far off." - Martin Luther.

"Has not the Lord Jesus, in despite of Satan's malice, carried up our flesh into heaven? And shall

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

He not return? We know that He shall return, and that with expedition.” - John Knox.

“You have the same authority for the second coming of Christ that we have for His birth, His death, and resurrection.” - D. L. Moody.

“The day of our Lord’s appearing is the day around which our chief hopes must center.” - C. H. Spurgeon.

“Somewhat deliberately I confessed my expectation (not hastily formed) that ere very long the return, in manifested majesty, of the risen and ascended Christ, the one true King of men, will rise on the human scene. No symbolical mystery, but a supreme event.” - Dr. Handley Moule, Bishop of Durham, in “A Challenge to the Bishops!”

“The coming of Christ is a great reality in the New Testament. It is the goal of all things individual and corporate. The Christian man and the Christian church are depicted as ‘looking for that blessed hope.’” - Dr. W. H. Griffith Thomas.

13. Into what experience should a realization of the imminent advent of Christ lead us?

“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:12, 13.

Will Christ Really Come?

1. WHAT solemn promise did Jesus give His disciples?

“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:2, 3.

2. What assurance was given at the ascension that Jesus intended personally to return?

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:10, 11.

3. What terms are applied to Christ’s return which clearly indicate that it is an actual moment in history?

a. The last day. “And this is the Father’s will which has sent Me, that of all which He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.” John 6:39.

b. The day of the Lord. “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.” 1 Thessalonians 5:2.

4. How real will Christ’s coming be?

a. He will “appear.” “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be. But we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3: 2.

This word means literally, a “shining upon.” All the spotlights of heaven will indeed be focussed upon Jesus in that day. There will be no mistaking the chief Figure in that last great pageant of time.

b. He will be “revealed.” “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:13.

This is the word used in the title of the last book of the Bible and may literally be rendered “unveiling.” When our Lord came to earth at His first advent, His glory was veiled in human flesh. When He comes again there will be nothing between. He will stand unveiled in all the majesty of His heavenly glory.

c. His “presence” will be manifest. “To the end He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming [presence] of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.” 1 Thessalonians 3: 13.

“The remaining expression used of the return of Jesus is generally translated by the word “coming.” The original word here is “parousia,” or “presence.”

First-century papyrus documents use this word to indicate the personal visit of a king or other personage. Among other uses of the term we find in one papyrus, “The repair of what has been swept away by the river requires my parousia.” “We await your parousia,” writes a man to his brothers. A legal document makes reference to an individual swearing in the parousia of the bishops. The historian Polybius speaks of the “parousia of Hannibal.” The word always has reference to an appearance in person (See also

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Diessmarm's "Light from the Ancient East.")

5. Against what false advent teachings did Jesus warn His disciples?

"Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Matthew 24: 26.

From time to time suggestions have been made that Jesus will appear in this or that remote place, and temples have been built for His reception. All such hopes are vain. The reference to the "secret chamber" undoubtedly has reference to the secrecy of the spiritualist seance. But Satan, not Christ, will be found there.

6. Where will He appear?

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

7. By how many will He be seen?

"Behold, He comes with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kingdoms of the earth shall wail because of Him." Revelation 1:7.

8. How spectacular will His coming be?

a. With fire. "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thessalonians 1:8.

From east to west Christ's glorious return will be visible, like the lightning's blinding flash.

b. Like lightning. "For as the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:27.

c. In power and glory. "They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24: 30.

9. On what occasion were the disciples given a miniature picture of the second advent?

"And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, He took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as He prayed, the fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistening." Luke 9:28, 29.

10. How did Peter later recall this preview of the advent?

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty." 2 Peter 1:16.

11. By what glorious retinue will He be accompanied on His return?

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory." Matthew 25:31.

12. Beside being seen by all, what audible accompaniment will herald His approach?

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God." 1 Thessalonians 4: 16.

13. What will be brought to a sudden end by the appearance of Christ?

This present world order. "And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world [age]?" Matthew 24:3. "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this Present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." Galatians 1: 4.

Our minds may find it difficult to conceive the "beginning" of the world, but we know that there must have been a "first day." So likewise, though it is outside the range of our personal experience, we know that there will be a last day" as real as the first, when this world order will come to an end and a new world order will be inaugurated.

14. What will at that time be ushered in?

"And tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come." Hebrews 6:5, RV.

15. How unexpected will the coming of Christ be to the wicked?

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." 1 Thessalonians 5: 2.

16. Who will not be taken unawares by the Lord's return, and why?

"But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober." 1 Thessalonians 5: 4-6.

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Is the End Near?

1. As Jesus approached Jerusalem from the mount of Olives on the occasion of His triumphal entry, to what sorrowful thoughts did He give expression?

“And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou had known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from your eyes.” Luke 19: 41, 42.

2. What fate did He pronounce upon it?

“For the days shall come upon thee, that your enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee. And they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knew not the time of thy visitation.” Luke 19:43, 44.

3. With what did the disciples associate the predicted fall of Jerusalem?

“And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Matthew 24: 3.

4. How did Jesus correct this wrong impression and dissociate the two events?

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” “All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:4-6, 8.

5. What vicissitudes would the church have to face and endure?

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for My name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matthew 24:9-12.

See study, “Through Tribulation to Triumph.”

6. What reward would endurance bring?

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Matthew 24:13.

7. Returning to their first question, how did Jesus forewarn the disciples of the destruction of Jerusalem?

“And when you shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.” Luke 21: 20.

8. To what prophecy was He here drawing attention?

“When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (who so reads, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.” Matthew 24: 15, 16.

9. Taking the fall of Jerusalem as the starting-point again, what further details did He supply of the interim period between this catastrophe and the end of the world?

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24: 21. (Compare verses 9-12.)

10. How perilously near to extinction would the church come?

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.” Matthew 24: 22.

11. Upon what internal perils of the church through the ages, did Jesus next enlarge?

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.” Matthew 24:23-25.

12. With the close of the persecution, what period in earth’s history would be reached?

“And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the little of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.” Daniel 11:35.

13. What spectacular signs in the natural world would be associated with this momentous period?

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” Matthew 24:29. See study, “Dissolving Empires.”

14. What signs in the earth would further proclaim the imminence of the advent?

a. International upheavals. “Amid upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

roaring.” Luke 21:25.

b. Universal fear. “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Luke 21:26.

c. Widespread moral depravity. “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the Flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:37-39.

d. World-wide evangelism. “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.

See study, “What Do These Things Mean?”

15. By what event will the end be ushered in?

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30.

16. Why did Jesus give His disciples this outline of history?

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh: so likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:32, 33.

17. Is the precise time of Christ’s return revealed?

“But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Matthew 24:36.

18. In what state of preparedness, therefore, must the church of the last days be?

“Therefore be you also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes.” Matthew 24: 44.

19. What feelings will possess the believers as they see, by the fulfillment of prophecy, the advent drawing near?

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh.” Luke 21:28.

20. On the other hand, what tragic fate will befall those who have failed to prepare to meet God?

“But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayed his coming; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looked not for him, and appoint him his Portion with the hypocrites.” Matthew 24: 48-51.

21. How assured may we be of the certainty of the prophetic word?

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not Pass away.” Matthew 24:35.

What Do These Things Mean?

1. Has God revealed the exact time when Christ will return in triumph?

“But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Matthew 24:36.

2. Though God has not stated precisely the time of His Son’s return, what guidance has He given us whereby we may know that His coming is near?

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh: so likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:32, 33.

While He has specified neither “the day nor the hour” of Christ’s return, He has provided certain prophetic landmarks along the highway of history, whereby succeeding generations might recognize God’s overruling hand in the kingdoms of men and see the day of the Lord draw on.

3. What remarkable progress in culture and civilization did Daniel declare would characterize the latter days of earth’s history?

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4.

In an article entitled, “Contrasts,” in a recent year book, Lord Askwith with delineates some of the remarkable changes which have come over the world during the past century. “If one might select two as most important,” he says, “I would suggest restlessness and a wider knowledge. Restlessness is obvious to

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

any observer. Men travel to the North and South Poles, across Australia, and link the world together by rapid transit over sea and land. Wider knowledge and interest in the world, to which restlessness and movement contribute largely, are perhaps still more striking features of the present day as compared with the Victorian age." Lord Askwith's words were written without any thought of Bible prophecy. Yet unconsciously he chooses the very words of Daniel to describe the outstanding features of our time.

4. While the last days would see a phenomenal advance in civilization, what tragic deterioration of international relations would also take place?

"And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." Matthew 24: 6, 7.

5. In what desperate situation would the anarchy of nations culminate in the last days?

a. Universal strife. "Proclaim you this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plough shares into swords, and your Pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong." Joel 3:9, 10.

"Henceforth whole populations will take part in war. Mankind has never been in this position before." - Winston Churchill in "Aftermath," page 483.

"More people have been killed and there have been more wars in the present age of scientific civilization than at any previous period."-Fr. Vincent McNabb in the Universe.

b. Universal distress and fear. "And there shall be upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:25, 26.

"In the present condition of this disordered world we are beholding a judgment day. Hear the words in which the greatest of the prophets-our Lord Himself-described the signs. 'Upon the earth distress of nations, . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.' Is not this a picture of what men are seeing and feeling now?" - Dr. Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury.

"Anyone who thinks about the future must live in fear and terror." - Professor Einstein.

"We go about with fear in our hearts. We fear war with its train of sorrow and pain and death. But even more than war itself, we fear what may come after." - Canon J. O. Hannay in "The Potter's Wheel."

"It is no overstatement to say that the world is filled with fear and is void of hope today. There is some reason for trembling. Wherever we look we discover the helplessness of the world to solve its problems."-Dr. A. Keller in "Five Minutes to Twelve."

6. What does Paul declare men would seek in vain?

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:3. "Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly." Isaiah 33:7.

The latest report of the work of the League of Nations reveals that between May 19, 1920, and May 19, 1939, no fewer than 4,568 "treaties and international agreements" were registered in Geneva. But they did not prevent the outbreak of the second World War.

"I shall do whatever lies within my power," declared President Roosevelt, one of the world's greatest peacemakers, "to hasten the day foretold by Isaiah, when men shall beat their swords into plough shares, nation shall not lift up the sword against nation, and neither shall they learn war any more."

7. In what conflict will all the nations finally be involved?

"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Revelation 16:14, 16.

8. What unparalleled developments would occur in the economic life of the nations in the last days?

Prodigious increase of wealth and its concentration in the hands of a few. "Go to now, you rich men, you have heaped treasure together for the last days." James 5:1-3.

It has been estimated that ninety per cent of the wealth of Britain is in the hands of ten per cent of the population, and in America the same proportion of wealth is in the hands of two per cent of the people. One-eighth of the annual income of Great Britain is received by less than one-fifth of one per cent of the population.

9. By what unjust means have many of these fortunes been accumulated?

Exploitation of the workers. "Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields,

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

which is of you kept back by fraud, cries: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.” James 5: 4.

10. Before the end, however, what reversal in the fortunes of the rich would develop?

“Go to now, you rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire.” James 5: 1-3.

Not only have the rich today to contend with those whom they formerly exploited, but they are facing the dissolution of the economic system which has given them their wealth. “It is my business to know how the great world machine of finance is working,” said the noted economist, Sir George Paish, shortly before the war. “It is in danger of complete collapse.”

11. With what terrible period of history does Jesus compare the social conditions of the last days?

“But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24: 37.

12. By what were the days before the Flood particularly marked?

a. Riotous pleasure-seeking. “For as in the days that were before the Flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark.” Matthew 24: 38.

Since the days of Noah there has never been an age in which thrill, excitement, and riotous pleasure have been so sought after as the supreme good. One of the most stupendous machines which this machine age has brought into existence is the “machinery of amusement.” Millions of the world’s workers are ceaselessly providing pleasures for their fellow creatures who, in their turn, are paying billions of the world’s wealth for them.

According to the Inquirer, “estimates of the turnover on the principal popular gambling practices in Great Britain” just before the war ranged from “£350,000,000 to £500,000,000 made up as follows: Horse-racing, £250,000,000 to £350,000,000; greyhound racing, £50,000,000 to £70,000,000; football pools, £40,000,000 to £60,000,000; gaming machines, £10,000,000 to £20,000,000.”

The United States spends £1,200,000,000 a year on amusements, or 110 for every man, woman, and child. This represents about twelve per cent of the national income.

b. Iniquity. “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The earth also was corrupt before God.” Genesis 6:5-11. (See also verse 12.)

“A lowering of human values and a debasing of moral standards are taking place across the world on a vast scale and with increasing momentum.” - The Very Reverend Professor Daniel Lamont, DD.

c. Violence. “And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.” Genesis 6:13.

“Except in a few dark, barbarous periods many years ago, I do not think Europe has ever suffered more from merciless pride, cruelty, and barbarism now ravaging peaceful countries.” - Dr. Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury.

“Never in our memory has brute force held such wide sway.” - Sir Samuel Hoare.

“The condition of the world is a bitter reflection on our boasted civilization. The pillars have been thrown down. Liberty, truth, and compassion have been ruthlessly destroyed. Europe resembles a garden which has been trampled down by furious beasts.” - Dr. Richard Pyke, president of the Methodist Church.

13. What answer do these indisputable evidences give to the question “How long?”

“So likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it [the return of Jesus] is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:33.

“It is five minutes to twelve! The world cannot wait very much longer.”-Dr. A. Keller in “Five Minutes to Twelve.”

Will the World Be Converted?

1. DID Jesus expect that the people of the last days would be eagerly awaiting His return?

“Nevertheless when the Son of man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?” Luke 18: 8.

2. On the contrary, what would be the spiritual condition of the world in the last days?

“For men shall be ... lovers of Pleasures -more than lovers of God.” 2 Timothy 3: 2, 4.

“If Victorians of the seventies were to come back again they would be struck with the restlessness of the times, the disappearance of family worship, the lessened attendance at places of worship, the neglect of the Bible, the waning influence of the church on the community, the lowering of the sanctity of

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

marriage, and the lowering of the standard of morals.” - Doctor Charles Brown (Baptist).

So divided as the world by hate and racial animosities that any sizable gathering of nations is hailed as a noteworthy achievement.

“Organized religion, as practiced and expressed through churches of whatever denomination, is fast coming to an end. People in all classes of society are simply not coming to church. We are a dwindling body of churchgoers, and soon we shall not even be able to afford the luxury of maintaining the ministry.” - T. N. Veitch (Congregationalist).

“The brutal fact is that in this Christian country not one person in a hundred has the faintest notion what the church teaches about God or man or society or the person of Jesus Christ.” - Miss Dorothy Sayers (Church of England).

3. What fatal apathy, even among professed Christians, did the Apostle Paul predict?

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” 2 Timothy 3:5.

“The arch-heresy today in the Christian church is non-redemptive Christianity, though you cannot call it Christianity in these circumstances-Christianity from which the redemptive truths have dropped out.” - The Bishop of Chelmsford in the Church Times.

4. How will the last-day church be subverted from its primitive faith?

a. Scorn of divine revelation. “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.” 2 Peter 3: 3.

According to the dictionary definition, the term “scoffer” combines a “sense of superiority, resentment, and aversion,” which manifests itself in “contemptuous ridicule.” It is usually directed against “something deserving reverence or consideration,” and commonly arises “in connection with an ungrounded arrogant sense of self-esteem.”

Certainly no word could have been selected more perfectly to describe the modernist school of thought, whose most constantly reiterated boast is that it has on its side all the intellectual and thinking people, while those who disagree have “manifestly ignorant, prejudiced, and superstitious minds.”

b. Acceptance of man-made fables. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” 2 Timothy 4:3,4.

Most prominent among the “fables” which have been offered to our generation in place of the “truths” of God’s Word are the doctrines of evolution, illimitable and endless progress, humanism or the sufficiency of man, salvation by education, social reform, and the like.

The doctrine of evolution from one original form of life Wassman calls “a delightful dream without any scientific support,” while T. Burroughs’ asserts that Darwin has been “shorn of his selection theories as completely as Samson was shorn of his locks.”

Referring, among other things, to the doctrine of endless progress, Dr. W. R. Inge says: “To those who have been brought up in the unquestioning worship of nineteenth century fetishes it must be a shock to see those venerable idols shaking on their pedestals or lying prostrate at the foot of them.” The Fall of the Idols,” page 17.

5. By what other impostors will many be led astray?

“For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets.” Matthew 24:24. (See also verses 4, 5, 11)

“We are cursed today by too many bogus Messiahs, who maintain that their creed is the divine revelation.” - Lord Tweedsmuir at Edinburgh University.

6. From where will these evil influences emanate?

“Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

7. What effect will these false teachings have upon the life of the church?

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matthew 24: 12.

“This is an age of great spiritual crisis. All around can be seen the marks of great anxiety, with, in some countries, great apostasy. We see the beginnings and in some countries the full realization of great tribulation, and many people feel that this is now the time foreshadowed in the New Testament.” - Lord Hugh Cecil.

8. Does the prophetic word hold out any possibility of a universal change of heart before the end?

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” 2 Timothy 3: 13. “As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.” Luke 17:26. (See also verses 27-30.)

9. In this time of terrible apostasy, what final opportunity will be given to the world?

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations;

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24: 14. (See also Revelation 14: 6,7.)

This age, which has seen the greatest apostasy in all time, has also seen the gospel going as never before to the uttermost ends of the earth. The modern art of printing has enabled the Bible to be multiplied more rapidly than ever before. Modern means of communication have made it possible for the ambassadors of Jesus to speed to earth’s remotest bounds. And the Spirit of God has raised up men with hearts aflame for God to buy up the opportunities of our time and preach the gospel to every creature under heaven.

“The Christian missionary movement is the greatest expansion since the first generation of the church.” - Dr. Matthews, Dean of St. Paul’s, in the British Weekly.

10. Viewing these further spiritual signs, to what conclusion must we come?

“When you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” Matthew 24:33.

11. What should a realization of the imminence of the end arouse in us?

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God.” 2 Peter 3:11,12.

12. What preparation should we be diligently seeking?

“And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure.” 1 John 3:3. “It is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.” Hosea 10:12.

God’s Strange Act

1. WHEN Jesus came the first time, what reception had He at the hands of a wicked world?

“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.” John 1:11. “And they cried out all at once, saying Away with this man.” Luke 23:18.

2. What solemn warning did He utter as He was led to Calvary?

“But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?” Luke 23:28-31.

3. What will produce this terrible fear in the hearts of the wicked?

“And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake terribly the earth.” Isaiah 2:19. (See also Revelation 6:14-17.)

4. How are their feelings in the presence of the Lord elsewhere described?

a. Mourn. “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24: 30.

b. Weep bitterly. “The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hastens greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty men shall cry there bitterly.” Zephaniah 1:14.

c. Hearts will melt. “Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man’s heart shall melt: and they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travailed: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.” Isaiah 13:7, 8.

5. By what inexorable judgment will they be overtaken?

“When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 1: 7, 8.

6. What will the day of Christ’s return thus be to the wicked?

“That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasting and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.” Zephaniah 1:15. “Howl you; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.” Isaiah 13: 6.

7. How incongruous to God is this work of judgment?

“For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.” Isaiah 28:21.

8. By what expression is the strangeness of God’s judgment on the wicked further emphasized?

“And said to the mountains and rocks. Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

stand?” Revelation 6:16, 17.

9. With what work has the Lamb of God” hitherto been associated?

“The next day John sees Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.” John 1: 29.

10. Will He tolerate forever the spurning of His offer of mercy?

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us ward not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.” 2 Peter 3: 9, 10.

11. In what will God’s wrath be filled up?

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.” Revelation 15:1.

12. The judgment ended, in what company is the Lamb once more seen?

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps.” Revelation 14:1, 2. (See also Revelation 15:2, 3.)

13. What appeal does a contemplation of mercy and judgment evoke from the Apostle Paul?

“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in His goodness: otherwise thou also shall be cut off.” Romans 11:22.

“Enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” Matthew 25: 21, 23.

The Saints’ Reward

1. WITH what anticipation do the righteous look forward to the day of Christ’s return?

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2: 13.

2. How will they feel when they behold their Lord?

“And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.” 1 John 2:28. “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment.” 1 John 4:17.

3. What will He bring to them?

a. Rewards. “And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22: 12.

b. Praise, honor, and glory. “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perished, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1: 7.

4. What will be restored to the righteous dead when Christ returns?

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

5. What wonderful change will the living righteous likewise undergo?

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52.

6. What swift command will Jesus issue to His angel retinue?

“Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.” Psalm 50: 5.

7. From where will the saints be gathered?

“And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:31.

8. Where will the translated and risen saints meet their Lord?

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.. and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

9. What will be the privilege of all in that glorious day?

“Your eyes shall see the King in His beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.” Isaiah 33:17.

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

10. How will they be welcomed by their Savior and Lord?

“Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34.

11. From what will creation in that day finally emerge?

“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaned and travailed in pain together until now.” Romans 8:21, 22.

Jesus, the King of kings, will welcome His people with the proclamation, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34.

12. What words suggest that the day of Christ’s return will be a day of new life for the redeemed creation?

a. The regeneration. “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That you which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” Matthew 19:28.

b. Restitution of all things. “Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3: 21.

13. With what glorious ceremony will the day of the Lord culminate?

“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, saying Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come.” Revelation 19:6, 7.

14. On what occasion did Jesus refer to this supper?

“But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” Matthew 26:29.

15. How privileged will those be who are present at this wonderful feast?

“And he said unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” Revelation 19:9.

16. What preparation is necessary for attendance at that supper?

a. Trimmed lamps. “Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.” Matthew 25:7. (Read verses 1-13.)

b. Wedding garment. “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready.” Revelation 19:7. (See also Matthew 22:1-14.)

Satan’s Last Battle

1. THROUGH the long ages of sin, how active has Satan been?

“And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comes thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.” Job 1:7. “Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

2. How intense does his attack become as the end draws near?

“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time.” Revelation 12:12.

3. At Christ’s Second Advent, how will Satan’s machinations be brought to a temporary end?

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:1, 2.

4. What are the links of which Satan’s chain is forged?

a. The wicked are all destroyed and out of his reach. “A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with the nations, He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword, said the Lord.” Jeremiah 25:31.

b. The righteous have been taken to heaven and beyond temptation. “The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

c. There is no one on earth for Satan to tempt. “I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.” Jeremiah 4:25.

The immediate consequences of the coming of Christ will be the destruction of the wicked, the desolation of the earth, the raising of the blessed dead, and their translation with the living righteous from