



WHEN WILL THE WORLD END?



GOSPEL



ANSWERS

BUT OF THAT DAY AND HOUR NO ONE KNOWS, NEITHER THE ANGELS OF HEAVEN, NOR THE SON, BUT THE FATHER ALONE. THEREFORE, STAY AWAKE! FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW ON WHICH DAY YOUR LORD WILL COME. SO TOO, YOU ALSO MUST BE PREPARED, FOR AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT, THE SON OF MAN WILL COME

- MATTHEW 24: 36-51

SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

ST STEPHEN

St Stephen was one of the first martyrs in the Church and he had an important role to play with the first Christians as a deacon. He did not live his life in fear of death or the end of the world. Instead, he lived his life faithful to God each day and trying to help others get to know him.



RUTH PAKALUK

Ruth Pakaluk is an example of someone who lived her life to the fullest and giving the best of her self in school, in her personal life and in regards to her faith. She lived before God each day which helped her to be prepared to face him at the end of her life.



TEAM DISCUSSION

After reading over the YOUCAT numbers on the following pages, how do you think the Youth Catechism answers the question of the week? Were there any words or ideas that you did not fully understand that you would like to understand better?

ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:



YOUCAT NUMBERS FOR THIS WEEK



PAROUSIA

(GREEK =
PERSONAL
PRESENCE):

Christ's second coming at the Last Judgment.

#111 WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE WHEN THE WORLD COMES TO AN END? When the world comes to an end, Christ comes—for all to see. The dramatic upheavals (Lk 18:8; Mt 24:3-14) that are foretold in Sacred Scripture—the wickedness that will be plainly manifest, the trials and persecutions that will put the faith of many to the test—these are only the dark side of the new reality: God's definitive victory over evil will be visible. God's glory, truth, and justice will stand out brilliantly. With Christ's coming there will be "a new heaven and a new earth". "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away" (Rev 21:4).

#164 HOW WILL THE WORLD COME TO AN END? At the end of time, God will create a new heaven and a new earth. Evil will no longer have any power or attractiveness. The redeemed will stand face to face with God—as his friends. Their yearning for peace and justice will be fulfilled. To behold God will be their blessedness. The Triune God will dwell among them and wipe away every tear from their eyes; there will be no more death, sorrow, lamentation, or trouble.

#112 WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE WHEN CHRIST JUDGES US AND THE WHOLE WORLD?

Even Christ cannot help someone who does not want to know anything about love; such a person judges himself. Because Jesus Christ is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6), he will show what is of lasting value in God's sight and what is not. Held up to the standard of his life, the full truth about all people, things, thoughts, and events will come to light.

JUDGMENT The so-called particular or personal judgment occurs at the death of the individual. The Last or General Judgment occurs on the Last Day, at the end of the world, when the Lord comes again.

#163 WHAT IS THE LAST JUDGMENT? The Last Judgment will take place at the end of the world, at the second coming of Christ. "All who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment" (Jn 5:29). When Christ comes again in glory, his full splendor will shine upon us. The truth will come plainly to light: our thoughts, our deeds, our relationship to God and to other men—nothing will remain hidden. We will recognize the ultimate meaning of creation, comprehend God's marvelous ways for the sake of our salvation, and finally receive also an answer to the question of why evil can be so powerful if God is in fact the Almighty. The Last Judgment is also our day in court. Here it is decided whether we will rise to eternal life or be separated from God forever. Toward those who have chosen life, God will act creatively once again. In a "new body" (see 2 Cor 5) they will live forever in God's glory and praise him with body and soul.



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE



#155 HOW DOES CHRIST HELP US AT OUR DEATH, IF WE TRUST IN HIM?

Christ comes to meet us and leads us into eternal life. "Not death, but God will take me" (St. Thérèse of Lisieux). In view of Jesus' suffering and death, death itself can become easier. In an act of trust and love for the Father, we can say Yes, as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane. Such an attitude is called "spiritual sacrifice": the dying person unites himself with Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. Someone who dies this way, trusting in God and at peace with men, and thus without serious sin, is on the way to communion with the risen Christ. Our dying makes us fall no farther than into his hands. A person who dies does not travel to nowhere but rather goes home into the love of God, who created him.

#152 WHY DO WE BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD? We believe in the resurrection of the dead because Christ rose from the dead, lives forever, and causes us to share in this eternal life. When someone dies, his body is buried or cremated. Nevertheless, we believe that there is a life after death for that person. In his Resurrection, Jesus showed that he is Lord over death; his word is trustworthy: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (Jn 11:25b).

#153 WHY DO WE BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE "BODY"? In Jesus Christ, God himself took on "flesh" (Incarnation) in order to redeem mankind. The biblical word "flesh" characterizes man in his weakness and mortality. Nevertheless, God does not regard human flesh as something inferior. God does not redeem man's spirit only; he redeems him entirely, body and soul. God created us with a body (flesh) and a soul. At the end of the world he does not drop the "flesh" like an old toy. On the "Last Day" he will remake all creation and raise us up in the flesh—this means that we will be transformed but still experience ourselves in our element. For Jesus, too, being in the flesh was not just a phase. When the risen Lord showed himself, the disciples saw the wounds on his body.

#154 WHAT HAPPENS TO US WHEN WE DIE? In death body and soul are separated. The body decays, while the soul goes to meet God and waits to be reunited with its risen body on the Last Day. How the resurrection will take place is a mystery. An image can help us to accept it: When we look at a tulip bulb we cannot tell into what a marvelously beautiful flower it will develop in the dark earth. Similarly, we know nothing about the future appearance of our new body. Paul is nevertheless certain: "It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory" (1 Cor 15:43a).



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE

#156 WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE? Eternal life begins with Baptism. It continues through death and will have no end. Even when we are simply in love, we want this state of affairs to last forever. "God is love", says the First Letter of John (1 Jn 4:16). "Love", says the First Letter to the Corinthians, "never ends" (1 Cor 13:8). God is eternal because he is love; and love is everlasting because it is divine. If we are in love, we enter into God's endless presence.

#157 WILL WE BE BROUGHT TO JUDGMENT AFTER DEATH? The so-called particular or personal judgment occurs at the moment of death of the individual. The general judgment, which is also called the Last Judgment, occurs on the Last Day, at the end of the world, when the Lord comes again. In dying every man arrives at the moment of truth. Now it is no longer possible to repress or conceal anything; nothing more can be changed. God sees us as we are. We come before his tribunal, where all is made right, for if we are to be in God's holy presence at all, we must be "right" with him—as right as God wanted us to be when he created us. Perhaps we will still have to undergo a process of purification, or maybe we will be able to fall into God's arms immediately. But perhaps we will be so full of wickedness, hatred, and denial of everything that we will turn our face away from love forever, away from God. A life without love, however, is nothing but hell.

#278 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A CHRISTIAN FUNERAL? A Christian funeral is a service performed by the Christian community for the benefit of its dead. It expresses the sorrow of the survivors, yet it always has a Paschal character. Ultimately, we die in Christ so as to celebrate with him the feast of the Resurrection.

#393 HOW DO CHRISTIANS ASSIST SOMEONE WHO IS DYING? Christians do not leave a dying person alone. They help him so that he can die in faith-filled trust, in dignity and peace. They pray with him and take care that the sacraments are administered to him at the right time.

#394 HOW DO CHRISTIANS TREAT THE CORPSE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS DIED? Christians treat the corpse of a dead person respectfully and lovingly, realizing that God has called him to the resurrection of the dead. It is a traditional part of Christian funeral customs for the remains of a dead person to be buried in a dignified manner in the earth and for the grave to be decorated and tended. Today the Church also accepts other funeral arrangements (for instance, cremation), as long as they are not interpreted in a way contrary to the belief in the resurrection of the dead.

