

2 8

imagine myself every time saying, "Well, now there are some people who think the rapture is the first event and there are some people who think that it isn't the first event, but whether it is the first event or not we must be ready. I don't see why there should be much reason to get terrifically excited about it.

Mr. Heaney? (Student) Mr. Heaney: I'd like to ask Mr. Horner a question. The passage in Matthew where it says, "Two shall be taken and one shall be left, and one shall be taken and one shall be in a field/and another left," it seems to me a peaceful period and no indication of any tribulation, and that occurs, and it just seems, from one taken and the other left, the impression I got from the reading is that that person is left to stay for awhile. Now according to his view they are not left to stay for awhile but the Lord immediately comes back, in a short interval, and destroys the wicked. You don't get that picture at all. Well, now that is getting us off into another chapter. Let's take that next time. Next Monday. One week from today, let's look at Matthew 24 and let's ask this question. "Is Matthew 24 strictly chronological? Does the chapter go straight through chronologically from beginning to end?" Let's ask that question. The question let's ask, let's say, "Supposing that you take the view that this exhortation to Christian living applies to the whole Christian history, not just the last five-hundredths of it." If you take that interpretation, can you think of one or more interpretations of various phrases in Matthew 24 that are reasonable interpretations that fit with it? On the other hand, if you think Matthew 24 excludes that, well, we've already seen, then you have to say these eight passages are only operative for the last five-hundredths or less of Christian history. So I think that before we say Matthew 24 proves that these eight passages are all operative for such a small interval, we should say, "Does Matthew 24 have to be interpreted in such a way as to contradict these other passages? Or can it be reasonably interpreted a different way? take Scripture together and see how it fits together. Well, let's do that next time then.