

Questions from Junior High Sunday School
10/30/1999

The following are some questions that were asked by some Junior High School students in Sunday School. Maybe you have had these questions also.

1. Will those who have not accepted Christ have a second chance when Jesus returns?

Yes, those who have not accepted Christ as their savior will have a chance before Christ returns to the earth. Those that do during the Great Tribulation will suffer persecution and death from the Anti-Christ and his agents.

There is a case made that those who had the chance before the tribulation but rejected Christ, they will not have a chance. We will have to let God decide that one.

Rev 15:2-3 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God 3. and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: NIV

Rev 6:9-11 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" 11. Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. NIV

2. What Happens to us (those in Christ) when Jesus Comes?

Christ will first come and appear in the sky over the earth and those who are dead in Christ at that time will meet him first in the air and those who are alive and in Christ will meet him in the air.

1 Thess 4:16-17 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. NIV

It will happen so fast that everyone will be surprised.

1 Cor. 15:52 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. NIV

3. a. Will there be a Great War?

Yes, there will be a war where all the forces of the anti-Christ will assemble to war against God's People. Christ himself will lead the forces against the Anti-Christ and have victory over him. There will be over 200,000,000 fighting against Christ and they will lose.

Rev 9:16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

b. Between who?

It is hard to say which countries will be fighting against Israel. Some say it will be an alliance including China, Russia and many other countries.

Zech 14:2-5 2 I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. 4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. 5 You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. NIV

*Rev 17:14 14 They will make war against the Lamb, **but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings**-and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers." NIV*

Rev 19:19-2019 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 **But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet** who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. **The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.** NIV

c. Where will it be?

It will take place in the valley of Megiddo at a place called ARMAGEDDON. The exact physical location is debated. It seems to be in present day Israel which makes sense because the nations will be marching against Israel.

Rev 16:12-16 12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. 13 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. 15 "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." 16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. NIV

ARMAGEDDON

[ar mah GED un] (mountain of Megiddo)-the site of the final battle of this age in which God intervenes to destroy the armies of Satan and to cast Satan into the bottomless pit (Rev 16:16; 20:1-3,7-10). **Scholars disagree about the exact location of this place, but the most likely possibility is the valley between Mount Carmel and the city of Jezreel. This valley (known as the Valley of Jezreel and sometimes referred to as the Plain of Esdraelon)** was the crossroads of two ancient trade routes and thus was a strategic military site. Armageddon is the Greek word for this area, which was the scene of many ancient battles. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

4. a. What is Heaven like?

The Bible only gives us a glimpse of heaven as it is. What it is like now does not matter because God is going to make a new heaven and a new earth.

Rev 4:2-10 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. 3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. 4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of

thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. 6 Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.

Rev 20:11 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. NIV

Rev 21:1 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. NIV

b. Will we recognize our parents and friends?

Yes, the story below talks about a man recognizing another after death.

Luke 16:22-24 22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, `Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' NIV

Parable - a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle

I do not classify this as a parable because it contains the name of Lazarus and history (*Latin Vulgate translation*) believes the name of the rich man was Dives. Parables do not usually contain identifying names.

Here is a case where David is looking forward to meeting his son after death.

2 Sam 12:23 3 But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." NIV

5. What will we do in Heaven?

I do not know all that we will be doing but I believe we will spend a lot of time praising and worshipping God because that is what is going on in heaven now. These two passages, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament gives us a peek.

*Isa 6:1-3 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. **3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."** NIV*

Revelation 4:2-8 (NKJV) ² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne... ⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

END

Pastor Fred Diggs
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