

Richard,

RT comments and replies in bold italic.

I've been reading your booklet titled "**Beyond Armageddon**," and have a few questions or comments to mention for you to mull over...

1. We know about the first resurrection, and then what we call the "second" resurrection. You mentioned in the booklet (which I haven't completed as yet) that people die at 100 years during the millennium, and then... "After the 1000 years there is another resurrection. (Rev. 20:5). These **pre-millennial dead** will be raised up to stand in the Great White Throne Judgment, and be afforded opportunity for inclusion into God's Family. The Great White Throne extends the opportunity era on beyond the millennium, but to those pre-millennial dead only who were never called (Rev.20:11-12).

The question is, when do those who died throughout the millennium get resurrected, either to eternal life, or otherwise... the third resurrection, it would seem? **YES! Like people do now, the converted from the millennial age will die and wait in their graves for their respective resurrection. That's what Rev. 14:13 tells us.** If there is a dividing of people at some point, what of the 100 years for the second resurrection people (aside from those who lived throughout the millennium???) who need their lives to grow and develop spiritually. **Those who are raised in the second resurrection are raised in perfect health. Their former lethal diseases will be gone! They will live out the rest of their lifetimes that this resurrection provides them, and they will remain alive to be joined by all those who come up in the third resurrection to stand with them for sentencing. No one will be sentenced to Life or Eternal death while dead. All will stand alive before God to be sentenced appropriately.** Mt. 25 has always been a confusing timeline for me, especially since the context is at Christ's return. **This understanding should clarify the matter. WE have presumed that the there-mentioned gathering of all nations is for immediate sentencing, where it actually will include the evaluative phase of judgment first, which is the lifetime experiences of those exposed to their respective opportunity period. The actual 'separation' of the righteous from the wicked for sentencing will occur only at the very end when all are called out of their graves to stand before the Son of man.** One would presume the "Blessed of my Father" to be the saints resurrected at that time, but this isn't when the whole of humanity is all raised...

2. No more death... what of "of the **increase** of His government and peace, there shall be no end?" Is the family now limited to what ends up after all things, and how can we have an "increase" of government without an increase in governed? **That endless deathless Kingdom will be the case as far as the harvest of physical humanity is concerned. After the final sentencing event, there will be no more beings left alive capable of death. All of physical humanity will have been made Spirit OR will have been extinguished in the Lake of Fire. Now, as to the Kingdom expanding out into the Universe, with replicas of the Earth experiences, and future physical societies out on other planets, is a point of speculation that our genre has entertained. I kind of see that as a strong possibility.**

3. You wrote... " **Revelation 20:12 shows a time when 'the books are to be opened', but only "those who hear" will arise, (suggesting that in this resurrection not all will hear this call)** ." Where did you get that last material regarding "those who hear?" **It's in John 5. The phrase, "those who hear" suggests that not all WILL hear at this point. Compare John 5, verses 25 and 28. Verse 24 refers to the first resurrection condition, verse 25 refers to the second resurrection, verses 26-27 refers to the (evaluative) judgment period that will come then. But, verse 28 refers to the third resurrection, where**

ALL of the dead (bar none) will hear the call to arise! Verse 29 describes the sheep-from-the-goats separation process explained in greater detail in Matthew 25.

4. You wrote... ***"The final generation of the millennial age will then be 'cleansed' of all its resentful types by Satan's deception."***

I've been in dialog with Ty Baker on this topic and of Fred Coulter's beliefs about this time and exactly who these people are who are deceived. The questions I have are, how can the people throughout the millennium live and die (to be resurrected to eternal life???), and then to have only those in the end period after the millennium be "deceived" by Satan? Who are these people? ***In ANY society, there are always people resentful against God, who even despise God. (Look at our society today. There is all that knowledge available, but we see nothing but contempt from that quarter.) The millennial generation will have some of these types also, astounding as that seems. When Satan is released back into that society, the last living generation of the millennium will have such among them. When Satan appears, they will expose themselves (come out of their resentment closets) by joining forces with him. It is these, in the last living generation, who must be removed, so that they don't infect the soon-to-be-raised 'second resurrection' peoples with their attitudes. Those soon-to-be raised will have already experienced Satan's attitude when they lived back in this present age. To have a clean chance to repent, absent of that influence, the end-time millennial peoples will need to be cleansed of that element. That's the important purpose Satan provides God's Plan! Keep in mind, the last generation of the millennium will live on into the second resurrection period, where they will complete their lifetimes and conversion opportunity along with the second resurrected.***

Why are they singled out for this deception? ***They single themselves out, by their failure to become converted when they had all that time to do so. Similar attitudes found within earlier generations will have died with them, so they don't pose any potential contamination to the soon-to-be raised.*** How can there be as many as the sands of the sea unless it includes the whole of humanity seemingly most who are "deceived" by Satan again. ***The millennial population will be VAST! A small percentage of that could easily yield a large number.*** How can being deceived equal willful, knowing behavior? Why did the previous 1000 years' worth of humanity escape such testing? ***BOTH the millennial age and the post-millennial age will be provided opportunity for people to become converted without Satan's present influence.*** Could those throughout the millennium live till its end and then ALL of them are tested (or an example?) by allowing Satan to deceive them? ***No, I expect it'll involve only those living in that final generation. Those of previous generations with similar resentful sentiments will have gone to their graves, posing no threat of attitude-contamination upon those soon-to-be raised.*** Notice it states that they are consumed by fire from God, NOT thrown into the lake of fire. ***Yes, this ends their physical lives, but is not the 'second death' just yet. It's an experience similar to those in modern warfare killed by overwhelming 'firepower'. For these, it's their 'first death', after which they'll again stand for 'judgment' (sentencing). These are not people who have died before. They will face the justice of the 'second death' at that time.*** This is shortly before the second resurrection, so will these "multitude" of people be resurrected in this second resurrection time? ***NO! Their fate is sealed. They sleep on to await sentencing in the third resurrection. They already will have had their opportunity period, having grown up in the latter years of the millennial age.*** If someone is deceived, by Satan, why is that any different than people deceived today... deceived is deceived. It would seem to me that someone who is NOT deceived and yet rebels is guilty, not one who is deceived and doesn't realize or understand it. ***This period of deception is different in that they all had opportunity to know God personally and directly, they would have grown up all their lives interacting with Him and His co-ruling Spirit-born saints. Their excuse factor is night-and-day different from people living in this age!***

5. You wrote... "Some die converted, some die unconverted. Also, just as now." I have a hard time imagining that there would be many unconverted in this millennial age. **I agree.** Yes, perhaps some very few, but with the Saints working with Christ and the Father all this time, how could they turn from not only the obvious, but the examples I'm sure we will have as record from the pre-millennial age for them to compare with. They, of course, have no one to deceive them at this time (which would give them an excuse) and what would turn them from God? **This brings us into another 'speculative area'. I see the Laodicean Church Era extending into the millennium. In the message to Laodicea, there is absolutely no mention of persecution or deception. We have assumed-in something like that in the 'gold tried in fire' passage, but IF Laodicea is ended with the second coming, where is the extreme persecutions, where is the massively intense deceptions that we know dominate societies in this age? In the millennium, the most dangerous spiritual condition will be personal lethargy, aka 'lukewarmness'. People will tend to 'float along with the crowd'. Though a relatively small number, I can see people not really serious about becoming converted in the millennium. Don't we have those types even now? AND, the standards will be much higher than than now, with the knowledge of the Lord being so prevalent.**

Surely our fruits will not be so seemingly pathetic in losing such a "multitude" of deceived people...

Richard, (reader comments continuing)

RT replies in bold italic.

Still working through your "Beyond Armageddon" booklet. A lot of good points are made... thought provoking.

I wanted to comment on the 144,000 of Rev 7 and 14... I just started that chapter in your booklet, but wanted to give this perspective before I read yours... which might be the same for all I know.

There are two completely different groups of 144,000. Rev. 7 are physical humans which appear to have been converted toward the end, likely due to the two witnesses preaching. These are NOT the 144,000 of Rev 14 for several reasons. **I've heard this 'two groups' position. The late Lon Lacey of Albuquerque advocated something along that line of thinking. Can't say it makes sense to me. I am more inclined to see the 144,000 as one-and-the-same group. The two accounts are of the same people, but from a different vantage point. In chapter 7, they are looking forward toward the future, whereas in chapter 14, they're retrospectively considered as having been made spirit in the very recent past. Chapter 14 identifies them clearly as 'the firstfruits', which is a harvest (already accomplished which we are able to easily identify.) I see the firstfruits as the result of the first harvest / the first resurrection.**

1. They are "sealed" for protection from the last plagues. This "sealing" can't be receiving the Holy Spirit, as the church has long since been "sealed" with that before that time. **Sealed with God's Holy Spirit is one thing, but 'sealed' for protection against lethal persecution is another. We have many throughout time who have been so sealed, (by that being converted) but who are presently deceased, and exempt from a need for protection. This would suggest they comprise the living generation in the end-time.**

2. These are 144,000 from all 12 tribes of Israel. They cannot be "the" church, as the modern age church of God is comprised of not just Israelites, but many other nations and groups of non-Israelite origin as the NT church age proves. **Of course, for whatever reason, these are singled out for identification, leaving us with the obvious question. What of the other ethnicities? Are we seeing a group singled-out who are ethnic Israelites, with 12,000 being assigned to serve each of the 12 tribes, governing under each of the 12 apostles? (Mt. 19:28) By the fact that the 12 apostles did not come from each of the 12 tribes, but ethnically were of only 2 or 3 tribes, suggests that people will be assigned TO a tribe that may not have been their tribe of origin. Many of our peoples are of Israelite descent without them being aware of the fact. What 'firstfruits' there are of other ethnicities is not addressed in this**

passage, for reasons known but to God. The 144,000 (in my humble opinion) are the higher echelon ruling class in God's model nation. (Just as the second resurrection in Ezekiel 37 deals with only the Houses of Israel, even though many others will be included in the second resurrection.) They are singled-out for illustration purposes. I have some personal reservations with believing that they comprise the entirety of the 'firstfruits harvest'. We aren't given a specific number of how many will altogether be in the firstfruits harvest (aka the first resurrection).

We know that Satan returns from attempting to kill the Church members taken to a place of refuge from Satan's influence and attacks, and makes war against them, the "remnant." *(Those left un-protected).* These 'remnants' might also play a part in the conversion of these 144,000, through their deaths, and example during the last 3.5 years. It appears to me, at this point anyway, that the Rev 7 Israelite group are protected from the last plagues, and will survive alive into the millennium where they are likely baptized (by the saints) and become leaders with the saints to usher in the millennium. *I somewhat agree, but to be the leaders that I see them as being, their conversion must have deeper roots than just a 'late-hour' last-minute conversion. Their being sealed in protection in advance of the Tribulation suggests they NEED such protection, that to me suggests they serve in a more exposed, high-risk capacity in the end-times. (Something like we read of in Daniel 11:33) NOT being in a 'place of safety' where Satan can't get to them would leave them 'out there', exposed to potential harm. We know that there will be many who are martyred in this same time-frame, and they are commended highly, and rewarded highly for their faithfulness. (Re.6:9-11) We have tended to regard these martyrs as 'inferior' in the past, but they are commended highly, as were their first century martyred counterparts, and are highly placed in the reward category in the Kingdom. (Re. 20:4) Let's ask an 'aside' question. Does their sealing suggest they won't / can't be killed, OR does it reveal that their conversion and assignment to the first resurrection is absolutely secure irrespective of what may happen to them as a result of their witness?*

[Rev 14: This chapter is SPECIAL. Read my booklet chapter on Revelation 14 for that unique and revealing message. This is the "Harvest chapter", where ALL of the harvests of humanity are laid out in succession. The first half of the chapter time-setting is between the first resurrection and the onset of the millennium. The latter half of the chapter overlays upon the sheep-from-the-goats event.]

Rev 14:1 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. (already sealed) *(Comment: AND, in this scene, already raised to stand with Christ. The first resurrection is PAST at that point in time.)* 2. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. 3. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. Rev 14:4 "They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb." (NIV) *EXACTLY: These are the 'firstfruits harvest' the most noteworthy result of the first resurrection. The subsequent harvest (occurring well after the 1000 years) is described under the 'white cloud / grapes of wrath' event in verses 14 to 16. These 144,000 already have God's name written on their foreheads, and were "redeemed from the earth," and are clearly called the firstfruits, suggesting to me that the entire church, both old and new, will consist of only 144,000 members as the bride of Christ... as astounding as that may seem. I can't disagree. It is startling and sobering to accept that the first harvest (the first resurrection) is such a small number, but I can accept, and have long considered, that possibility.*

Now, I'll proceed through to learn what you believe...

Jeff M.