



Anticipating the Conclusion
of the
Church on Earth:
Are We There Yet?!

Scripture Reading:

John 14:1-6

Acts 1:1-11

INTRODUCTION

Two illustrations of traveling:

Enroute to my grandparent's house as young boy:

"Are we there yet?"

The anticipation of my young daughters of their birthday:

"Is today my birthday?"

The entire Body of Christ the Church, has been anticipating the conclusion of its sojourn on Earth for almost 2000 years and counting

INTRODUCTION

God has not revealed the exact length of our journey here, but He has revealed His purposes that He determined to accomplish to and through the Church, culminating with the Rapture

How much longer?

What does God still need to accomplish with the Church?

GOD'S PLAN FOR A HEAVENLY PLACE FOR THE CHURCH

(John 14:1-3)

Christ's need to leave – to prepare a place for believers

The New Jerusalem – Heb 12:22-23

It's grandeur, cf I Jn 2:2-3

Christ's promise to return, cf I Jn 4:2-3

Christ's promise to receive His own

GOD'S INTERMEDIATE PLAN FOR THE EARTHLY PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH (Acts 1:4-8)

To wait for the promise of the Spirit – vs 4-5

Presumed establishment of the promised Kingdom to Israel (“at this time?”) – vs 6-7

To be a local world-wide witness of Christ – vs 8
cf Matt 28:19-20

GOD'S PLAN FOR AN ELECT PEOPLE

Salvation provided for all mankind

Jn 1:29, I Tim 2:4, I Jn 2:1

No one desires God's provision of salvation

Rom 2:11-12

Despite this, God chooses some

“Elect”, “to choose” – 7x in NT, cf I Cor 1:27-28

“Election”, “chosen” – 18x in NT, cf II Tim 2:20

GOD'S PLAN FOR AN ELECT PEOPLE

(continued)

The Father' giving of these to the Son

Jn 6:37

God's purpose in waiting to send His Son again

II Pet 3:8-9 = "longsuffering" to us believers, "not determining certain ones should perish, BUT that all (the "certain ones") should come to repentance"



CONCLUSION

Are we there yet?

How much longer?

The length and difficulties of our journey Home can at times be discouraging

But God's promised grace is able to sustain us – individually, and the Church collectively, until the Rapture