

Objections and Replies to the Multidimensional Issue of the “Times of Restitution”

Objection #1: Restitution cannot begin until the ransom merit is applied on behalf of Adam, and the dead begin to rise from the grave.

Reply: There is a difference between the “restitution of **the earth**” and the “restitution of **the world**.” Although Jesus has not yet applied the ransom-price on behalf of the world, he did not need to give his life to become the owner of the earth. He became the owner of the earth, by **keeping the Law**. Whoever would keep the law would be the one to inherit all things – including the lost dominion of Adam! He is about to purchase the world of mankind, but the right to the earth Jesus has had ever since he proved himself able to keep the law. “This is one of the reasons restitution, so far as the earth is concerned, can begin before such blessings come to the world of mankind. Restitution has been going on since 1874, especially since entering the seventh great day. Jesus had a right to bring these restitution blessings to the earth even **before** he applies the merit for the world of mankind.” (quotes taken from “Pastor Russell’s Last Discourse” – Harvest Gleanings, Vol. 3 p. 864:5–865:1)

Objection #2: You say that these present-day inventions are “restitution blessings,” but I say they are simply the product of “the increase of knowledge.” After all, restitution means a restoring of that which was lost, and Adam certainly didn’t have washers and dryers, sewing machines, etc., in the garden of Eden.

Reply: Yes, it’s both true that Adam didn’t have these inventions in the garden of Eden, and it’s also true that these inventions are part of the “increase of knowledge.” But although Adam did not have these inventions in the Garden, neither did he have “children” in the garden. What he did have – had he not disobeyed and subsequently lost – was “**the potential**” to have HAD all of these conveniences and even MORE than we presently have witnessed. Adam lost a RIGHT to these conveniences, as well as a RIGHT for he or his progeny to have life rights. God had many things (not yet revealed) in store for the faithful of humanity... and will demonstrate such throughout the “ages to come.” “An heir of a family is due to receive in due course, not only the benefits and riches on hand at a given date, but also **anything future** to that time which may accrue. If he is disinherited, he loses both present and future prospects. Then if he is reinstated to favor at a later date he again becomes the recipient of both the original benefits and those which were in store for him later, of which he may have known nothing previously.”* Given enough time – the perfect Adam could have developed many, if not all, of the present day conveniences.

“It has also been questioned that labor-saving devices are an evidence of Restitution; but rather a curse in many instances. It should be noted that practically any instrument, tool or device may be either a blessing OR a curse, depending upon the use or misuse to which it is put. Such things as the car, radio, television, telephone, etc., are great blessings when properly used. Brethren use them to obtain countless blessings in our day and to accomplish much in His service. Some in the world also use them often with very degrading results. The same is true of the leisure time made available by labor-saving devices.”*

Consider this possibility. We know that there will be no objections that will be raised by the world of mankind about ruling themselves and not needing God’s help, that will not go without a solid divine rebuttal. Perhaps God is allowing “Restitution of the Earth” BEFORE “The Restitution of the

World,” so that mankind will not be able to say, “You know, if we would have had these Restitution blessings (inventions, labor-saving devices, etc.) before this kingdom, we really wouldn’t have needed your divine intervention. We could have ruled ourselves.”* God desires to demonstrate fully to mankind, that until the “heart” changes in man, nothing mankind does or receives will make a difference in maintaining earth’s dominion peacefully, and likewise Restitution blessings that God HAS let the world experience have often been misused and detrimental to the human race. This will, no doubt, lead to the eventual and increasingly rapid destruction of nearly all life on earth. (See Ezek. 36:26–27, Zech. 8:23, Matt. 24:24)

Part of the “curse” was not only “death,” but lost privileges and rights for not only Adam, but for Eve as well. (As we can see from Gen. 3:16–19) The fact that women’s “husband shall rule over her” (vs.16), has been the bitter pill of mistreatment for many, many women receiving unkind and selfish treatment over the past six thousand plus years from tyrannical husbands. (Not to say that there weren’t many good, unselfish husbands!)

Women do not have men ruling over them now as much as they once did whether husbands or otherwise. Women are not as dependent on men, and have far more rights and job opportunities than they once had and more independence from men – including husbands. In other words, women have options and choices on a much grander scale than ever before – they have the right to vote – and are not traditionally “stuck” in “having to marry,” simply because the man held economic superiority. One simple example: In Pennsylvania, between 1975–1992, female lawyers and female judges increased 300%. Women’s rights are pushing out male domination. Anybody can see, just by looking around, how many more women are in the job market today with increased economic opportunities. This is, in part, a Jubilee type or Restitution fulfillment also. (See Lev. 25:17)

The feature of the curse where woman would bear children is being gradually lifted. Where many women would bear around 8–10 children years ago – today, it’s more like 1–3. Also, more natural means of easing the pain of childbirth like the Lamaze method, and better methods of contraception that reduce the number of “unplanned” pregnancies are gradually lifting Eve’s curse.

Even the ground had a “curse” on it (vs. 17). Verse 19 additionally attaches the “sweat of thy face” rider where Adam would have to literally “sweat” to procure his food from the ground. “Arduous labor is clearly given in this verse as a part of the curse placed upon Adam, Eve and their descendants. Therefore, anything which reduces a part of that curse is scripturally a part of Restitution, rather than merely a preparation for Restitution.”* Does mankind have to “sweat” to get food from the ground today? In some cases yes, but in much of our progressive countries most of the population drive to the supermarket to get their food. Oh sure, they work and have “stress,” but still – stress is not “sweat of the brow.” In this country 97% of the population DO NOT earn their living by farming, whereas over 100 years ago they did.

Objection #3: Israel’s return to their land and restoration is not a sign of restitution, because Israel has nothing to do with Restitution – it was Adam who was condemned.

Reply: True, it was Adam who was condemned, but we believe the Apostle Peter connects the restoration of Israel to the times of Restitution in Acts chapter three. (See verses, 12, 17, and 22.) Israel’s land reclamation and establishment as a nation after 26 centuries of figurative burial is a modern miracle. (Compare Ezek. 37:9-14, Dan. 12:1 and vs. 12, and Jer. 16:14–16) for further connections and confirmations of the association. But one of the strongest points to be made on this

issue is the Jubilee type from Lev. 25, which foreshadows Israel's and the world's restitution of rights and liberties due to begin around 1874. (See Vol. 2 Study VI) It's a very prominent type of the Law. Jesus virtually expressed in Matt. 5:18 that the Jubilee demanded fulfillment, being a part of the Law. (Further confirmations of prophecy presently being fulfilled with Israel: Jer. 31:38–40, Isa. 35:1, Amos 9:13–15.)

Objection #4: God will only work through the Ancient Worthies during the Mediation in the restoration of Israel, and not through the nation of Israel (See Micah 5:5).

Reply: True, the Ancient Worthies will be instrumental in the Mediation, but scriptures such as Ezek. 20:33–38, Jer. 16:15–16 demonstrate that Israel's restoration begins before the Mediation. Besides, the New Covenant will be made DIRECTLY with Israel – and not the Ancient Worthies (Heb. 8:8–13). Consequently, although the Ancient Worthies will be INSTRUMENTAL in implementing the New Covenant, the New Covenant will be made directly with Israel and mediated by The Christ, head and body. Restoration or restitution of Israel is not contingent on the Ancient Worthies resurrection, although their presence will signal a speedy recovery!

Objection #5: Some say that we are in the “Times” of Restitution, today, but with no real aspect of Restitution starting as yet.

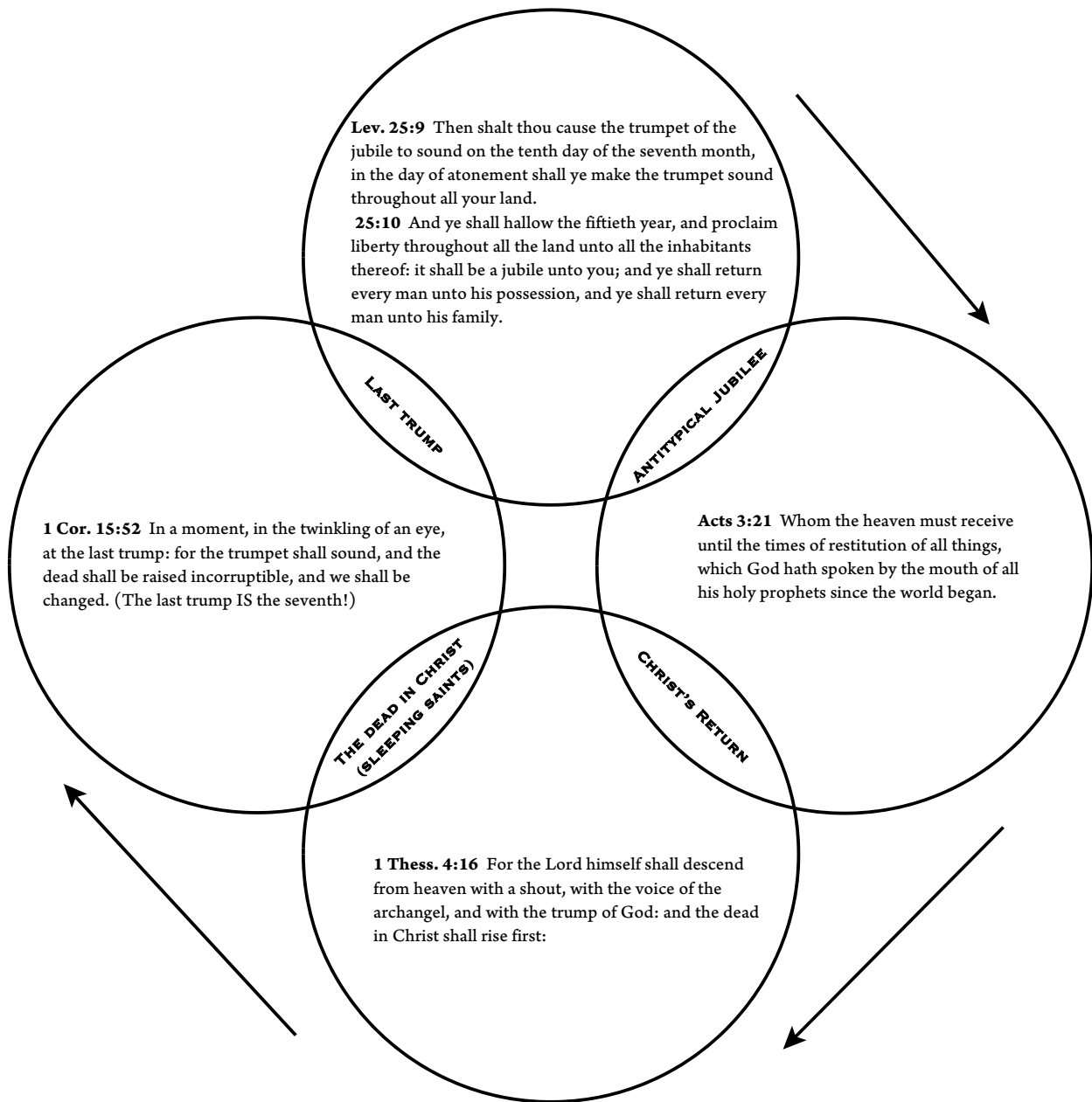
Reply: It is not necessary that more than one aspect or feature of Restitution start in 1874 A.D. in order to fulfill Acts 3:21. However, to say that we have the “Times of Restitution” and yet no aspect of Restitution has started (no matter how well meant) would indicate a narrower concept of Restitution than the scriptures indicate or else that one had not fully grasped the implications of such a statement. It might well be illustrated by one telling his friend, “I’ve started a bank account for your benefit.” “How much is it?” he asked. “Oh, nothing yet,” he replied. Acts 3:21 **clearly** makes our Lord's second presence (parousia) and the Times of Restitution start simultaneously. They are “inseparably linked” here by the Apostle Peter.

Objection #6: How could Restitution have begun with all of this trouble, commotion, divorce and crime in the world still going on? Everything appears to be getting “worse,” not better.

Reply: True, there are many negative things that are still going on in the world. But part of the reason is that we have not entered into the phase of Restitution (narrower view) when the “iron rule” is in effect. (Rev. 2:27, A302–3, R2462:6) That's when crime will not be tolerated, and all offenders will be stopped cold and justly reprimanded. But as far as the commotion and trouble we now see, some of that is associated with the Jubilee trumpet and the “shout” of encouragement for all people to return to their God-given rights and privileges. That aspect, we submit, has already begun to show signs of fulfillment (blacks and minority rights, and women's rights, labor laws for the oppressed, etc.). As in the Jubilee year, there was much commotion and trouble settling disputes over land and possession rights, so too, we see the reluctant surrender of many expired claims and privileges, as various factions dispute their real or fancied rights. (See Vol. 2 pp.197–200) “Before the end of this great Jubilee every human being will get back to man's first estate, ‘very good,’ receiving back through Christ all that was lost in Adam” – even the potential of what Adam could have had. Incidentally, just as it was Adam's “rights and privileges” that were FIRST lost – and then his life, we suggest that mankind will begin to gain back that which was lost, in the same order, namely, rights and privileges first – and finally “life.”

Objection #7: The “Jubilee trump” is different than the “7th trump.”

Reply: Notice this Linking Diagram of the “trumps.” What would you conclude since they interconnect inseparably with one another? (See Vol. 2 p.197)



* Many of those items in quotes are from Br. Arthur Newell's notes from a special study on Restitution in 1970