

- g. With His return yet future, this ritual is still legitimately practiced in the local church. Its meaning is also obscured unless there is relevant Bible doctrine resident in the soul of the participant. (Matthew **26:26–28**; 1 Corinthians **11:23–26, 28**)

ESCHATOLOGY

44. What is the "great Tribulation" and where do you expect to be when it occurs?

- a. The "great Tribulation" is the last three and one-half years, or the final 1,260 days of the Age of Israel. It commences when the dictator of ***Senatus Populusque Romanus: The Senate and the People of Rome (SPQR)***, sets up a statue of himself in the Holy of Holies of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.
- b. The Scripture calls this act the "abomination of desolation" in Matthew **24:15** and Daniel **9:27**. This Satan-possessed dictator will begin an intense effort to eliminate the Jew from history. His scheme culminates in the Armageddon Campaign, which concludes the "great Tribulation" and the Age of Israel.
- c. I shall be in heaven in the presence of the Lord when this segment of history occurs, having been given a resurrection body at the rapture which terminates the Church Age. As a member of Christ's Royal Army, I shall return with Him at the Second Advent and observe the final moments of this period.
- d. Matthew **24:21-22**; 1 Corinthians **15:51-53**; 2 Corinthians **5:8**; 1 Thessalonians **3:13, 4:15-17**; 2 Thessalonians **2:3-7**; Jude **14**; Revelation **19:14**

45. What is the Rapture of the Church and what is its purpose?

- a. The Rapture of the Church will mark the close of the present dispensation, the Church Age.



- b. The event is characterized by the resurrection of all dead believers of the Age followed immediately by the metamorphosis of all living believers from human body to resurrection body.
- c. Both categories will meet the Lord in the air and be escorted by Him into the third heaven for the Royal Award Ceremonies at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (1 Corinthians **15:50-53**; Philippians **3:20-21**; 1 Thessalonians **4:13-18**; 1 John **3:2**)
- d. The purpose of the rapture is to mark the conclusion of the Church Age, execute the Permanent Change of Station of the Royal Family from time into eternity, and remove the Holy Spirit as the restraining influence in the devil's world.
- e. Recognizing the fact that there will not be a client nation during the Tribulation and considering the concept that circumstances will become progressively worse during the Church Age because of the advance of religion, internationalism, altruism, humanitarianism, and evil, it follows that when these events reach their height, there will no longer be a client nation available to preserve the Royal Family of God.
- f. Consequently, the Rapture becomes the deliverance of the final Pivot of the Age. (2 Thessalonians **2:6-7**; 2 Timothy **3:1-7**; 2 Peter **2:1-7**; Jude; Revelation **3:14-18**)

46. What is meant by Amillennialism, Premillennialism and Postmillennialism; what are the implications of each, and which, if any, do you accept?

- a. Amillennialism. Adherents to this system of hermeneutics do not believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ at the Second Advent.
- b. They espouse that Christ is present now, reigning spiritually through the Church. This group concludes that all millennial passages are goals given by God to be accomplished by men through the spirit of the "present" Christ, or some similar rationale.



- c. Premillennialism. Theologians ascribing to this hermeneutical approach contend that Jesus Christ will conduct a personal reign on Earth, headquartered at Jerusalem, commencing with the Second Advent and concluding 1,000 years later with the destruction of the world by fire.
- d. Postmillennialism. This system is rarely accepted anymore by anyone. It suggests that Christ will return physically to Earth but only after there have been 1,000 years of millennial conditions brought about by the works of man.

Implications

- e. Amillennialism. To believe there is no millennial kingdom of Christ forces the student to perform repeated surgery on the divine Scriptures. He must ignore the distinction between Israel and the Church by spiritualizing all passages which promise future blessings to the true Jews.
- f. The system must deny the literal fulfillment of the Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, and New covenants to Israel although the Scriptures specifically teach that these promises will be brought to pass. (Genesis **12:2**, **15:18**, **17:8**; Deuteronomy **30:3**; 2 Samuel **7:16**; Psalm **89: 35-36**; Isaiah **9:7**; Jeremiah **31:31-34**)
- g. Amillennialism must reject a personal return of Jesus Christ to set up His kingdom reign even though the Word expressly prophesies such a return. (Deuteronomy **30:3**; Jeremiah **23:5-6**; Zechariah **14:4**)
- h. Christ's millennial platform, the "Sermon on the Mount," must be taught as applicable for the present day although Christ was offering the kingdom to the Jews, a kingdom which they rejected, resulting in the Cross and the postponement of the kingdom.
- i. The result is that everyone from preachers to presidents are trying either to re-create the Garden of Eden or to legislate a synthetic Millennium.



- j. Their prodigious undertakings have resulted in such diabolic schemes as government bureaucracies, world peace movements, unreasonable environmental protections, Fabian socialism, and the substitution of equality for freedom.
- k. Premillennialism. Students of this persuasion believe that conditions in the devil's world will become increasingly intense and will result in the sudden removal of the final Royal Pivot, i.e., the rapture generation.
- l. The premillennialist recognizes the total depravity of man and the cosmic policy of good and evil. He further understands that Satan is the ruler of this world, yet the old sin nature is the ruler of life.
- m. The premillennialist realizes that man's attempts to whitewash the devil's world are fruitless and can only end in frustration. He knows that this evil world system can only be conquered by the sovereign and personal intervention of Jesus Christ into history.
- n. The proponent of premillennialism is cognizant of the fact that perfect environment, world peace, universal prosperity, and disease less societies are products of a millennium yet future. (Isaiah **65:18-25**)
- o. As a result of his orientation to reality, the premillennialist appreciates the need for national authority orientation in order to keep old sin natures in check, internally through a system of jurisprudence and externally through strong military preparedness.
- p. Postmillennialism. The premise of this stance is so unreasonable that even the naivest neophyte would be hard pressed to lend it credence. Recorded history cannot document a thousand days of world peace, yet the pre-Parousia millennialist speaks of a thousand years without war. Ludicrous! (Matthew **24:6-7**)

Matthew 24:6-7 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Make sure that you are not alarmed, for this must happen, but the end is still to come. (NET)

Personal Preference

- q. I accept the premillennial system as the only correct way of interpreting eschatological Scripture.



47. Do you believe that Christ will literally, personally, rule the world? If so, describe His Second Coming to Earth.

- a. I do believe that Christ will literally and personally rule the world. The events surrounding His return are outlined below:
1. The Jewish believers of the "great Tribulation" are hopelessly trapped at the base of the Mount of Olives by the advancing forces of the combined world armies. (Zechariah **14:2**; Matthew **24:22**)
 2. Sudden, supernatural darkness enshrouds the entire earth, completely immobilizing the advancing troops and preventing their annihilation of the Jews. (Isaiah **13:9-10**; Ezekiel **32:7-8**; Joel **2:10-11, 3:15**; Amos **5:18, 20**; Zephaniah **1:15**; Zechariah **14:1-6**; Matthew **24:29**; Mark **13:24**; Revelation **8:12, 9:2**)
 3. Christ then literally returns, geographically to the Mount of Olives. On His arrival He simultaneously initiates a massive earthquake, splitting the fault which severs the mountain, allowing the Jews to escape through the fissure to safety. (Zechariah **14:4**; Acts **1:11-12**)
 4. The Beast and the False Prophet are arrested and cast alive into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation **19:20**)
 5. Christ, under His nom de guerre, "Lord of the Armies," destroys the attacking forces with the ultimate coup de grace, "the Word of His mouth." (Psalms **24:8, 10**; Revelation **19:15**)
 6. Old Testament believers and Tribulational martyrs are resurrected. (Isaiah **26:19**; Daniel **12:2**)
 7. Christ regathers Israel from the four corners of the Earth with a whistle. (Isaiah **5:26, 11:12**; Zechariah **10:8**)
 8. Christ presides over the Judgment of Fire for the Gentiles. Believers enter the Millennium. Unbelievers are cast out. (Matthew **25:31-46**)



9. Christ administers the Judgment of Fire for the Jews. Believers enter the Millennium. Unbelievers are cast out. (**Ezekiel 20:33-38**)
10. The triumphant march of the conquering Royal Army is conducted in Jerusalem, each Church Age saint exhibiting one demon as POW. (1 Corinthians 6:3; Colossians **2:14-15**)
11. Christ binds Satan in the abyss for a 1,000-year period. (Revelation **20:2-3**)
12. The Royal family participates in the one-on-one removal of Satan's demonic army from the earth. (Zechariah **13:2**)
13. The creation is restored to the pristine perfection of the Garden of Eden. (Zechariah **14:10**; Romans **8:21**)
14. The Lord Jesus Christ is coronated as Sovereign Potentate of the millennial kingdom. (1 Timothy **6:15**)
15. The Church is presented as the Bride of Christ at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. (Revelation **19:7-8**)
16. The Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, and New covenants to Israel are fulfilled by Christ. (Romans **4:21**)

Romans 4:21 He was fully convinced that what God promised he was also able to do. (NET)

- b. THEN they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks and learn war no more. (Isaiah **2:4**; Micah **4:3**)

Isaiah 2:4 He will judge disputes between nations; he will settle cases for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations will not take up the sword against other nations, and they will no longer train for war. (NET)

Micah 4:3 He will arbitrate between many peoples and settle disputes between many distant nations. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations will not use weapons against other nations, and they will no longer train for war. (NET)



48. What is your concept of heaven and the Lake of Fire?

- a. My concepts of heaven and the Lake of Fire are not crystallized. I regard the two locations to be real and actual, but inscrutable for commentary.
- b. I will make an attempt through my limited knowledge of the subjects to reach some conclusion as to their likenesses.

Dr. Merrill F. Unger states in *Unger's Bible Dictionary* (p. 463): "It is the divine plan at present to populate the third heaven." Further, Dr. Lewis S. Chafer comments in his *Systematic Theology*, (IV, p. 438) that, "When a believer dies, he goes at once to be with Christ and therefore takes up his abode in that sphere. Thus, all believers will be brought into that place of glory at the coming of the Lord, and the third heaven is being populated at the present time. Salvation consists in fitting individuals for that heavenly sphere."

- c. The Apostle John writes in **Revelation 21:1–3** 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.
- d. 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. (KJV)
- e. From the statements of scholars Unger and Chafer, and the passage in Revelation, I have concluded that the place where all departed saints reside, the destination of the Rapture generation, and the current abode of the Triune God, is the heavenly city described in **Revelation 21**: as the new Jerusalem (verses 9–27).
- f. Christ, who has no Royal Family with which to reside in the holy city, is presently preparing a population to reside with Him in the third heaven.



- g. Further, the true Jews, those of the spiritual seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, will inherit the city which Abraham sought (Hebrews 11:10).
- h. When the first heaven and the first Earth pass away (Revelation 21:1), the third heaven will be relocated from its present place in the universe to the present location of planet Earth.
- i. A new first heaven and a new Earth will be created to receive the city which will replace the earthly Jerusalem and become the eternal habitation of "an innumerable company of angels, the general assembly and church of the first-born. God, the Judge of all; the spirits of just men made perfect; and Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant (Hebrews 12:22–24)." The third heaven will then be known as the New Jerusalem.
- j. **My concept of the Lake of Fire**, or the place of retribution for all the unsaved both angelic and human, is brought into focus by comments on "order" by Dr. **Russell Kirk** in his book: *The Roots of American Order* (La Salle: Open Court Publishing Co., 1974), 5–7. The thrust is understood best when the word "order" is thought of as "authority." Selected comments by Kirk from pages 5 through 7 read as follows:

This word "order" means a systematic and harmonious arrangement - whether in one's own character or in the commonwealth. Also "order" signifies the performance of certain duties and the enjoyment of certain rights in a community: thus, we use the phrase 'the civil social order.'⁵

If our souls are disordered, we fall into abnormality, unable to control our impulses. If our commonwealth is disordered, we fall into anarchy, every man's hand against every other man's.

Order is the first need of the soul. It is not possible to love what one ought to love unless we recognize some principles of order by which to govern ourselves.



Order is the first need of the commonwealth. It is not possible for us to live in peace with one another unless we recognize some principle of order by which to do justice.

"The good society is marked by a high degree of order, justice, and freedom. Among these, order has primacy: for justice cannot be enforced until a tolerable civil social order is attained, nor can freedom be anything better than violence until order gives us laws.⁶

Once revolution or war has demolished an established order, a people find it imperative to search for principles of order afresh, that they may survive. Once they have undone an old order, revolutionaries proceed to decree a new order -- often an order harsher than the order they had overthrown." From the above, my conception of retribution is that inhabitants of the Lake of Fire are in an eternal state of non-order both individually and collectively. Due to the complete absence of the laws of divine establishment, basic morality, and the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit, the situation is chaotic.

- k. Collectively, since there is no order there is no authority and as a result no freedom. The absence of authority means that all are equal, none having any vested power over another. There are no laws and no system to establish any.
- l. Individually, all seek their own disordered way. Since there is not one syllable of divine viewpoint to be found, all thought becomes massive and unrestrained human viewpoint resulting in absolute evil.
- m. Environmentally, the heat from the Lake of Fire creates perpetual thirst and saps the energy necessary to seek the escape which does not exist.
- n. The unbeliever, ensnarled in a mental state of complete frustration, bewilderment, and disarray, staggers through an anfractuous maze filled with equally distraught souls, all seeking a thought which might offer some hope, but no one can be found who can oblige.



- o. Consequently, hell is nothing more than total equality taken to its ultimate extreme. The result is the elimination of all authority, without which there can be no order, no justice, and no freedom. It is no wonder that "there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12)."

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

49. Why does God leave the believer on Earth after salvation?

- a. The believer is left on Earth after salvation in order to glorify Jesus Christ. This end is accomplished by the believer resolving the Angelic Conflict. This resolution occurs when the positive Christian advances through the Y and Z radicals.
- b. The completion of the Y radical glorifies Jesus Christ in time through the real imputation of temporal blessings to the believer's plus-R. The completion of the Z radical glorifies Jesus Christ in eternity through the real imputation of eternal blessings to the believer's resurrection body.

The mechanics of glorifying Jesus Christ and resolving the angelic conflict is accomplished through acquiring maximum Bible doctrine resident in the soul. (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Romans 8:28; 12:2)

50. How does the believer learn the Word of God?

- a. The believer learns the Word of God through a divine system called the Grace Apparatus for Perception. This learning process is available only to the believer.
- b. The soul of the believer is made up of the left and right lobes with the latter being the final target of GAP.
- c. Receptive comprehension occurs in the left lobe where doctrine is simply heard and understood. This information is not usable because volition must act on what is heard.

