

Church leaders agree statement on return of Christ

After three days of intensive study, 75 clergy, ministers and teachers from various denominations agreed the following statement on the controversial subject of the End Times. The consultation, organised by Tony and Patricia Higton, took place at the High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. from December 6-9, 1994

The Statement

A. "A. We affirm

1. The glorious bodily return of Christ in power, for and with his saints.
2. The sure hope of the resurrection of the body and of eternal life for all who believe and trust in God the Father through Jesus Christ.
3. The prospect of a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness and wholeness.
4. The certainty of righteous divine judgment of both believers and unbelievers.
5. The ultimate defeat and judgment of Satan.

B. We believe that

1. There is an escalating fulfilment of the biblical signs of the end, including:
 - a. spiritual deception, about which believers must be on their guard, and
 - b. the preaching of the Gospel to the whole world.
2. The great majority of Jewish people will ultimately come to faith in the Messiah.
3. There will be an ultimate manifestation of the spirit of antichrist which will be defeated by Jesus at his return.
4. Jesus Christ is coming back soon but we don't know when.

C. Whereas many of us would wish to state here our belief that the return of the Jews to Israel is a sign of God's faithfulness according to Scripture, yet we all affirm that differences of opinion over the significance of the land of Israel should not divide those who long for the appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We would wish to include those who take different views on this subject in any attempt to reinstate the study of eschatology within the church.

D. We urge all Christians

1. To long, watch and pray for the return of Christ.
2. To recognize that eschatology is a vital context and incentive for growth in holiness and for evangelism."