

107. The Border of Eternity

In death the body and spirit separate from one another. The body again becomes dust, but the spirit awaits the day of Christ's coming. For the righteous this waiting is peace and nearness to God, for the ungodly it is agony and expectation of judgement.

Christ frees His own from the chamber of death. Death is for them the way to life and Christ has sanctified their grave as a chamber of rest.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." (Rev. 14:13)

The rich man and Lazarus: Luke 16:19-31.

"By which also he [Christ] went and preached unto the spirits in prison." (1 Pet. 3:19)
Although the grave is dismal / I go securely to death / Because Jesus was placed in the grave / my grave also is lighted. (Hymn 69:4)

108. The Coming of Christ

At the end of the present world Christ will appear in glory. He will awaken all the dead. Then the bodies of the righteous will become like the glorified body of Christ.

The signs of Christ's coming: Matt. 24:3-44

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." (Mark 13:32)

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body." (Phil. 3:21)

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28, 29)

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." (I Cor. 15:42-44)

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." (Rev. 1:7)

109. Final Judgment

On the last day, all people will be gathered before the judgment seat of Christ. The righteous will go to everlasting life, but the ungodly to condemnation, which is everlasting separation from God.

The final judgment: Matt. 25:31-46.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also

reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. 6:7, 8)

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." (Rev. 20:11, 12)

110. New Heavens and a New Earth

At the coming of Christ the heavens and the earth shall pass away, and God will create new heavens and a new earth wherein the righteous will dwell. Creation will be released from the bondage of corruption. The kingdom of God will appear in its glory.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Pet. 3:10,13)

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord." (Rev. 11:15)

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." (Rom. 8:21)