

R 9

involved in it, that you might say plus 5, if you want for that, but certainly you can say a plus 10 that God is going to bring with Jesus when He brings Jesus to this earth, He is going to bring with Him to this earth those who have believed. Well, now He is to bring with Him somewhere. Certainly it would be a tenth in this verse. Bring with Him to this earth I think

Don't you think? (Student) Yes. There is a question. Does this verse not speak of bodies at all? Does it mean that God will bring with Jesus the disembodied spirits of those who sleep with Him and these disembodied spirits will come all the way with Him. As to the travel of spirits and where they are in space, there is a metaphysical question that we don't know very much about. Alford in his commentary says that he very definitely rejects the idea that this means the bringing of disembodied spirits but I am not sure just how strong his grounds are for it. I would certainly think it is a possible interpretation of it but I think it is equally possible that it means that when He comes to this earth He brings with Him ^{these} individuals whether as disembodied spirits or ^{as} embodied spirits, that when they come, we are told not to sorrow because they will come. Mr. ---? (Student) There is, of course, a strong movement which call themselves the soul-sleepers which believe that souls sleep during the intermediate period between death and the coming of Christ. I believe that most orthodox teachers reject such a view and consider that souls are conscious, and that they are consciously in the presence of Christ immediately after death and according to the view which is usually accepted by orthodox teachers we would not speak of the soul as sleeping. It would either be the body is sleeping or it would be that sleep is a figure for the fact that the soul is separated from the body. (Student) I think it is a reasonable suggestion but not to be dogmatic about it. The fact is, of course, that this particular verse gives us a definite idea. Do not sorrow like people that have no hope because God is going to bring these. Well, what is God going to bring? Simply the souls? Is He going to bring bodies? Is He going to bring them the whole trip He makes, with Him, in company with