

## -THE SECOND DEATH-

Only occurrences Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8. Thus the second death is connected with the DAY OF THE LORD which is the subject of the Revelation. 1:10.

All notions and traditions should be forgotten and this whole subject studied from the start. Several questions will come to mind.

Why was not the second death revealed to Adam or to any of the OT saints? Why did not the Lord speak of it? Surely it would have been spoken of if it had been in prospect for any of these peoples.

Paul declared the whole counsel of God, yet he never spoke of the second death. Evidently it was not for any who heard him. If any of his writings are truth for today, then the second death does not concern the present age.

Do we have any assurance that any who are subjects of the second death ever will have died before? No one has advocated the idea that any should have to go thru both the 1st and 2nd resurrections spoken of in the same book.

Just how could people who do not have life in them be made alive again? If they were to be, as some say, just what would be the purpose? What good would it do them, God, or anybody else?

Is the lake of fire literal? If so, then are death and hell literal substances or persons? Where will the fire be? (See next column)

As we look at the references we find that second death is connected with such subjects as MARK OF THE BEAST, NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE. Can this be a death or end for certain systems and certain peoples?

Then we find in Rev. 20:15 that a literal rendering of the verse would be, "And if anyone was not found in the book of life written, he was cast into the lake of fire." There is great doubt that any such will be found at the great white throne. The word IF signifies that. It is a judgment of believers, those who have everlasting life, but belong neither to the kingdom or to the church. Those who do not have life cannot stand (arise) in the judgment.

## -"THIS IS... WHICH IS"-

1. THIS IS MY BODY. Matt. 26:26. Here is a figure of speech called METAPHOR, (See Figures of Speech by Bullinger). If this were to be taken literally then the pronoun THIS would agree in gender with bread. But it does not. THIS is neuter and BREAD masculine. THIS agrees with BODY. This agreement or rather disagreement of pronouns is common in both the OT and NT when a figure of speech is used. We can then know that the bread is not in reality His body, but that it merely represents it.

2. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH, Rev. 20:14. Here we find the same figure of speech. It is the same disagreement of pronouns. Here THIS is masculine and LAKE is feminine. So the second death is not the lake of fire in any literal sense whatsoever. THIS agrees with DEATH. Often the figure of fire consuming things is used in the Word. It indicates absolute destruction and cessation of being. The chaff and tares have their end described as such.

3. WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH, Rev. 21:8. Here is a very similar use of the nouns and pronouns. The word WHICH is neuter in this case and again the pronoun does not agree with LAKE which is feminine. Neither does it agree with DEATH in this case, but rather with THEIR PART. It is the doom of death and hades that is emphasized in this figure.

This shows us that the second death is not the lake of fire, but that the second death is like unto a lake of fire in its complete destruction.

The beast and the false prophet who have their part in it may be figures of speech to indicate political and religious systems. Of course each of these systems may be headed by a man or personality, but the emphasis is that all such tyranny shall cease and never rise again.

These studies are in the main merely suggestive and you should be able to go on from here. Would be glad to hear the results.

We can thank R. S. Callander for the outline of the above.

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**-WHAT HOPE?-**

A few years ago we glanced thru a little book in which the author made the claim that none of the redeemed would ever go to heaven. He stated that all the saved would be resurrected some day and live forever on the earth. The only gospel this man knew was the gospel of the Kingdom.

It is true that those who have the Kingdom hope will live on the earth in resurrection. That is the only hope that we can find in all the OT. There is not a word about the believer being identified with the ascended Christ in His position in the heavenlies. So long as the author sticks to Kingdom gospel, he is right about the hope.

But this man does not know about a group of believers, the church which is the body of Christ. He does not know about the promise of all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. He does not know that there is a company of the redeemed which will be manifested with Him in the heavenlies. He does not know of the dispensation of grace which makes it possible for such as suffer with Him to reign with Him over principalities and powers in those super-heavenly places.

So many say, "I do not see it." They do not acknowledge Him as Head. That **MUST** be the first step. But that course of action will probably terminate any denominational connections one may have. It is all right to call Him Jesus. It is quite proper to call Him King. But when one acknowledges Him as the risen and ascended Lord and Head, then, as a usual thing, suffering begins.

It may a little beside the point to mention the fact that tradition says that all who are resurrected will spend the future either in heaven or in hell. But the Word of God reveals that all who are resurrected will spend their future either in heaven or on the earth.

It is well to look into these things and seek the truth. Our hope is realized by faith, and faith comes by hearing, and that by the Word of God. Search and see.

**-KINGDOMS ESTABLISHED-**

I. **LOUD VOICE** in heaven. Rev. 12:10. This voice is heard after that there is war in heaven and Satan is cast out. This is the beginning of the time when God's will shall be done in heaven. It is not till this time that the so-called Lord's prayer can be uttered. This should be called the Tribulation Prayer. At this time the Lord will establish His rule over the heavens, over all the principalities and powers that are in them. This is the time to which the members of the church which is His body look forward. Then they will reign with Him over the kingdoms of the heavens. See 2 Tim. 2:12.

This event will be a time for rejoicing in the heavens, but will be a time of woe for the earth. Rev. 12:12

It could be that the entrance of the church into that sphere will precipitate the war in the heavens just as the entrance of Israel into the land started the conflict between God and the inhabitants, (it was God who drove them out).

II. **GREAT VOICES** in heaven. Rev. 11:15. These voices are heard after the last trump (7th). This is the last great Jubile. It is the trump of 1 Cor. 15 and 1 Thess. 4. This is the time of the little stone of Daniel 2:34. The kingdoms of this world will then become the kingdoms of our Lord. This is the beginning of the kingdom of the heavens. The heavens do not extend their rule over the earth till the Lord's sovereignty is first established up there. In just 3 1/2 shortened years this will be accomplished and the rule extended over the earth. Then shall the 12 apostles rule with Him, as well as the faithful remnant.

Such great milestones as these help to establish the main events so that we can fill in the details later.

From the above we can see how foolish it is to talk about now extending the kingdom. It is not here to extend. It will not be in operation here until such a time as the Lord rules over all the heavens. Let us look for His appearing (epiphany).

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 -STUDIES IN JOHN- #25

1. What did Peter mean by his question in 13:6?
2. Why was it needful that their feet should be washed?
3. Do we all need a daily cleansing?
4. Was Peter willing to have the Lord do this for him?
5. What did the Lord mean by His reply; that Peter would not be saved or that he could not have a share in reigning with the Lord?
6. When Peter saw the danger of the loss of the Lord's fellowship, what did he have to say?
7. How often did the Lord indicate that a complete spiritual washing was necessary?
8. Why did He say "Ye are not all clean"?
9. What question does He ask after the washing is completed?
10. What was the lesson?
11. Does this mean that people should wash each other's feet today, or does it mean that they should not be too proud to do little things for each other?
12. Is pride dangerous? Prov. 16:18.
13. Why was Judas chosen? 18
14. Was it considered a very bad thing in those days to eat a man's bread and then do him harm? See Psa. 41:9
15. Why did the Lord foretell His betrayal?
16. Whom would folks receive if they should receive one of these apostles, (sent ones)?
17. Whom does one receive when he receives Christ?
18. What plain statement is made in verse 21?
19. What effect does this have on the disciples?
20. Which disciple was spoken of in verse 23?
21. Who was the first to ask who it might be?
22. What was the answer and who was the guilty one?
23. What happened to Judas after the Lord handed him the sop?
24. What did the Lord tell him?

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: Have you ever wished that you might be a VIP? Have there been times when you have felt quite small and insignificant and just wished that you could do something or be a somebody? Maybe you have felt that your talents have not been appreciated. Maybe you have felt that you have not been given due credit for what you have done. Then you have wished that you might be a VIP.

Of course you all know what a VIP is, do you not? If any should not, we will get that straight now. It is a Very Important Person.

Now if this ambition is just for the praise of men, then I am afraid that it is not a very worthy one. Our first ambition should be to strive diligently to be approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15). It may seem strange, but it is true, that humility must come before any exaltation.

So if you would be a VIP you must first of all be content to do the lowly daily tasks that are set before you. Each one done well makes for strength to do a greater one and before you know it you will be doing the big things. It is a matter of growth. Just like the Lord when he was 12. He was subject unto His parents and grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. Surely that is a good example for you to follow.

Do not forget that at all times you may be a VIP in the sight of God. The praise of the world will soon fade away, but a real service to God will never be forgotten. He who looks at even the fall of the sparrow cares for you. Trust Him from day to day and seek to be a VIP in His sight. It is worth all the effort.

Little David may not have seemed very great while fleeing from Saul in the wilderness. Little Joseph may not have seemed very great when a slave in the house of Potiphar. Daniel may not have been much in the sight of men when taken a captive to Babylon. But God was with them. What more could they want?

Some are forgetting to send in their answers to the questions. Write often.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

**- THE EDITOR'S DESK -**

RADIO programs have been discontinued indefinitely. The last one was June 30th, making a total of 248 in all.

THE PAPER, TFT is way off its schedule, partly on account of the farm work and partly on account of the delay in the delivery of the Addressograph. It is likely that we will have to drive to South Bend again to address this number.

BIBLE CLASS now meets at the home of the editor each Tue. nite at (7:30). This is 6 miles west of Warsaw on the Harrison Center Rd. U R certainly welcome to the class.

OUR CORN was planted May 30th.

TAPE RECORDINGS have been held up too on account of lack of time. Only two messages have been released so far. May have time to get this work done since we have no radio lessons to prepare.

NOW is vacation time and no doubt several of you may want to take a little drive. So be sure to stop in to see us. Make it a week-end Biolo conference. But be sure to let us know when you are coming. Just two of us now, so can eat and sleep a few right here at our home.

YOU ARE NOT expected to agree with everything we write. The paper is to stimulate Bible study. So if you find anything that you do not think is right on the beam, please do not throw a fit. You might get an ulcer.

QUESTIONS are always in order. Am glad to have you write, even if you may differ in opinion.

CORRESPONDENCE is way behind, but eventually we will get to it. Believe that all back orders on books have been sent out. If not, let me know.

QUARTERLY REPORT was missed again at the end of March mostly because we did not have the Addressograph. Hope to get it out in a few days after this paper is put in the mails.

IT IS very encouraging to find so many doing personal work in getting out the good news to others. This is as it should be. Do not depend on so-called leaders. Each one has a responsibility of his own. Each of us should examine himself in this matter.

Oscar M. Baker, Tel. Atwood 2684.

**- BOOK NEWS -**

OUT OF PRINT; Foundations of Dispensational Truth by Bullinger. Also the Companion Bible. Have a few of the Latter in leather at \$24 each.

NEW; Strong's Concordance \$13. LXX with Eng. Translation \$6.50. Englishman's Greek Concordance \$8.50. Englishman's Heb. and Chaldee Concordance \$17.50. Pocket Interlinear NT, Bagster \$4.25. Thy Testimonies Vol. 1 \$2.

BOOKS BY MILLS; All Truth 75¢. NT Ministries 75¢. His Workmanship 50¢.

WELCH has gotten out his new book, Life Thru His Name (exposition of John) and the price is \$2.25. Also the new pamphlet, The Dispensational Frontier, is here. The price is 8¢ each, 12 for 60¢, 25 for 90¢, or 50 for \$1.50. Fine for distribution. Be sure to read it.

USED BOOKS; Companion Bible in Buckram \$10. Englishman's Greek Concordance \$7. Two Vol. set of Life and Epistles of St. Paul by Gonybeare and Howson, full leather, \$10.25. Send for list of odd volumes by Sir Robert Anderson. Make your wants known.

BULLINGER; Number in Scripture \$5. Apocalypse \$2.50 (This is higher than formerly). The Giver and His Gifts \$2.65. The Two Natures in the Child of God 40¢.

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