

R 5

and we are there behind Him in it. We have simply gone up and immediately joined Him and come right down. It would suggest that there is something of a stage of a stop of an interval in between before the actual coming to this earth to put an end to the tribulation. It would seem to me to suggest that rather strongly. Mr. Heaney? (Student) Of course, compared to the total number those would be comparatively few, and I don't think we have to say that God is going to do everything at one particular instant. You notice that Enoch was raptured long ahead of the rest, and Elijah was raptured long ahead of the rest, and so there is no reason why if God deals in general with mankind or with great classes at one particular time, there is no reason why He shouldn't deal with individuals or small groups of individuals under particular other circumstances. There is no reason because he shows a great event that it has to mean that absolutely everything of that type was included in it, but it would suggest that the great bulk of it would. Yes? (Student) V. 25--the judgment there is an interesting problem which is quite unique in some ways. He says there are nations gathered before Him. Does that mean as nations or simply large groups of people from many nations? Then he seems to say, judgment entered into the kingdom and be cast out on the basis of what you have done to one of the least of these, my brethren. Is Matthew 25, is it a specific picture of the great judgment? Is it a picture of a special judgment dealing with living nations at His coming? Is it the picture which is a rather figurative picture of the general division of mankind in which different elements of it would take place literally at different times but which wouldn't all occur at one time. There are these possibilities and that's a big question. From any viewpoint, Matthew 25 is a thing which I think we'd better not go into at great length because there are a number of ways in which it is much more complex than some other passages that I think we'd better deal with first. I don't think it is the