

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

place, and it shall not be.” “Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yes, I sought him, but he could not be found.” Psalm 37:10, 36.

“There are plenty of representations from the earliest times of the judgment of the individual, of the bringing of the soul before the enthroned Christ but no hint or suggestion that the tortures of hell entered into their thoughts either in the cemeteries or at home.” - Clement F. Rogers, MA, in “The Fear of Hell,” pages 35, 36.

7. By what vivid illustrations is their utter end emphasized?

a. Like chaff or stubble. “He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Matthew 3:12. (See also Malachi 4:1.)

b. Like smoke and wax. “As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.” Psalm 68:2. (See also Psalm 37:20.)

8. From what expressions has the notion wrongly arisen that the fires of judgment will burn for ever?

“Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire.” Matthew 25: 41. (See also Matthew 18:8.) “Where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched.” Mark 9:44.

“Everlasting fire” does not mean fire that will burn for ever, but which will produce everlasting results, that is, the eternal destruction of sinners. Similarly “unquenchable fire” does not mean fire which will not be put out, but which cannot be put out until it has done its work.

9. What other statement is erroneously quoted as an evidence of the endless existence of the wicked in torment, and how is it to be understood?

“And the smoke of their torment ascended up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever received the mark of his name.” Revelation 14:11.

This passage has reference not to the last judgment, but to the “torment” of the wicked when the plagues are poured out upon them. (Revelation 16:1,2.) The Greek word “aeon” here translated “for ever” does not always mean “without end,” but is to be understood by the context. In 1 Samuel 1:22,28, for instance, “for ever” means “as long as he lives.” (See also Exodus 21:6; Jonah 1:17; 2:6) Thus torment “for ever” means while ever life lasts. When life ceases the torment will cease.

10. What examples have we of “everlasting destruction,” which corroborate the fact that neither sinners nor the fires of hell burn for ever?

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Jude 7. (See also 2 Peter 2:6.)

The wicked population of Sodom and Gomorrah were utterly destroyed and the cities of the plain turned to ashes (2 Peter 2:6). Thus will it be in the final judgment by fire. Not eternal torment, but eternal destruction, will be the fate of the wicked.

11. What name given to the fiery judgment finally settles for us the fate of the wicked?

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” Revelation 20:14. (See also Revelation 21:8.)

24. The Kingdom of God

Shall We Go to Heaven?

1. WHAT is “heaven”?

a. God’s dwelling-place. “Is not God in the height of heaven?” Job 22:12. “Hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling- place.” 1 Kings 8: 30.

b. The place of His throne. “And immediately I was in the Spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.” Revelation 4: 2. “The Lord’s throne is in heaven.” Psalm 11:4.

2. Who dwell with the Father in heaven?

a. Christ. “Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He [Jesus] had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Hebrews 1:3.

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b. The angels. "A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands [angels] ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him." Daniel 7:10.

c. Certain saints translated without seeing death. "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death." Hebrews 11:5. "And there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." 2 Kings 2:11. (See also Matthew 17:3.)

d. Certain others who have been raised from the dead and translated. "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." Matthew 27:52, 53. (See also Matthew 17:1-3.)

The glorious hope of the eternal home shines brighter with the passing of the years.

3. What is Jesus' desire for all who love and serve Him?

"Father, I will that they also, whom Thou has given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou has given Me." John 17:24.

4. What is He now preparing in heaven for them?

"I go to prepare a place for you." John 14: 2.

5. How may we co-operate in storing up treasure in heaven?

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust does corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matthew 6: 20.

6. When will the saints be privileged to enter the heavenly mansions?

"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: 3.

7. Is it intended that the righteous should dwell for ever in heaven?

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth has He given to the children of men." Psalm 115:16. (See also Isaiah 45:18.)

8. Where are they to enjoy their eternal reward?

"Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner." Proverbs 11:31.

"God's kingdom is a kingdom for the earth, for the whole of creation; it aims at becoming a kingdom on earth. It is not a metaphysical realm behind or above this world, lying behind the things of this world or hovering over them that is the direct and simple import of the New Testament message of the kingdom of God." - H. D. Wendland in "The Kingdom of God," page 146.

As Christ fulfilled prophecy by entering Jerusalem in triumph, so will it be when with His redeemed He enters the gates of heaven. Psalm 24.

9. For how long will heaven be their temporary home?

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Revelation 20:4.

10. At the end of the millennium what will become of the present earth?

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. In the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:10. "The world passes away, and the lust thereof." 1 John 2:17.

11. How will the earth be prepared for the reception of the saints?

"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, said the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain." Isaiah 66:22.

12. How spectacular will be their return to the renewed earth?

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Revelation 21:1, 2. (See also Revelation 21:10.)

13. What promises will then be fulfilled?

a. Saints inherit the earth. "For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth." Psalm 37: 9.

b. They will dwell there forever. "The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever." Psalm 37:29.

Thinking of every trusting child of God, both young and old, Jesus prayed: "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou has given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory." John 17:24.

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“Thy Kingdom Come”

1. FOR what purpose did Jesus become incarnate?

“Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art Thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou says that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world.” John 18:37.

2. What kingdom did He come to retrieve?

“And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.” Micah 4:8.

“Civilization has proved bankrupt in the power to save itself. That power must come from that other sphere of the spirit.” Dr. Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury.

3. By whom was Christ’s future sovereignty acclaimed at His birth?

The angels. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2: 11.

4. How did God recognize the efficacy of Christ’s life and death?

a. Anointed Him. “Thou has loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, has anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.” Hebrews 1:9.

b. Seated Him at His own right hand. “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.” 1 Peter 3:22.

5. What has He conferred upon Christ?

“And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All Power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” Matthew 28:18. “Thou has put all things in subjection under His feet.” Hebrews 2:8.

6. By what names is His sovereignty indicated?

a. Prince. “Him has God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Savior.” Acts 5:31.

b. King. “Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.” Psalm 24:8.

c. Lord and Christ. “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 11:15.

d. King of kings and Lord of lords. “Which in His times He shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.” 1 Timothy 6:15.

7. Has He yet attained the exalted place to which He is ordained?

“But now we see not yet all things put under Him.” Hebrews 2: 8.

8. What promise of ultimate triumph has God made to Him?

“The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit Thou on My right hand, until I make Thy foes Thy footstool.” Acts 2:34, 35.

9. For what is He, therefore, waiting expectantly?

“From hence forth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool.” Hebrews 10:13.

10. What spectacle will one day be seen by an amazed world?

a. Christ coming, seated upon His throne. “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.

b. Crowned with a golden crown. “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.” Revelation 14:14.

11. Who will constitute Christ’s royal retinue?

“And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.” Revelation 19:14.

12. By whom will His triumph be announced?

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 11:15.

13. What authority will Christ assume?

a. Higher than the kings of the earth. “Also I will make Him My Firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.” Psalm 89:27.

b. Government on His shoulder. “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6.

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14. Of what will Christ's throne be a continuation?

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David." Luke 1:32.

15. What names indicate that Christ's kingdom will be radically different from the kingdoms of the world which it supersedes?

a. Kingdom of heaven. "And saying, Repent you: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:2. (See also 4:17.)

b. Kingdom of Christ and God. "For this you know, that no whore monger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Ephesians 5:5.

16. How wide will His kingdom be?

"He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." Psalm 72:8.

17. How many will it include?

"And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all People, -nations, and languages, should serve Him." Daniel 7:14.

18. By what familiar name will the metropolis of the kingdom of God be called?

"But you are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." Hebrews 12:22.

19. In what spectacular way will it be established in the earth?

"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Revelation 21:10. (Read verses 11-26.)

20. By what will Christ's rule be characterized?

a. Righteousness. "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment." Isaiah 32:1. "And He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness." Psalm 9: 8. Across the centuries the prophets have descried with joy the coming kingdom of God.

b. Peace. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever." Isaiah 32: 17.

21. How enduring will be the kingdom of God?

"Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever." Isaiah 9:7. "His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:14.

22. What will be the feelings of the redeemed when Jesus is Governor of the nations?

"O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for Thou shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth." Psalm 67: 4.

God's "New Order"

1. How completely will the earth be renovated for the occupation of the redeemed?

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Isaiah 65: 17.

"The creation of the new heavens and the new earth began with the gospel, and is consummated at the second advent." - Vitranga.

2. What transformations will God effect in inanimate nature?

a. Productivity restored. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." Isaiah 35:1. (See also Isaiah 32:15.)

b. All trace of the curse removed. "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree." Isaiah 55:13.

c. Extremes of climate eliminated. "Neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat." Revelation 7:16.

d. Nature will again rejoice and sing. "The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12.

"The whole creation is to undergo a corresponding change and become the fit scene of the glory of

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God's children." - Dr. Gifford.

3. What harmony will be restored among the animal creation?

"No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there."

Isaiah 35:9.

"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, said the Lord." Isaiah 65:25. (See also Isaiah 11:6-9.)

4. How abundant will be the sustenance of the redeemed?

"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters." Revelation 7:16, 17.

5. Of what, in particular, will they be privileged to partake?

a. The tree of life. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.

b. Water of life. "And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." Revelation 21:6.

6. What perfection of health will they enjoy?

a. All disease eliminated. "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick." Isaiah 33:24. "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing." Isaiah 35:5, 6.

b. All pain banished. "Neither shall there be any more Pain." Revelation 21:4.

7. How developed will be their knowledge and understanding?

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." 1 Corinthians 13:12.

8. Above all, what will have been removed from the hearts of men?

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it." Isaiah 35:8. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defiles, neither whatsoever worked abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Revelation 21:27.

"Heaven's gates are wide enough to admit of many sinners, but too narrow to admit of any sin." - Howells.

9. How will the redeemed occupy themselves?

a. Build and inhabit. "And they shall build houses, and inhabit them." Isaiah 65:21.

b. Sow and reap. "And they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them." Isaiah 65:21.

The sun is about to set on the old order of sin and death. God's promise reads: "Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5.

c. Administer their great inheritance. "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.

10. What security of possession will all enjoy?

a. Possessions will be secure to all. "And My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isaiah 32:18.

b. None will be robbed of the reward of their labor. "They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." Isaiah 65:22.

11. What harmony will reign among men?

a. Wars will have ceased forever. "He makes wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaks the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; He burneth the chariot in the fire." Psalm 46: 9.

b. Peace will have come to stay. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever." Isaiah 32: 17.

12. What joy will the redeemed find in the life and occupations of the kingdom?

"This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24. "For you shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace." Isaiah 55:12. (See also Zephaniah 3:16, 17.)

13. What will pass for ever from their experience?

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4. "And there shall be no more curse." Revelation 22:3.

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14. With Joshua of old, what will be the triumphant testimony of the redeemed?

“Not one thing bath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing bath failed thereof.” Joshua 23:14.

15. What will be the greatest privilege of the kingdom?

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Revelation 21:3. “The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: and they shall see His face.” Revelation 22:3, 4.

“What passage of Scripture conveys the sweetest description of heaven?” a teacher asked a class in which the famous Thomas A Kempis was a pupil. One student replied, “There shall be no more sorrow there.” Another, “There shall be no more death.” Another, “They shall see His face.” But Thomas, the youngest in the class, responded, “And His servants shall serve Him.”

16. How will they express their feelings of gratitude to God?

“Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.” Isaiah 51:11.

17. How long will the life of the redeemed endure?

“The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.” Psalm 37:29.

18. What satisfaction will Jesus have for all His suffering?

“He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied.” Isaiah 53:11.

Who Will Be There?

1. WHAT did Jesus promise to His disciples?

“And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as My Father has appointed unto Me; that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom.” Luke 22:29, 30.

2. To what does Paul declare the redeemed are called?

“That you would walk worthy of God, who bath called you unto His kingdom and glory.” 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

3. How universal did he declare the gospel invitation to be?

“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Romans 10:12,13.

Among the kingdoms of men there are discriminations as to who may or may not be granted the privileges of citizenship. Some nationalities are completely barred to certain countries. But in the kingdom of God there are no prohibitions. “All” are invited. “Whosoever will” may come.

4. What transfer of citizenship will God effect on behalf of those who seek an entrance into His kingdom?

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.” Colossians 1: 12, 13.

5. What price has Jesus paid for our spiritual “naturalization”?

“Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1: 18, 19.

6. How may we indicate our acceptance of the divine invitation?

a. Love to God. “The seed also of His servants shall inherit it: and they that love His name shall dwell therein.” Psalm 69: 36.

b. Obedience to His commandments. “Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14.

7. Into what spiritual fellowship are the subjects of Christ’s kingdom even now being gathered?

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal Priesthood, an holy nation, a Peculiar people. That you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the People of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” 1 Peter 2:9, 10.

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Yes, “Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14.

Amidst the kingdoms of men there is in process of formation another kingdom, not outward and temporal, but invisible and spiritual. It is called the “kingdom of grace” to distinguish it from the future “kingdom of glory,” its visible and final expression. Its subjects are scattered over the face of the earth. They differ in color, and dress, and customs. They speak many tongues. Yet they are bound together by the ties of a common allegiance to the coming King and a common citizenship in the coming kingdom of God.

8. What privileges of the kingdom are already theirs?

“And have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come.” Hebrews 6:5.

Though the subjects of the kingdom must wait a little longer for their full inheritance, the spiritual privileges of the kingdom are immediately available. Its joy lights up their faces and shines forth from their countenances. Its peace possesses their hearts in the midst of the clash and confusion of the kingdoms of men.

9. What has God also given to the redeemed as a hope of their full inheritance?

“In whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise, which is the hope of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13, 14.

10. With what universal proclamation will the gospel invitation, close?

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached all the world for a witness unto all nations.” Matthew 24:14.

11. From where will the subjects of the kingdom be drawn?

“And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 8:11.

12. What epoch-making event will immediately follow the close of the gospel witness?

“And then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14.

13. What wonderful day will then dawn for the saints?

“The Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.” Daniel 7:22.

14. What welcome will they receive at the hands of the King?

“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.

5. How will they feel as they enter into the promised inheritance?

“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” Isaiah 35:10.