

ANSWERS IN REVELATION

INTRODUCTION:

The book of Revelation answers many questions about the future. Some of the answers may surprise you, but let God's Word be true and every man's word be corrected by it.

AIM OF THE LESSON:

Think thoughts after the thoughts of God as it is revealed in His Word.

For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isa 55:8-9).

OUTLINE OF THE LESSON (use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you):

1. Will church believers go through any part of the Tribulation?

It seems clear enough in 3:10 that they will not. The Lord will keep them from the hour of temptation (testing) that will try (test) those that dwell on the earth (refers to unbelievers)

2. When Church believers die, will they live in Heaven forever?

It is often said that believers will live in Heaven forever when they die, but It plainly says in 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:6 that church believers will rule with Christ on the earth during His Millennial Kingdom, so they will not be in Heaven during those thousand years. After the 1000 years, the New Jerusalem will come down from Heaven (21:2) and believers will live in that city for eternity, not in Heaven.

3. What will Church saints be doing when they reign with Christ?

Christ said they will rule the nations with a rod of iron, indicating that they will have great authority in Christ's Kingdom (2:26-27). They will make certain the laws of Christ are obeyed. During this time His disciples will judge the twelve tribes of Israel. Other believers will rule over cities (Lk 19:11-19).

4. Will anyone be saved after the Rapture?

It has been said that no one will be saved after the Rapture because the Spirit will be taken from the earth at that time and no one can be saved without the Spirit (2 Th 2:7). It is doubtful, however, that the Spirit will be totally removed from the earth after the Rapture. He will save people after the Rapture and during the Tribulation. One purpose of the Tribulation is to cause Israelites to see their great need to receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah and Savior. This will be done by the Spirit of grace during the Tribulation (Zech 12:8-13:1). When a great number of Israelites are saved, they will be prepared to receive Jesus as their Messiah after the Tribulation. The Spirit's work through the Church will be removed when the Church saints are taken up to Heaven in the Rapture, but the Spirit is God, so He is omnipresent and will be present on earth to save those that repent and receive Christ as Savior after the Rapture. The fact that there will be 144,000 saved Israelites on earth after the Rapture indicates that people are saved after the Rapture. And the fact that a great number of believers from many nations will be martyred during the great Tribulation indicates that these people will be saved after the Rapture (7:1-14).

5. Did God permanently reject Israel when they rejected His Son as their Messiah?

There are those that believe that God has replaced Israel with the Church and has transferred to the Church all the promises that He gave to Israel. The proof that this doctrine is not true is shown in Revelation. 12,000 Israelites from 12 tribes of Israel are sealed (7:1-8). The woman, who is Israel, is protected in the wilderness by God from Satan for 1260 days (2:6, 14; cf Mt 24:15-21). The twelve gates of the New Jerusalem are named after the 12 Tribes of Israel

(21:12). For more evidence that God has not rejected Israel, see Jer 31:31-36. Israel will repent during the Tribulation so God can bless Israel with His promises (cf Zech 12:8-13:1).

6. Is the Battle of Armageddon the only one fought during the Tribulation?

There are many significant battles fought during the Tribulation. During the first half of the Tribulation Antichrist will start a war that will destroy one-fourth of the earth's population (6:3-8). Satan will start a war in Heaven, but will be cast down to the earth by Michael, the archangel (12:7). Then Satan will make war with the believers among the Israelites (12:17). The battle of Armageddon is fought at the end of the Tribulation (16:14, 16; 19:11-21). These are the wars that are fought during the Tribulation. After the 1000-year reign of Christ, Satan will be released from the bottomless pit, and he will attack Jerusalem in a final attempt to kill Jesus Christ and be the ruler of the world once more (20:7-9)

7. Why do so many people die during the Tribulation?

God does not delight in the death of the wicked, but when they refuse to repent of their rebellion against Him, they must be destroyed. He will not tolerate rebellion (9:20-21; 16:9, 11; 14:9-11).

8. Will the earth come to an end in the near future?

It literally says in 20:4-6 that Christ will rule over all nations on the earth in the future for 1000 years and not until His millennial rule over this earth is finished will heaven and earth come to an end (20:11). So the end of the earth is not in the near future.

9. Will Jesus Christ rule over the whole earth or only over Israel? Jesus will have on His head many diadems (19:12) and He will be the King of kings and the Lord of lords (19:16). He will be king over Israel; Jerusalem will be his capital. He will rule all nations in all parts of the earth (Zech 14:9). He will make all the earth bring glory to His heavenly Father as it was intended to do when it was created.

10. Will unbelievers suffer in fire forever?

As awful as this judgment will be, that is what Revelation and other Scriptures reveal about the punishment of the wicked (14:11; 19:20; 20:10, 15; 21:8; cf Mk 9:43-48; Mt 25:46; 2 Th 1:9). It is a fearful thing to fall under the wrath of God.

11. Who will be in the New Jerusalem?

God will dwell with His people in this city (21:2-3). The Lord God almighty and His Son will be the temple of it, the center of all worship (21:22). The glory of God, which is in the Lamb, will be the light in it (21:23). The throne of God and the throne of the Lamb will be in it (22:3). Which means the New Jerusalem will be the center of the new heaven and new earth; all creation will revolve around this great city. The servants of God will have the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem and the name of Christ on their foreheads (3:12; 22:4). These names will prove that they are citizens of the New Jerusalem. It will be their passport for the angels to see that guard the gates of the city (21:12). All suffering and sorrow will be eliminated for the citizens of this city (21:4).

12. Will the New Jerusalem be in Heaven?

It states in Revelation 21:2 that the New Jerusalem comes down from Heaven. So technically it is not Heaven. However, it also says in 22:3 that the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the New Jerusalem, so practically it will be Heaven in the sense that the power and presence of God the Father and the Son will be there. Since Satan and his angels have been in Heaven, the New Jerusalem is the new residence of God, when nothing will be allowed to defile it (21:27)

APPLICATION: If any of these answers are new to you, will you receive them with an open mind and search the Scriptures to see whether they are true or not (Act 17:11)?

MAKE THE WORD OF GOD YOUR GUIDE TO TRUTH