

**Letter Re. The Reign**  
Br. Ted Smith

Dear Brethren (names in the Dec. 5, 1969 letter):

Greetings in our Heavenly Fellowship.

I am writing to you regarding the expressions found in Rev. 20:4 (“and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years”), and Rev. 20:6 (“and shall reign with him a thousand years”).

I have thought for a long time that these expressions are idioms. If this is so, then we have an effective fact to nullify the arguments of those who are causing so much havoc amongst the Lord’s people today.

Yesterday I was looking up an article on Reprint page 3574 entitled “Remarkable Chronological Parallels”. This article was submitted to Brother Russell by Brother John Edgar. In the third paragraph of the second column, Brother Edgar touches upon the fact that Matt. 12:40 (“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”) is manifestly an idiom. This is proved beyond all doubt when we read the words of Peter in Acts 10:40—that God raised up Jesus “the third day.”

There is another idiom that is very striking and this is found in Acts 1:3, “To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen by them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” We know as a matter of fact that the followers of Jesus saw him only a few minutes at various times during that forty day period.

Brother Edgar, in the Reprint paragraph already referred to above, called attention to several idioms in the Old Testament, and I picked out one that is very clear—2 Chron. 10:5, 12, “And he said unto them, Come again unto me after three days;” “So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king bade, saying, Come again to me on the third day.”

In view of the fact that there are Scriptures which indicate clearly that the bride class, as an entire number, is not living and reigning with our Lord in glory, literally for the entire period of the thousand year reign (from the time our Lord returned in 1874), and also in view of the fact that we have a reasonable and remarkable harmonization of the prophecies pertaining to our day (in our Pastor’s writings), and also and especially in view of the fact that the opponents of our Pastor’s views have only one text (from Rev. 20, confirmed by no other Scripture) to bolster up their position—it seems to me we have

a reasonable solution to the problem by concluding that the expressions of Rev. 20:4 and 6 are manifestly idioms

If we are justified in this conclusion, then I think you can see the tremendous leverage this would give us in effectively countering the arguments of these brethren who are advancing ideas that are setting aside much of the Harvest Message in the minds of so many unsuspecting brethren. Once this conclusion is reached or accepted (based upon sound reasoning and facts, of course), then even the humblest brother or sister will be able to stand firm and turn away from these teachers, having their confidence in our Pastor's writings increased with joy and thankfulness.

I earnestly solicit your thoughts in the matter, and if you have anything to add, please favor me with it. I am enclosing an envelope for your early reply.

Incidentally I am enclosing a list of the items to date—have you received all of them?

Sincerely in Christ,

Bro. Ted Smith