

Melva's Corner

COMIN' FOR TO CARRY ME HOME!

May 23, 2005

Bible Text: Ezekiel 18:32.

Central Truth: When we think about the Rapture we think about the sweet lyric that says, "Comin* for to carry me home."

Are you a Gentile, a Jew, or a Christian? According to the Bible, you belong to one of these three groups, and your future depends on which one.

God has revealed remarkable things about His coming dealings with these three distinctly different segments of the world's population and we have tried to clarify these dealings as we understand them.

In prophecy it is clear that the unbelieving Gentiles will follow the coming Antichrist, the world ruler of the Tribulation. He will take them down the primrose path to destruction. His political, economic, and religious plans will lead only to Armageddon.

Further on down the prophetic road the Gentiles will face judgment and will fare no better than Satan himself, according to the Bible. The Lake of Fire awaits all unbelievers—fallen angels and unregenerate men alike.

If you are a Gentile, bound and determined to remain in disbelief, you will most certainly self-destruct.

The Jews will fare somewhat better, at least as a nation, if not as individuals. They are seen prophetically as a very special people, divinely chosen but presently separated from both their land and their Lord. They are just as lost, in this separated condition, as the Gentiles, but ultimately their double exile will end.

As we have seen, the Jews will yet return en masse to the land and to the Lord. God has promised that at the sound of the trumpet He will re-gather His chosen people from the ends of the earth and

return them to Israel. That won't be a happy time, since the Tribulation will be underway. But this "time of Jacob's trouble" is limited and has a divine purpose. The nation of Israel will be purified as if by fire, and the Jewish people will be ready when the Messiah returns.

From then on, Israel and Jerusalem will receive the greatest of honors as their glorious destiny is fulfilled. The Lord will reign a thousand years in Jerusalem and the Promised Land will become the head of a grand world of peaceful nations.

But being a Jew at this moment does not guarantee safe passage to the Millennium. The unsaved Jew, like the unsaved Gentile, must confront the Antichrist and his heinous seven-year rule. Many Jews will die, and they'll be dead men forever.

Christians, on the other hand, have nothing to fear from the future. Let's understand again what a Christian is—a Jew or Gentile who believes in Jesus Christ.

Christians constitute another chosen people of God, selected for a definite bright future. The Christians, or the church, are for the moment in exile like the Jews, but the trumpet will signal their complete and ultimate triumph. The church will go home to Heaven in the Rapture, be joined to the Lord in Marriage, and return to earth with Him to reign.

After the Millennial Kingdom the church will continue with the Lord into the mystical period of eternity, in which there will be instituted a new heaven, a new earth, and a New Jerusalem. The church will live on in glory and triumph with the Lord.

These scenarios are, in brief, what the Scriptures have to say about the three groups of people now present in the world.

To which group do you belong? More to the point, should you consider making a change?

There's actually only one group you can change to. Biblically, a Gentile cannot become a Jew and a Jew cannot become a Gentile. But anybody, just anybody, can become a Christian. In fact, God is utterly counting on it; He wants everybody to be in the church. **"I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth," says the Father in**

Ezekiel 18:32. "Wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." He says, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; Knock and it shall be opened unto you:" (Matthew 7:7)

God's attitude is very clear. But God's attitude counts less on this matter than your own attitude. He didn't make you as a puppet that He could control, but He gave you a free choice. You are free to go with Him or to go the other way. Your future really depends on you. Our personal view of the Rapture is really less technical than we have presented it here. We have tried to give every detail of each event. But most of the time we think about this whole beautiful event in much more simple terms.

When we think about the Rapture we think about the sweet lyric that says, "Comin for to carry me home."

You see, once you're on the other side of this faith question—once you're lined up with the Lord—it all becomes very simple and very comfortable. He's coming for us, and that's all there is to it. What will happen to the world is too bad, but our Lord is coming to carry us home and we're glad. He has paid our way, arranged the trip, and reserved our places.

He can do as much for you. Think about it. It will be the most important decision you'll ever make.

The Lord knows you very well. He made you, just as you are. You can talk to Him in your own words. And He'll certainly listen.

If heaven is the home you want, and if you want to go there in the Rapture, it's very easy. Just believe God's Word. Believe that His Son, the Messiah Jesus, died for your sins, as He said He did, and that He now lives to provide eternal life for you. There's no charge.

If your own words fail you, here are some that we can recommend:

Lord, I want to be ready for the Rapture. Come for me and carry me home! Let me be a part of Your Bride in Heaven. I believe that Your death and resurrection were for me, and I want You to be the head of my life from now on. I appreciate all You have done for me, and You will do for me in the future. Thanks.

Yes, it's just that simple, so why not simply do it now!

Memory Text:

"Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; Knock and it shall be opened unto you:" (Matthew 7:7)