

Lord's return is certain Pentecostal girl shares her ordeal

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to the end of the book, all his points will support this major thrust.

QUESTIONS
I. WORSHIP ADMINISTRATION (Rev. 22:6-10)
1. Who are the speakers in this week's Scripture text?

Earlier the speaker was identified as one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls of wrath to be poured out upon the earth (21:9). Now, however, the speaker seems to be Jesus Himself (22:7), though some suggest that the angel was merely echoing the words of the Lord, since John fell at the feet of the angel (vs. 8). That a precise identification of the speaker is not made should not trouble us, though, especially when we remember that from the very beginning this is the "Revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1) given to John through an angel. "The difficulty of identifying speakers is only superficial because ultimately we hear the voice of Christ, whether echoed by

an angel or recorded by the prophet" (Mounce, The Book of Revelation, Eerdmans).

Whatever the case, the one speaking to John reminded him, "These sayings are faithful and true" (22:6). This is understandable, for Christ is "the faithful and true witness" (3:14) and the conquering King known as "Faithful and True" (19:11).

2. How might we understand the Lord's promise to "come quickly" (Rev. 22:7) in light of the length of time since the promise was made?

Since we are living nearly two thousand years after John originally received these visions, some find it puzzling that he was told that what he saw were "things which must shortly be done" (22:6).

From the standpoint of the eternal God, time is insignificant, since He operates in a different realm altogether. Concerning those who mock believers because the Second Coming has not yet occurred (2

Pet. 3:4-4), the Apostle Peter said, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (vs. 8). In short, essentially only two days have passed on God's prophetic calendar since early Christians were told that Christ would come again.

The Lord Jesus' declaration "Behold, I come quickly" (Rev. 22:7) should not be seen as an erroneous prophecy. As Peter pointed out, one of the reasons for the seeming postponement of the Lord's return has to do with His patience toward the human race.

He is "not willing that any

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The youngster recently received notification from Scholastic Book Clubs that her letter was among 25 national winners that Bridges had selected from among finalists.

"When it came back, I was so excited and so proud of her," said Jeffreys, who teaches language arts. "She has done wonderfully and she continues to do wonderfully. This is awesome for Olive Branch Middle School. "She is a sweet child who is eager to learn. She is definitely a leader. She is just one of the children that you love to have in your classroom."

Abigale will receive a Diversity Classroom Library, a signed copy of "Through My Eyes" and personalized stationery.

Abigale and her family moved to Olive Branch from Memphis last year. She said the school she wrote about is in Memphis. She attended a private school last year but said she felt that she was also in a minority there because she is Pentecostal.

However, Olive Branch Middle has pro-

vided her many opportunities, she said.

"A lot of my friends who also go to church also come here and I like that," she said. "I am joining the choir. I really like to sing... My favorite subject is math. I love going to church and I love hanging out with my friends, just normal teenage things."

Her parents are Kathy and Barry Crump and her brother, Stephen, 16, attends Olive Branch High School. The family attends the Pentecostal Church in Memphis.

Referring in her letter to the school she formerly attended, Abigail wrote to Bridges, "It is awful to go to a place where you do not fit in, are hated and are scared to go to school the next day. I go to one of the greatest schools in the world now and am in the sixth grade...."

"I think that your great act of bravery has helped me. I have seen your movie numerous times, and I am in love with it. If you would not have done all that you did, I would not have a girl named JoAnna in my class."

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