

Will Jesus Really Come Again?

Reeves-Neubauer Debate on the AD 70 Doctrine

Will Jesus Really Come Again?: Reeves Neubauer Debate on the AD 70 Doctrine (Athens, AL: Truth Publications, Inc., 2021)

In the summer of 2020, in the midst of the turmoil over Covid-19 and our country's social and political unrest, the Olsen Park church of Christ, in Amarillo, Texas hosted a debate on issue known as realized eschatology, full-preterism, or the AD 70 Doctrine. For four nights, July 20, 21, 23, and 24, evangelist Bruce Reeves debated full-preterist Holger Neubauer on the question, "Will Jesus Really Come Again?" Reeves devoted much of his focus to 1 Corinthians 15, demonstrating from the context how it clearly points to a literal and visible return of Jesus in connection with a bodily resurrection of all souls who have ever lived. Neubauer was poorly prepared to answer Reeves and assumed that he believed and argued points he never stated. Reeves was calm in his approach and clear in his argumentation. Neubauer came with a defensive angry tone that mocked the idea of Jesus visibly returning as a "five-foot two Jewish man with holes in His hands!" Reeves's restrained but direct demeanor eventually calmed Neubauer's tone, but he never fully answered the points Reeves made. Neubauer argued that throughout 1 Corinthians 15 the term "body" always refers to the collective and that the focus throughout the chapter concerns spiritual death. In addressing questions Reeves posed throughout the debate Neubauer was forced to admit that he does not believe that hell is conscious eternal torment but the absolute annihilation of the soul—a view than echoes the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses (among whom Neubauer was first raised).

While the videos of the debate are available online (www.olsenpark.com), I was honored to act as brother Reeves's moderator and in 2021 performed the careful work of creating a verbatim transcript of this debate for publication. Many of the charts used in the debate were included and a method of transcription was followed that added proper citation for quotes but preserved (and identified) misquotes or misstatements. This makes the book a valuable resource for the study of this unusual and confusing doctrine that will be a useful supplement to the library of any student of Scripture.

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