

Things That Never Differed

The “Appearing” and the “Coming”

(05/13/17)

Is what Paul described in **1 Thess 4:13-18** new information about a mysterious secret coming of the Lord, never before mentioned nor hinted at in scripture not by the Lord himself, much less any of the other apostles, in which a select group of believers, a different church which had its beginning with Paul, will be quietly snatched away, 3 ½, 7, 17, 40, etc. years before the Day of the Lord, with the Holy Spirit leaving the earth with them, and all in order that a half-believing Jewish remnant, once again under the Old Covenant, can then evangelize the world, and all without the Holy Spirit?

Or, do we have a steady revelation of the details of the coming of the Lord, beginning in the Old Testament prophets and continually expounded upon by the Lord and the New Testament writers? (**Acts 24:14-15, 26:22, 1 Thess 4:15**)

I. Establishing the timing of the 2nd coming as compared with other events

A) In the Old Testament

- 1) **Job 14:10-15**- The 1st clear statement about resurrection in the O/T
 - i. Job says the resurrection takes place after the “heavens be no more” and after “Thy wrath be past”
 - a) **2 Pet 3:3-14**- Heavens pass away with fire and great heat at “His coming”
 - 1) (v. 4) Judgment of ungodly
 - 2) (v.7) 1000 year kingdom
 - 3) (v.8) Day of the Lord
 - 4) (v.10) Day of God
 - 5) (v.12) New heavens and new earth
 - 6) (v.12) Righteousness (**Rom 14:17**)
 - 7) (v.14) Believers “found of Him”
 - b) **2 Thess 1:4-10**- Paul agrees completely
 - 1) (v.4) Enduring tribulation and suffering
 - 2) (v.5) Kingdom of God
 - 3) (v.6) Judgment of ungodly
 - 4) (v.7) Rest for believers at that time
 - 5) (v.7) Coming with angels/reapers (**Matt 13:40-43**)
 - 6) (v.8) Flaming fire and vengeance (wrath) on unbelievers
 - 7) (v.9) Judgment, separation and destruction of ungodly

- 8) (v.10) WHEN (sentence starts in v.3) all events take place on same day
- 9) (v.10) Saints glorified **“in that day”**
- 2) **Isa 26:19-** Resurrection
 - i. **Isa ch 24-27-** Known in the past by old teachers as “Little Apocalypse”
 - a) **Isa 24-** Earth’s travail and delivery (**Rom 8:18-24**)
 - 1) (v.18-20) Great earthquake, fire, earth passes
 - 2) (v.21) **“In that day”** ungodly judged
 - 3) (v.22) High ones and kings shut up in pit for many days (**Rev 20:1-11**)
 - 4) (v.23) Signs in the heavens (6th seal)
 - 5) (v.23) Kingdom comes and He reigns
 - 6) (v.23) O/T saints rise
 - b) **Isa 25-** Armageddon
 - 1) (v.4) Refuge from the storm and shadow from the heat (Meshach, Shadrach and Abed-Nego)
 - 2) (v.6) Marriage supper (**Rev 19**)
 - 3) (v.7) Veil of mourning lifted
 - 4) (v.8) Death swallowed up in victory
 - (a) **1 Cor 15:50-57-** Paul says this is fulfilled when our resurrection/change occurs, at that very time
 - 5) (v.9) **“In that day”** saints receive what they have waited for
 - 6) (v.10) His Rest (**2 Thess 1:7/Heb 4**)
 - 7) (v.10) Times of the Gentiles ends (**Rev 11:1-2**)
 - 8) (v.11) Judgment of ungodly
 - 9) (v.12) Kingdoms of earth destroyed (**Rev 11:15-19**)
 - c) **Isa 26-** Kingdom of God established on the earth
 - 1) (v.1) **“In that day”** redemption song sung
 - 2) (v.2) Righteous nation enters into city (**Lk 12:31-32**)
 - 3) (v.3) Perfect peace
 - 4) (v.4) Babylon destroyed (**Rev 17-18**)
 - 5) (v.5) High ones brought down (**Rev 20**)
 - 6) (v.6) Serpent and all his crushed under foot (**Gen 3:15/Rom 16:20**)
 - 7) (v.8) The justified have waited for this day
 - 8) (v.9) Righteous looking for the Lord to come into this dark night (Thief in the night)
 - (a) **Matt 24:43, 1 Thess 5:1-5, 2 Pet 3:10, Rev 3:3, 16:15**
 - 9) (v.10) Outer darkness
 - 10) (v.12) Peace

- 11) (v.13) Dominion of all others broken
 - 12) (v.14) Wicked shall not rise at this time (1st resurrection) (Rev 20)
 - 13) (v.17-18) Woman in travail (**Rom 8:18-24**)
 - 14) (v.19) Bodily resurrection of all saints O/T & N/T
 - 15) (v.20) Indignation (wrath) at same time, but His people protected (**Job 14:13**)
 - 16) (v.21) Lord comes out of His place, ungodly judged, saints raised
- d) Isa 27
- 1) (v.1) **"In that day"** Satan/ Antichrist punished with sword (**Rev 19:11-16**)
 - 2) (v.2-3) Israel planted in the vineyard again and kept
 - 3) (v.4) Briers and thorns burned (**Matt 13-tares**)
 - 4) (v.5) Some make peace in that day (remnant of Israel)
 - 5) (v.6) Jacob planted and takes root
 - 6) (v.9) Jacob's iniquity purged
 - 7) (v.12) **"In that day"** Israel regathered into the land
 - 8) (v.13) **"In that day"** THE great trumpet blown (**1 Cor 15:51-54, 1 Thess 4:13-18**)
- ii. So according to Isaiah, **"in that day"** proceeded immediately by signs in the heavens, the Lord comes, Israel is converted, and regathered to the Land consisting of living Israel restored and sleeping saints arisen, all dominion is put down and His kingdom established
- a) John Nelson Darby, the father of current dispensational theology, in order to make his system feasible, said **Isa 26:19** was not a physical resurrection, but only symbolical of the nation's return to preeminence
 - 1) However, his system requires the nations reinstatement to take place anywhere from 3 ½ yrs to 40 yrs prior
 - (a) Sir Robert Anderson said it may be 1000 yrs
- iii. In **Hos 6:1** and **Ezek 37**, it does appear that these resurrections are symbolic of national rising, however not so in **Isa 26:19**
- a) **In Isa 26:19**- Dead bodies come to life, dead bodies arise, dwellers in the dust awake and sing, the earth casts forth her dead
 - b) **Isa 26:19** clearly takes place after the great tribulation and after the times of the gentiles are brought to a close and after the Antichrist is destroyed (**Isa 26:14**)
 - c) The Jewish remnant is converted at His appearing and not before.
 - 1) Dispensational term "martyred remnant" is an oxymoron

- d) All of these events have their fulfillment in connection with our resurrection and the change of living saints according to Paul, (**1 Cor 15:50-54**). It cannot occur 7 years or any years prior.
- e) It can't possibly take place before Antichrist's reign, as it occurs after his destruction (**2 Thess 2:1-7**)
- 3) **Dan 12:1-3**- Resurrection and reigning
 - i. To make this resurrection symbolic or figurative is complete Sadduceeism (**Acts 23:8**)
 - a) If this is only the reinstatement of Israel as the ruling nation, then explain "everlasting", for each member of that reinstated nation would still die
 - b) If **Isa 26** and **Dan 12** are also symbolic, and don't prove physical resurrection of the dead, then the Sadducees were justified in denying bodily resurrection
 - ii. **Dan 12:1-3** "At that time"
 - a) (v.1) Great tribulation
 - b) (v.1) Israel delivered
 - c) (v.2) Resurrection
 - d) (v.3) Works rewarded
 - e) (v.3) Glorification (**Matt 13:43, 1 Cor 15:49**)
 - 1) **Dan 12:13**- Daniel himself rises at this same time, at the end of the days
- B) **In Matt-John** – We should find either further unfolding of the O/T truths, or the beginning of a new program of resurrection
 - 1) **John 6:39-54**- Does the Lord Jesus Christ teach a resurrection/rapture years before the Day of the Lord?
 - i. (v.39) ALL given Him and IT raised up "**at the last day**"
 - ii. (v.40) EVERYONE which believes raised up "**at the last day**"
 - iii. (v.44) Those called by Father unto salvation raised "**at the last day**"
 - iv. (v.54) All partakers of Christ raised "**at the last day**"
 - a) **John 11:24**- Martha heard this and understood
 - b) **John 12:48**- Living unbelievers judged at the same time
 - 1) **John 5:28-29**- Resurrection for the just and another for the unjust
 - (a) **Rev 20:4-6**- The 2 resurrections separated by 1000 years
 - (b) **1 Cor 15:23-24**- All resurrection in these verses
 - 2) **Luke 14:14-15**- Rewards given at the 1st resurrection and establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth
 - (a) **Rev 22:12**- I come and My reward is with me
 - 3) **Luke 20:34-36**- Worthy to obtain to 1st resurrection
 - 2) What the "Last Day" meant to the Jews

- i. The Jews divided time into 2 ages: the Messianic Age and the one of awaiting it that proceeded its establishment
 - a) **Mark 10:30**- Present time and the world (age) to come
 - 1) **Eph 2:11-22**- This does not disregard that there was a time when Gentiles had no part nor expectation in awaiting the coming Messiah. Paul explains that the Gentiles had not been made into a new age but had been added unto the believing Jews who looked for their Messiah. Gentiles now had the same promise and were of the same group dwelling in a time of expectation and hope
 - 2) The Law was added, but the Law did not begin the expectation of the Messiah, that began in the garden of Eden and was continued on in Abraham's seed. The Law was a parenthesis in the age, and not the age itself.
 - b) **Gal 1:4**- "This world/age"
 - 1) **Matt 12:32, 13:22, 39, 40, 49, 24:3, 28:20, Mark 4:19, Luke 16:8, 18:30, 20:34, Rom 8:18, 11:5, 12:2, 1 Cor 1:20, 2:6-8, 3:18, 2 Cor 4:4, Eph 1:21, 1 Tim 6:17, 2 Tim 4:10, Tit 2:12**
 - c) "World/age to come"
 - 1) **Matt 12:32, Mark 10:30, Luke 18:30, 20:35, Eph 1:21, Heb 2:5, 6:5**
- ii. In **John ch 6**, the Lord can't be speaking of the "last day" of this dispensation according to the disp. theories, as they say this age was a mystery not made known until Paul, and in no way applied to Peter and the 12
 - a) This statement is also made by the Lord before He has even mentioned the formation of the Church (**Matt 16:16-19**)
 - b) The Lord makes no mention of an "intermediate age" would be necessary if the current age is neither the one proceeding nor the Messianic Age itself
 - 1) If the "last day" does apply to our age, and the disp. Theories are correct, then after the "last day" must come the rise and rule of the Antichrist and his dominion over all the world, and the tribulation with it.
 - (a) When Jesus spoke of the present age, it was the Times of the Gentiles (Gentile dominion/Jewish subjection) then, and had been so for over 500 years
 - (1) **Luke 20:35**- Notice the order: "That world" comes first, then the resurrection of the dead

- (b) The Antichrist is shown multiple times in scripture to be an Assyrian, and he rules not through Israel but over them and all nations, thus the times of the Gentiles continue under his reign.
 - (1) This “last day” spoken of by the Lord would then not be able to correspond to the “in that day” of Isaiah, as his day followed the destruction of Antichrist and Gentile dominion. This then creates another new age mentioned by the Lord. So there would need to be the Resurrection pertaining to the O/T saints, then the one meant here by the Lord for the 12 and other Jewish believers, and then yet another still for the Gentile church beginning with Paul, and finally the last resurrection at the time of the end of the 1000 years.
 - (2) **Matt 13:43**- “Let both grow together until the harvest” means all believers and professing unbelievers together until the kingdom comes and is cleansed. How could an intermediate age dissect that statement?
 - (3) **Luke 14:14-15**- This theory also creates the necessity of a new judgment for rewards separate from the one Paul described (**1 Cor 3:10-15**)
- (c) The hope of Israel was always resurrection and peace, how different the idea that resurrection brings the worst time the world has ever known?

C) In Paul’s writings

- 1) **Rom 11:15**- Receiving of Israel = life from the dead
 - i. If the casting away of Israel brought something as grand as the preaching of the gospel to all nations, the receiving of them brings something even greater: the resurrection of the dead
- 2) **1 Cor 15:50-57**-Paul links “rapture” and resurrection together at one time
 - i. (v.50) Inheriting (possession) the Kingdom of God
 - ii. (v.51) Mystery is the living saints changed without sleeping in death
 - iii. (v.52) The LAST TRUMP (how could any others remain to sound and Paul not be a liar?)
 - iv. (v.52) Resurrection immediately proceeds transfiguration of the living saints
 - v. (v.53) Immortality or everlasting life (**Dan 12:2**)
 - vi. (v.54) WHEN and THEN **Isa 25:8** is fulfilled
 - a) This should be the end of all variance on the subject, as to whether the resurrection in the O/T is the same as for the Church.
 - b) Israel’s hope (resurrection) is also our hope (**Acts 28:20, Eph 4:4**)

vii. (v.55) Victory of the Church (**Matt 16:18**)

- a) **Isa 25:6-9**- Kingdom is inaugurated at a banquet, Paul proves this banquet includes the believers of today and the past 2000 years as well as the O/T saints, the veil of mourning is lifted and all tears wiped away
 - 1) How could all tears and mourning be gone if this resurrection brings in the worst time of suffering the world has even known?
- b) Paul has intricately and unmistakably connected the events together in complete agreement with the O/t prophets, and with the statement of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself: Resurrection, restoration of Israel, peace, Kingdom, Messiah all come together
 - 1) Darby, Scofield, Bullinger, Stam, etc. all have constant contradictions within their own writings as they wrestle to protect their theories from their own exegesis
 - (a) Example from Darby: "I wish to refer you to the connection of the passage in the 15th of 1 Corinthians with the 25th of Isaiah, because ***the connection of these two things- the resurrection of the saints, and the restoration of Israel, will thereby be strongly brought out.*** The apostle says that "when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' If you turn to the 25th of Isaiah, you will see that ***this takes place at this time which we call the millennium: when, the Jews being restored to their place on the earth, there is that era of blessedness among the nations which is commonly called the millennium.*** It is there said, 'Thou shalt bring down the noise of strangers, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of a cloud: the branch of the terrible ones shall be brought low. And in this mountain shall the Lord of Hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory.'" ***That is at the time the resurrection takes place;*** for it is said in Corinthians, "Then shall come to pass the saying which is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." ***And thus it appears that the time when this resurrection takes place is the time when the Lord restores Israel, when He establishes***

Israel's place in Zion, and takes away the veil from off the face of all nations. (The Second Coming- Page 84)

- 3) **1 Thess 4:13-18**- This is the main passage used to prove the “pre-trib rapture”
- i. If we keep these verses in context, Paul is in no way addresses the timing, but is only showing the relation between the dead saints and the living at the 2nd coming. The Thessalonians were concerned their dead brethren would be at a disadvantage when the Lord returned.
 - ii. Paul says this “by the word of the Lord”
 - a) **John 11:25-26**- The dead believers shall live, the living believer shall never die
 - iii. There is nothing in this passage that could be used to argue for or against the Darby theory, yet this is their proof text
 - a) This passage is either the same resurrection Paul described in **1 Cor 15**, which is the fulfillment of **Isa 25:8**, or it is a new and additional resurrection
 - 1) **1 Cor 15:20-26**- Paul sets forth ALL resurrection in this passage
 - (a) (v.21) “The resurrection of the dead” as compared to those who “die in Adam” will include the resurrection of every member of the human race
 - (b) (v.23) The order of ALL resurrection:
 - (1) Christ the Firstfruits
 - (2) Afterwards (eliminates the **Matt 27:52** theories) they that are Christ’s at His COMING (not “comings”)
 - 1. **Rom 16:17**- Those “in Christ” before Paul
 - 2. **1 Pet 5:14**- Peter’s converts “in Christ”
 - 3. **Gal 3:26-29**- Abraham “in Christ”
 - 4. **Eph 2:19-20**- One House which contains O/T & N/T saints
 - 5. **Heb 11:39-40**- The O/T saints not made perfect without us
 - (3) Then cometh the end (of resurrection) after the 1000 yrs
 - 1. (v.24-26) The end doesn’t come until He has destroyed even death
 - **Isa 65:20**- Death still occurs in Millennium
 - 2. There is a teaching that arose separating the 1st resurrection into 3 parts, and this to get away from the “last trump” spoken by Paul