

R 7

sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. Well, here, surely, is the resurrection. I think very few of you will disagree that verse 19 is the resurrection. I have a book here, THE APPROACHING ADVENT OF CHRIST, by Alexander Reese, in which he spends a lot of time on this passage insisting that this is a literal resurrection and it is utterly wrong to interpret it as figuratively. It is a literal resurrection and he says just before you have the beginning of the Kingdom of Christ and of the establishing of His Kingdom on earth, you have the great tribulation; you have all these events, and so the resurrection here--he says where the resurrection is, there is the rapture, and the resurrection here must come at the end of all this because verse 19 is after all these other events. Well, now I don't feel that these other events must precede. It seems to me more to be a picture of the general course of the age. There is tribulation, there is persecution, there is difficulty, but the thing it ends with isn't persecusation. It is . It is the church in days of apostasy not able to carry out its desires to win the whole world to the gospel, and so it is frustration and then we have the resurrection, verse 19, and then immediately then immediately, shall we say appear with Christ upon the earth and put an end to all that is evil, destroy the anti-christ and set up the Kingdom. Instead of that He says, Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers. They're raised from the dead, they've had their gathering to Christ, and yet he says, "Come, enter into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thhself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. Now that seems mighty close to a specific description of a program, doesn't it, in which you have the Rapture of the Church, you have the resurrection, and then instead of immediately having victory, there is a further period of suffering, but a period in which the Church is not here,