

The Time is at Hand, Volume 2, Chapter 5 **Our Lord's Return – Its Object, The Restitution of All Things**

April 14, 2026, Br. Aaron Kuehmichel

Overall Outline of this Series –

- Volume 1 Chapter 6, p.89 - "Our Lord's Return - Object, The Restitution of All Things."
- **Volume 2 Chapter 5 - "The Manner of Our Lord's Return and Appearing."**
- Volume 4 Chapter 12 - "Our Lord's Great Prophecy Mt. 24; Mk 13; Lk 21:5-36; 17:20-37."
- Volume 4 Chapter 13 - The Establishment of the Kingdom, and How It Will Manifest Itself"
- Volume 4 Chapter 14 - "Jehovah's Footstool Made Glorious."

B 138: "Our King will thus reveal himself gradually..."

49. Ultimately "every eye shall see [*horao*--discern] him." (Rev. 1:7) How do we explain an invisible presence when this text seems to say the opposite?
50. "...he cometh with clouds;" What is the sense of the prophetic image of clouds? Support your thought with scripture. (R1796)
51. Since Christ's Kingdom is a period of "mediation" of a prophet like unto Moses, explain "laying justice to the line and righteousness to the plummet." (Isa. 28:17) (R3915)

B 139: "As the trouble increases..."

52. Revelation 6:15–17 lists every class of society — kings, great men, rich men, captains, mighty men, bondmen, free men — all hiding together. Let's read and discuss how this is connected with Isaiah 2:19 that echoes Rev, when and how this will take place?
53. Br. Russell talks about idolatry of money, what kind of crisis would make money feel worthless to the people who were previously mad to accumulate?
54. What is the difference between experiencing the judgement of the Lord and understanding it as a result of His presence?

B 140: "That will be a time of retribution..."

55. The passage says the trouble "*might be greatly lessened could men see and promptly act upon principles of equity, relinquishing all unjust privileges.*" But selfishness prevents it. Is the severity of trouble caused by man-himself? What do you think about this idea of God using human nature as the instrument of judgement?

See V2, Ch 4, p 100-102, paragraphs starting with "*But our examination...*" and "*The sword of truth...*"

B 140-141:

56. The text says, *"But not until the great day of trouble is about closing – not until the Gentile kingdoms are ground to powder and utterly removed, no place being found for them..."*. Let's discuss what *"ground to powder and utterly removed"* means. Is destruction of "Babylon" literal? What conditions exist before mankind recognizes / responds to Christ's reign?

B 141

57 The next two paragraphs starting with *"Some will learn the significance of the trouble more quickly than others..."* and *"The true teacher and light bearer ([Matt. 5:14](#))"* talk about *"those who bear witness"* and the church *"not left in darkness"*. Let's discuss who is being talked about and the timing implied in the last several paragraphs.

Br. Russell taught and expected the following sequence of events.

1. Harvest begins Autumn 1874 Lord's invisible presence begins;
gathering of wheat starts
2. Nominal church rejected 1878 God doesn't recognize Babylon's systems as His;
"the door" begins closing
3. Sealing of the 144,000 Ongoing through harvest;
last member must be sealed before any glorification
4. Completion of the Church Originally expected by October 1914; after 1914,
explicitly acknowledged as still future
5. Glorification / change "Beyond the veil" each saint at death since 1878;
full Church glorification awaited
6. Fall of Babylon Originally by October 1914; after 1914, pointed toward 1918;
precedes the kingdoms' fall
7. Kingdoms' fall Armageddon proper —
revolution and anarchy consuming all civil institutions
8. Millennial Kingdom established
Christ and the glorified Church begin restitution work for the world