

EXCERPTS FROM

THE LINK

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1972 - With what amazing rapidity the years flash past. 1971 is now gone, its history, whether it concerns nations, churches, or individuals, is now written, and these facts can never be erased, what has been done, or left undone must stand, for past days cannot be recalled.

What changes too the passing years bring - again in every sphere, great men appear upon the world's stage, then they are put down, or pass off the scene and others take their place, and so the world keeps turning.

In the church, our hearts are often sad as we see MEN OF GOD being called home, or put out of action because of sickness and age; this calls for younger men and women to step forward and prepare themselves to fill the ranks, that the armies of Christ be not depleted. Further down the scale again, children are being born, and are growing up, so the constant stream of the coming and going of the human race continues, every year bringing its inevitable differences.

This is the passage of TIME we say, and it is, but is it always to

continue with the same almost monotonous regularity? NAY! For written over the world and all its doings is ONE WORD, "UNTIL" (Matt. 24 v 38). This speaks of judgement and is not the world ripe for it? Can God in His righteousness forbear much longer? Are not the signs overwhelming which indicate that the hour is almost upon us? Christ rejecting humanity will soon be engulfed in suffering which words can scarcely describe.

The plain fact is that the Day of Grace - The Church Age, is about to end, and the Day of Vengeance of our God looms dark ahead of this world.

How does this "UNTIL", this limit of time, which God has placed on this planet affect us as Christians? What does the personal return of Christ really mean to us? Is it just a soothing balm to the sores of life? A happy escape route? It should be a dynamic force, it should fire us with passion, and change us from timid Christians into daring prophets.

The Second Advent is no milk and water doctrine. It is not the hope of wishful thinkers, or the writings of irresponsible fanatics but "THE WORD

OF THE ETERNAL GOD", and should re-orientate the whole of our life and thinking. As we Christians of North Road Chapel enter upon 1972, may we do so conscious of the fact that hanging over our witness are the words - "UNTIL HE COME". This will put impetus and determination into our efforts - yes and transform our very being.

May God help us to "REDEEM THE TIME", for the days are certainly evil.

W.H.M.

Perhaps This Year

Perhaps this year the Lord will come,
O heart of mine rejoice!
For soon the list'ning skies now dumb,
Will hear the Bridegroom's voice.

And should it really be this year,
Then on no distant day -
The Lord of Glory will appear,
To take His Bride away.

This year! Perhaps, this very day,
The dead in Christ will rise,
And we who for His coming pray,
Will join them in the skies.

"Caught up" to meet Him in the air,
From darkness into light -
His glory and His name to share,
Perhaps this very night.

Lo in the morning when the sun
Begins his splendid reign,
I'll say, "Before this day is done
The Lord may come again".

Each evening when the light grows dim,
I will expect to hear
The trump of God that heralds Him
Whose coming draweth near.

But whether it be soon or late,
Lord Jesus, give me grace
With joyful confidence to wait
To see Thee face to face.