



ZWTF

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2013 Zapping-you Whenever Thoughts Flow

“Earth time”; death of Christ; the great, white throne.

Some of these questions may be yours as well.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN EARTH TIME?

I've been reading some of your interpretations for a while now, and I enjoy the hope I've received. Do you believe in “earth time” at all? Is there a time line of events in the Bible? What is still to come?



I'm glad you've been enjoying my writings. My view of all this “end time” stuff is that it will all take place in God's *time*. Time is all we know, my friend. A person has

to smoke some hard drugs to deny our existence in time. It is vogue to “spiritualize” time away, but even the people doing this are growing older by the second, i.e., are subject to time.

It is obvious to real thinkers: we're not living in an eternal state. God speaks in earth time, does He not? He speaks of days, weeks, months, years—even hours and moments. If it's good enough for God, it ought to be good enough for us. (Or are we more spiritual than He?) Those wishing to erase earth time think too much in the abstract absolute. In my opinion, this makes them no practical good. God told us Messiah would come at a specified *time*. He did just that, to the minute. Same deal with the so-called end-time prophecies; they will come to pass. These eons of time (called the “eonian times”) will end—but not yet!

HOW DOES A PERSON OBTAIN EONIAN LIFE? WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM?

Hi. I've read much of your written material and listened to many of your shows and have come to accept what you have said about the Bible. My question to you is how does a person obtain eonian life? I have seen many places that say to repent and accept Jesus into your life and you shall be saved. What do I have to do/believe to get eonian life? Also, what are your thoughts on baptism? Is it necessary? Thanks.

Hi, and thanks for writing. You ask good questions.

Eonian life is a gift of God (Romans 6:23). Even your belief in Christ is graciously granted you (Romans 12:3; Philippians 1:29). That being said, in order to enjoy eonian life,

simply believe that Jesus died for your sins and was roused from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Now, it may seem like I have just contradicted myself by telling you that eonian life is a gift, then telling you you must do something to have it. Consider this carefully. If you have been designated beforehand for the place of a son (Ephesians 1:5), then you *will* believe. Romans 8:30 says, "Now whom He designates beforehand, these He calls also." If you have been designated beforehand, God will bring someone into your life to acquaint you with the evangel—namely, that Christ died for your sins—and you will believe it; in fact, you must believe it. This is God's responsibility, however, not yours. But you are the one acting out His intention.



Your belief is a result of you being chosen to believe. Contrast this with the Christian message that belief must come first. *They* teach that you're damned until you decide to believe. Scripture teaches that belief is a result of having been chosen beforehand to believe.

Obviously, this has nothing to do with free will. In fact, it opposes it.

One of the verses you may be referring to is the Philippian jailer to Paul and Silas in Acts 16: 30—"Masters, what must I be *doing* that I may be saved?" Now they say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household." In the Concordant Version, the verb "saved" has a superior vertical line in front of it, meaning it is the incomplete verb form. That is, it is ongoing action. It literally reads, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be *being* saved." Believing brings a person into a practical appreciation of his or her already-existing salvation. *We have been saved* (complete verb form) since the death of Christ for our sakes (see Ephesians 2:8). Believing brings us into a practical experience of our salvation, causing us to be *being* saved (incomplete verb form).

I hope this makes sense to you.

Water baptism is completely unessential. In fact, it's an insult to our completeness in Christ (Colossians 2:10). Wa-

ter baptism was only a shadow pointing toward the substance (Christ), much as the sacrificed lambs pointed to Him. When someone asks me when I was baptized, I say, "Two thousand years ago." This is the true baptism. "Or are you ignorant that whoever are baptized into Christ Jesus, are baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3).

When reality comes, we no longer need the shadow pre-figuring it.

Thanks for writing.

IF ALL ARE SAVED, WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE?

You will have to bear with me as I go here because there are many questions:

1) If all are saved, then why did Christ have to die like that? For just some to enjoy the 1,000 years?

All are saved *because* Christ died like that. The crucifixion of Christ was the event that procured the salvation. One may as well ask, "Since all the plants are already growing, why does God send the sun and rain?"

Christ died to save all humanity, thus, all humanity will eventually live forever with God, through the work of Christ. Not everyone, however, will live during the 1,000-year kingdom you speak of. This is an early part of God's glorious operations. That a select few get to rule and reign with Christ during this time is an added work of God's grace. It is still, of course, based on the cross.

2) If God is all-loving to save all, why wouldn't He save His Son?

God demonstrated His love for us by giving His Son up to death for our sakes. God showed at the cross how much He loved us, that He would not withhold His own Son from us, but would give Him as a ransom for all. I exhort you to look past the cross. After Jesus Christ rose from the dead, God gave Him a place at His right hand, above every sovereignty and power. Don't feel sorry for Christ. The glory eclipsed the suffering, as it will for us.

3) If God is omnipotent, then why would He have not changed the Bible to read the way Martin says it should? All-powerful, all knowing—Why allow it to be translated incorrectly? To confuse? To condemn those who refuse Him? To condemn them to hell? I don't believe hell is "eternal fire," just eternal separation from the One Who created them, which to me would be HELL—and wouldn't that be different—I mean if they don't want any part of Him—Why force them to spend time with the very One they denied?

God, in His omnipotence, purposely caused the translations to be warped. It is not His ultimate goal to confuse.

He did it so that a person would have to search for the truth, and not just accept out-of-hand the status quo teaching. Proverbs 25:1 says it is the glory of God to conceal a matter, the honor of kings to search it out. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12 says that God Himself will send an operation of deception in the end times, so that those may be judged who do not love truth. It's all about loving truth. Who loves truth enough to search it out? Who is content to just believe what their institutionalized teachers tell them? God did not merely *allow* the translations to be warped; He *caused* them to be so. It was an intentional act.

God does not condemn forever those who refuse Him. For one thing, no one can come to Him unless He draws them (John 6:44). It's up to God who believes and who doesn't. God will eventually give everyone belief, but for now He calls only a few. This message is consistent throughout Scripture.

Hell is not eternal separation for human beings from their Creator. This is your idea of it, but it is not that of Scripture. Take no offense, you just haven't heard truth yet,



and you need to hear it. There are three Greek words, all mistakenly translated “hell” in many of our common English versions: *Gebenna*, *tartarus*, and *hades*. What do these words mean? I can tell you exactly what they mean, and I do so in my book, *Martin Zender Goes To Hell*.

There was a time when you wanted no part of God. Same with me. We had all gone our own way. Scripture says, “not one is seeking out God” (Romans 3:11). So how does belief come? It is a gift of God (Philippians 1:29). You do not now realize it, but God coerced you to believe in Him. He did it so subtly that you didn't even notice it. “God parts to each the measure of faith”—Romans 12:3. Everyone is going to change their minds and hearts about

God—just as you did. God must become “all in all” (I Corinthians 15:28). And He will. But it won't feel forced. Rather, “every knee will bow, and every tongue acclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF
THE GREAT WHITE THRONE IF
GOD IS RECONCILED TO PEOPLE?

Dear Mr. Zender,

Thank you so very much for your response to my e-mail. Much like yourself, I diligently seek to know the truth regarding what God's position is regarding sin, judgment, and salvation. Unlike the many who say they will but don't, I will carefully examine the passages you cited, in addition to your responses, in light of the full context of the Scriptures.

I must admit that your response with regard to Revelation 14:10-11 is a paradox to me in light of your view in regard to salvation for all creation. The reason being is that, if Christ's sacrifice was for the sin of all the world, then apart from the devil, the beast, the false prophet, death, and hell—why would there be a need for the white throne judgment or such a thing as a second death, or even the mention of those who are counted as enemies of God in the Scriptures, if God has reconciled all of creation to Himself?

I'm not trying to spark a debate as much as I am trying to understand your view in light of some key passages from the Scriptures. It is my sincere hope that you enjoy answering these questions as much as I desire to know more. If anything, we can both be sharpened by this in some way. Please consider these verses:

Rev. 19:20—**And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

Rev. 20:10—**And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

Is it possible that eternal torment awaits only the devil, the beast, and the false prophet? Or is this another possible mistranslation?

Rev. 20:14—**And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**

Rev. 20:15—**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

These passages are confusing to me, if all creation is reconciled unto God.

Thanks so much for offering me a copy of your book. I am hoping it will help to shed some light on these issues. Blessings to you!

Hello, and thanks for the blessings; I'll take them.

The white throne judgment is beneficial to those being judged there. The salvation of all does not eliminate judgment; this is what people *assume* I teach. Those judged at the great white throne are, at that time, made aware of God's greatness and glory; God has graced you and me with that revelation now. It will happen to these people later.

Those whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life go into the second death. Why? It is simply not appointed to them to live during the last great eon; it's no more complicated than that. It doesn't mean they're not saved for eternity. They will be dead in the second death, where there is no sense of time. To the perception of those in the second death, the moment of death will be the moment of resurrection to immortality at the consummation, when the second death is abolished (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Again: The reconciliation of all does not eliminate judgment. Keep in mind that judgment is for the benefit of those judged; it does not satisfy some sick bent of God for retaliation.

The translation of Revelation 20:10 you have shared is a bad translation. In fact, it's terrible. I'm speaking of the

“Judgment is for the benefit of those judged; it does not satisfy some sick bent of God for retaliation.”

“forever and ever” part. It ignores not only the genitive case of the original Greek, but the fact that the word *aion* is pluralized. (The Greek reads: “*aionas ton aionon*,” which is “eons of the eons.” The *Concordant Literal New Testament* has: “for the eons of the eons.” This is part of two eons, not eternity. It measures the time of the torment of these three supernatural beings. Satan, the beast, and the false prophet must also be reconciled to God (Philippians 2:10-11; Colossians 1:20). This will assuredly occur at the end of the eons of the eons (1 Corinthians 15:21-28).

If the human beings who are cast into the lake of fire (which, for humanity, is called “the second death”—Revelation 20:14; for humanity, the second death is unconsciousness) do not eventually come out of the second death,

then I can understand your confusion about the reconciliation of all. But since the second death is not eternal (1 Corinthians 15:26), then I can no longer understand your confusion. Of course, you are now no longer confused.

I will ask the publisher to mail you a free copy of *Martin Zender Goes to Hell*.

Thanks for writing, and I know God will reward your search for truth.

Dear Martin: How am I supposed to work/live with people who I believe are on the edge of the abyss?

TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER.

Do I try to force my beliefs on them?

NO. SHARE YOUR BELIEFS TWICE (TITUS 3:10-11), IF YOU WISH. THEN LET IT GO. OR TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER.

Do I avoid them so as not to be contaminated?

HELPFUL WHEN POSSIBLE, AND ONLY WHEN CONSIDERING PROTRACTED PERIODS OF EXPOSURE. EVIL COMPANY DOES CORRUPT KIND CHARACTERS (1 CORINTHIANS 15:33).



Do I condemn them for rejecting God?

NO. IT'S ULTIMATELY NOT THEIR FAULT THAT THEY ARE REJECTING GOD. BUT YOU CAN STILL BE FRUSTRATED ABOUT IT, BECAUSE THAT'S HUMAN NATURE. EVEN JESUS WAS FRUSTRATED AT THE RESISTANCE OF ISRAEL THAT HE KNEW MUST OCCUR.

Do I love these people more than God loves them?

NO.



Do I take pride in being right?

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THIS TELLS ME YOU PROBABLY DON'T.

And another thing. Does believing in salvation make it true?

NO. IT'S ALREADY TRUE. BELIEVING IN IT MAKES IT OF PRACTICAL USE IN ONE'S LIFE.

Does unbelief make salvation untrue?

NO. PRESENT UNBELIEVERS ARE SAVED FOR ETERNITY, THEY JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET. IF GOD HAS APPOINTED THEM TO EONIAN LIFE, THEY WILL COME TO KNOW IT IN THIS LIFE. OTHERWISE, THEY HAVE NO PRACTICAL ENJOYMENT OF ANY OF THEIR ETERNAL TREASURE IN CHRIST. THEY GET THE TRUTH LATER AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE.

Is salvation relative to our belief?

THE *EXPERIENCE* OF SALVATION IS RELATIVE TO OUR BELIEF, YES. SALVATION ITSELF IS NOT.

Is Christianity just relative?

YES. I HAVE SEVERAL RELATIVES WHO ARE CHRISTIANS.

The physical world doesn't operate like that. If you jump off a cliff, you fall no matter what you believe.

UNLESS YOU'RE ON NEPTUNE. ■

Q

MARTIN, WHAT DOES "THE INDIGNATION OF GOD" IN JOHN 3:36 MEAN?

A

In the Concordant Version, John 3:36 reads: "He who is believing in the Son has life eonian, yet he who is stubborn as to the Son shall not be seeing life, but the indignation of God is remaining on him."

It seems at first glance that this passage undoes the truth of the salvation of all, but it doesn't. It is true that whoever is stubborn as to the Son shall not be seeing life, and that the indignation of God is remaining on him. But to use a parallel example, it is also true that whoever is stubborn as to exercise shall not be seeing good health, and that layers of fat are remaining on him. But all this changes as soon as the person starts exercising. In the Scriptural example, all of this is true as long as the person remains stubborn. When God removes the stubbornness, voila: life comes and the indignation of God melts away. Everyone was once stubborn. (Read Romans 11:32, "God locks up all together in stubbornness.") The purpose? Same verse: "So that He can have mercy on all." Before we were believers, none of us could see life. Faithless people shall not have eonian life. But as soon as God gives them faith, they enter into it.

"Shall not be seeing life" is not a permanent state.

In John 1:38, Jesus is in Bethany. His disciples asked Him, "Where art Thou remaining?" He is saying to them, "Come and see."



Modern-day Bethany. Where is Jesus?

And so, "They came, then, and perceived where He is *remaining*, and they remain with Him that day." Does the fact that Jesus was then *remaining* in Bethany require

Him to stay there forever? No, because verse 43 of the same chapter says that the next day Jesus went into Galilee.

The "ing" ending on verbs indicates the incomplete verb form; it's ongoing action that is true as long as it's happening, i.e., "I am writing." Six minutes from now, I may not be writing, I may be eating an avocado. Thus also with the "remaining" of John 3:36. The indignation of God remains until the moment it doesn't. ■