


IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM JOIN 'EM THE ESCHATOLOGY OF RUSSELLISM IS A CONTAGION

This is a genuine **ABC** production  authored by *Bob Coffey* and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any manner for financial profit

THE JEHOVAH WITNESS DOCTRINE OF “A PARADISE EARTH”

The emperor's new clothes of "a renovated earth" was pedalled in my youth by a pair of kindly intentioned ladies who sought to sell my mother a book about "The new Paradise Earth". Irvine Robertson and Keith Brooks in their Moody broadsheet on *truth* write this old fetish up as follows...

"That which is redeemed or brought back is perfect human life with its rights and earthly prospects. The bible plainly shows **that 144,000 will share in heavenly glory while "the others" will enjoy the blessing of life down here on earth.** That which is redeemed or brought back is perfect human life with its rights and earthly prospects. The bible plainly shows that **144,000 will share in heavenly glory**, while the others will enjoy the blessings of life down here on earth. An unnumbered crowd of faithful persons do not expect to go to heaven. They have been promised everlasting life on earth **if they prove their faithfulness.** Armageddon survivors and the mass of humankind will find life here on earth amid paradise conditions".

VARIATION ON THIS THEME NOW ADOPTED BY MAINSTREAM CHRISTIANITY

"Renovated Earthism" is alarmingly proclaimed increasingly in evangelical circles in a manner highly reminiscent of the dogma of Jehovah Witness' & Christadelphian teaching. Here are some questions that Evangelicals do well to consider with utmost seriousness when espousing views hardly different from those of the sectaries.

QUESTION ONE

1. Do evangelicals believe we earn this eternal Paradise Earth? I hardly think so. Very well then, is it received by faith through being born again? I answer-only if it is in the gift of God and I think it is not by any serious reading of scripture!

QUESTION TWO

2. Do Evangelicals believe 144,000 will "go to heaven"? My answer would be-why restrict numbers of believers to any figure contrary to the teaching of Christ who said "In my Father's house are many rooms". And to deal with the second part of this comparison with the sectaries we should further ask "Do Evangelicals believe that all who are born again will stay here or come back here *from a bogus intermediate state*? My answer would be-never after a thousand years! What the participation of believers with Christ shall involve during the millennium for those who hold that tenet remains hidden!

QUESTION THREE

3. Do Evangelicals share the fundamental of a renewed planet in the same solar system established on the same terra firma? So far as I know they have not developed a doctrine of a soil-less earth. Are we then to presume that the new paradise provides similar engagement for the working man & woman? Does this earth have its seas removed? Is the sun removed? Does this earth move on its axis? Is the axis still off centre or does it revert to the true North? The only answer I can envisage is that the "renovation" idea has to reply that the "New heaven and earth" is more *or less* the same. That is why I commend study of the Hebrew of Chapters 65 & 66 in Isaiah. It becomes cogent to source the changes that will occur when Christ appears and whether there is yet another state in the Lords's plan after Christ's return(*the day of the Lord*) to rule this earth for a time "**docking**" with this earth after which we reach a point where that era ends to be superseded by *the day of God* when the New Jerusalem and the New Heaven and earth **eternally united**. In my exploration of scripture through the prophets I have found no such

theory to fit scripture with its millennial kingdom and subsequent eternal new heaven and earth.

QUESTION FOUR

4. Do Evangelicals still hold out any prospects of "heaven" to the bereaved?? I very much doubt if a ***"continuing but eternalised" earth fits what for the Christian ages*** has been taught and what people believe is orthodox doctrine. To tell the church that there is "the intermediate state" (which cannot be Sheol of the just for from there Christ raised the "firstfruits" and equally cannot be the glorious heavenly Paradise for there even the dying thief resides)-and maintaining that we come back from there to earth would be ***new teaching*** and it would not have the ring of truth simply because coming back from heaven is not the way the great phalanx of bible believing Christians have ever imagined ***God has designed and displayed their prospects in scripture.*** The obvious reaction is that like the sectaries new Evangelical thinkers have jettisoned the "sublime and heavenly" for the "here forevermore" and live content.

QUESTION FIVE

5. IS THERE AMONG fundamentalist Evangelicals THOSE who, unlike the embarrassed Jehovah Witnesses display total satisfaction with "this earth for eternity??/?" "This earth" as a substitute for the "eternal state" as taught in scripture. The so-called ***Jehovah's Witnesses were acutely aware of the "second-class" option of "the Paradise Earth"*** but have largely overcome the problem by talking up and writing up its merits. Somewhere soon along the line of digesting this green grass on the other side of orthodoxy there must be an electric fence to bring this sort of shallow thinking up with a start.

Bob Coffey

AramaicBibleCompanion Classics