



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

Scripture Reading:

Acts 15:13-19

Romans 11:25-36

II Peter 3:1-9

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

To what extent was this witness to be carried out? 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's giving of these "elect" to the Son - Jn 6:37

The taking out of the nations (Gentiles) a "people for his name" – Acts 15:14, cf Rom 11:25

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?!

For 2000 years, the saving gospel concerning Jesus Christ has first reached around the Mediterranean region, and over the continuing centuries reach to nearly every region of the entire planet.

-Expectation of James (Acts 15:14) has been far exceeded

-The promised-ones, from the Father to the Son, continue to be fulfilled – Jn 6:37

“Keep on keeping on” while anticipating our soon arrival at the Rapture

-Individually, as our short span of life here on Earth is “but a vapor” James 4:4

-Collectively, as the Body of Christ is nearly completion

We are almost Home!