

"Tell Us, When Will These Things Be?"

w13 7/15 pages 3-8

WHEN DOES THE GREAT TRIBULATION BEGIN?

Previous Understanding

Back in the year 1925 the suggestion was set out in the leading article of the *Watch Tower* issue of May 1, that the "great tribulation" had begun in 1914 C.E. and that it was not allowed to run its full course then but God stopped World War I in November of 1918. From then on God was allowing an interval for the activity of his anointed remnant of elect Christians before he let the final part of the "great tribulation" resume at the battle of Armageddon and come to its termination. This would allow for sheeplike persons to be saved. — w70 1/15, page 52, par. 9.

For a number of years... the great tribulation was thought to have three phases: There would be a beginning (1914-1918), the tribulation would be interrupted (from 1918 onward), and it would conclude at Armageddon. — In this issue, page 3, par. 3.

Adjustment in Understanding

On Thursday, July 10, 1969, at the "Peace on Earth" International Assembly in New York City, F. W. Franz said: "To correspond with the events of the first century, . . . the antitypical 'great tribulation' did not begin in 1914 C.E. Rather. . . **The 'great tribulation' such as will not occur again is yet ahead, for it means the destruction of the world empire of false religion (including Christendom)** followed by the 'war of the great day of God the Almighty' at Armageddon." This meant that the entire great tribulation was yet ahead. — w99 5/1, page 16, pars. 11, 12.

WHEN DOES JESUS JUDGE THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS?

Previous Understanding

It was thought that the judging of people as sheep and goats would take place during the entire period of the last days from 1914 onward. Those who rejected the Kingdom message and who died before the start of the Great Tribulation would die as goats—without the hope of the resurrection. — page 6, par. 10.

Adjustment in Understanding

Jesus became King of God's Kingdom in 1914, but he did not "sit down on his glorious throne" as Judge of "all the nations." (Matt.25:32; compare Daniel 7:13) However, the parable of the sheep and the goats describes Jesus primarily as Judge. Since Jesus was not yet active as Judge of all the nations in 1914, his judgment of people as sheep and goats could not have started in that year. Jesus will for the very first time act as judge of all nations after the destruction of false religion, when he comes **during the Great Tribulation**. — Page 6, pars. 11-13.

WHEN DOES JESUS ARRIVE OR COME?

Previous Understanding

It was understood that the "arriving" mentioned in these four instances (Matt. 24:46; 25:10, 19, 27) applied to Jesus' arriving, or coming, in 1918. The arriving mentioned in Matthew 24:46 was linked to the time when Jesus came to inspect the spiritual condition of the anointed in 1918 and that the appointment of the slave over all the Master's belongings occurred in 1919. — Page 8, par. 17.

Adjustment in Understanding

In the verses that lead up to Matthew 24:46, the word "coming" refers consistently to the time when Jesus comes to pronounce and execute judgment during the Great Tribulation. Also, Jesus' 'arriving' mentioned in Matthew 25:31 refers to that same future time of judgment. So it is reasonable to conclude that Jesus' arrival to appoint the faithful slave over all his belongings (Matt. 24: 46, 47) also applies to his future coming **during the Great Tribulation**. — Page 8, pars. 17, 18.

WHEN DOES THE GATHERING OF THE CHOSEN ONES OCCUR?

Previous Understanding

Will some anointed Christians survive the "great tribulation" to live on earth in the new world before being taken to heaven? — Questions From Readers, w90 8-15, page 30. The Bible does not say that this will occur, yet certain patterns and prophecies have been taken to indicate that it might....it could be reasoned that some of the bride class will survive the great tribulation as evidence of Jehovah's approval and protection. — Page 8, endnote [2].

Adjustment in Understanding

It appears that all anointed ones who still remain on earth after the initial part of the great tribulation has passed will at some point be raised to heaven **before the outbreak of the battle of Armageddon**. — Page 8, endnote [2].

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What parallels are there between the two fulfillments of Jesus' prophecy about the great tribulation?

A part of Jesus's prophecy about the last days has two fulfillments. There was an initial fulfillment in Judea in the first century C.E., and there is a worldwide fulfillment in our day. (see the chart on pages 4 and 5)

How does the parable of the sheep and the goats affect our view of the preaching work?

Until the great tribulation begins, people still have time to change their thinking and start walking on the cramped road "leading off into life." Therefore, we have good reason for continuing to offer as many people as possible the opportunity to listen to and respond to the Kingdom message.

In Matthew chapters 24 and 25, to what time did Jesus refer when he spoke about his coming?

To his future coming, during the great tribulation.

“Look, I Am With You All The Days”

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ACCORDING TO MALACHI'S PROPHECY, WHEN DID JESUS BEGIN TO INSPECT THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE? (Mal. 3:1-3)

Previous Understanding	Adjustment in Understanding
Previously, it was understood that Jesus' inspection took place in 1918. – Page 14, endnote [3].	Jesus began to inspect the spiritual temple in 1914. That inspection and cleansing work involved a period of time – from 1914 to the early part of 1919. – Page 11, par. 6.

IS THE WEED'S WEeping AND GNASHING OF THEIR TEETH HAPPENING NOW? (Matt. 13:42)

Previous Understanding	Adjustment in Understanding
Previously, it was understood that imitation Christians have been 'weeping and gnashing their teeth' for decades, bewailing that "the sons of the Kingdom" expose them for what they are – "sons of the wicked one." – Page 14, endnote [5].	Presently, those represented by the weed class are boasting, not weeping. But that is about to change. During the Great Tribulation, after all organized religion has been destroyed, former adherents will run for cover but will find no secure place to hide. Then, realizing that there is no escape from destruction, they will weep in desperation and 'gnash their teeth' in anger. This harmonizes with the thought of Psalm 122:10. – Page 13, pars. 13, 14.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE RIGTHEOUS ONES SHINE AS BRIGHTLY AS THE SUN IN THE KINGDOM OF THEIR FATHER? (Daniel 12:3; Matt. 13:43)

Previous Understanding	Adjustment in Understanding
Previously, it was understood that Daniel 12:3 and Matthew 13:43 referred to the same activity – the preaching work (on earth). – Page 14, endnote [6].	The fulfillment of Matthew 13:43 still lies ahead. Jesus foretold not an activity taking place on earth, but a future event occurring in heaven. All faithful anointed ones will be gathered to heaven where they will shine brightly in the heavenly Kingdom. – Page 13, pars. 16, 17.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

Why can we conclude that from the first century C.E. until today, there have always been anointed Christians on earth?	Speaking about the wheat and the weeds, Jesus said: "Let both grow together until the harvest." (Matt. 13:30) This command reveals that from the first century until today, there have always been some anointed wheatlike Christians on earth. That conclusion is confirmed by what Jesus later told his disciples: "I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things." (Matt. 28:20)
Starting in 1914, what inspection by Jesus took place?	Jesus' inspection involved a cleansing work by which he judged a small group of zealous Bible students to be true Christian wheat, but rejected all imitation Christians, including all those found within the churches of Christendom.
What events depicted in Jesus' illustration about the wheat and the weeds still lie ahead?	Shortly before Armageddon, the remaining faithful anointed ones are gathered to the heavens. During the final part of the great tribulation, Armageddon, the weeds are pitched into the fire. That means complete destruction.

Feeding Many Through The Hands Of A Few

w13 7/15 pages 15-19

How Jesus used a few to feed his many first-century anointed followers

Were the Bible Students in the years that led up to 1914 the appointed channel through which Christ would feed the sheep?	No. They were still in the growing season, and the arrangement for a channel to provide spiritual food was still taking shape. The time had not yet come for the weedlike imitation Christians to be separated from the true Christian wheat. – Page 18, par. 16.
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HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

What pattern did Jesus follow when feeding the crowds?	Jesus distributed the food “to the disciples, the disciples in turn to the crowds.” (Matt. 14:19) Thus, Jesus fed thousands through the hands of a few – his disciples.
How did Jesus use the apostles and older men in Jerusalem?	“The apostles and older men in Jerusalem” served as a governing body. Christ used this small group of qualified men to settle doctrinal issues and to oversee and direct the preaching and teaching of the Kingdom good news.
When was it time for Christ to appoint one organized channel to disperse spiritual food?	Starting in 1919, it was time to begin gathering the wheat. Finally, it was the time for Christ to appoint one organized channel to disperse spiritual food.

"Who Really Is The Faithful And Discreet Slave?"

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How can we identify the few through whom Christ feeds us today

Previous Understanding

Adjustment in Understanding

HOW ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND JESUS' ILLUSTRATION ABOUT THE FAITHFUL SLAVE?

Previously, it was understood that at Pentecost 33 C.E., Jesus appointed the faithful slave over his domestics. The domestics referred to the same anointed ones as individuals. In 1919, Jesus appointed the faithful slave "over all his belongings" – all his earthly Kingdom interests. – Page 20, par. 3.

The illustration of the faithful and discreet slave began to be fulfilled, not at Pentecost 33 C.E., but only *after* the last days began in 1914. – Page 21, pars. 4-6.

DO ALL ANOINTED ONES ON EARTH MAKE UP THE FAITHFUL SLAVE?

Previously, it was understood that all anointed ones had a role in dispensing food to fellow believers worldwide.

No. Not all anointed ones have a role in dispensing spiritual food to fellow believers worldwide. Among the wheat are anointed brothers who may serve as ministerial servants or elders in their local congregation...But they do not have a part in dispensing spiritual food to the worldwide brotherhood. Also, among the anointed are humble sisters, who would never try to assume the role of teachers in the congregation. – Page 21, par. 9.

WHO REALLY IS THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE?

Previously, it was understood that the slave represented *all* anointed Christians on earth as a group at any time since Pentecost 33 C.E. – Page 20, par. 3.

That slave is made up of *a small group of anointed brothers who are directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food during Christ's presence.* Today, these anointed brothers make up the Governing Body. – Page 22, par. 10 and DID YOU GET THE POINT?

WHEN DID JESUS APPOINT THE FAITHFUL SLAVE OVER HIS DOMESTICS?

Previously, it was understood that Jesus appointed the faithful slave at Pentecost 33 C.E. – Page 20, par. 3.

In **1919**, a time of spiritual revival, Jesus selected capable brothers from among faithful Bible Students to be the faithful and discreet slave. – Page 22, par. 12 and DID YOU GET THE POINT?

WHO ARE THE DOMESTICS?

Previously, it was understood that early in the last days, the domestics were all anointed ones. – Page 23, par. 13.

Put simply, they are *those who are fed, whether they are of the anointed or the other sheep.* – Page 23, par. 13 and DID YOU GET THE POINT?

WHEN WILL JESUS APPOINT THE FAITHFUL SLAVE OVER ALL HIS BELONGINGS?

Previously, it was understood that Jesus appointed the faithful slave over his domestics at Pentecost 33 C.E. – Page 20, par. 3.

(During the great tribulation) Those who make up the faithful slave will get this appointment *when they receive their heavenly reward*, becoming co-rulers with Christ. – Page 25, par. 18 and DID YOU GET THE POINT?

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER?

Who is the faithful and discreet slave?

A small group of anointed brothers who are directly involved in preparing and dispersing spiritual food during Christ's presence. Today, these anointed brothers make up the Governing body.

Who are the domestics, and when did Jesus appoint the faithful over them?

The domestics are all who are fed, whether they are of the anointed or of the other sheep. In 1919, Jesus appointed faithful and discreet slave over the domestics.

When will Christ appoint the faithful and discreet slave over all his belongings, and what will they include?

When they receive their heavenly reward. The belongings will include the Messianic Kingdom.