#93 FORUM POST ON REV 20:4 AND CONVERSION

Thread title: Paul taught that Revelation 20:4 was a current reality

Dear All,

Revelation 20:4

4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Paul spoke in current and past tense in the verses below that we even though we are still alive on earth we have been seated with Christ spiritually thus we reign on thrones with Jesus now

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

M

Dear M____,

You are right that Rev 20:4 is spiritual and it applies to <u>every</u> Elect believer at the time they are <u>converted</u> ("they came to life").

Here is what the thousand years represents as taught by the marriage analogy used in Revelation chapter 19 & 20:

The book of Revelation teaches the <u>spiritual events</u> which the Elect experience as they travel the pathway to salvation. Revelation chapter 19 teaches the climax of these events when the believer is converted. In verses 7-9, it presents the Marriage of the Lamb and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

The Marriage of the Lamb is the salvation event which occurs when Christ "comes again" for His Bride (the Elect). The Elect are <u>espoused</u> to Christ when Christ first comes to them. It is at this time that Christ plants the seed of the Holy Spirit within them (the Early Rain of the Spirit). Christ then goes away with the promise to return for the marriage. Just before Christ appears the second time, Christ will pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit upon the believer. Christ will then <u>appear</u> to His bride and the marriage of the Lamb will take place. The marriage event is what the Apostles experienced on the Day of Pentecost and what Paul experienced after being in Damascus of three days.

The Marriage Supper immediately follows the wedding because, in conjunction with the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the bride's spiritual blindness will be healed (Mark 8:21-25). Now with "eyes that can see", the bride will be fed the truth of God by Christ. When the bride has received enough nourishment, the bride will "see" the Abomination of Desolation (Mat 24:15) which had previously occurred within themselves. After this occurs, judgment (the Day of the Lord) will immediately follow. This judgment is the <u>Thousand Years</u> reign and is presented in verses 11-21 of chapter 19. Notice during this judgment that the bride is not being judged. This is true because the bride is a child of God who has never sinned. She will ride with Christ and judge the "chaff" (carnality, child of the devil) which remains within themselves. The bride will not experience any wrath during this time of judgment.

Peter confirms the meaning of the Thousand Years by saying this:

2Pet 3:8 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.

Peter says that the Thousand Years is "like" one day. The day that Peter is referencing is the Day of the Lord. Then, in the rest of chapter 3, Peter goes on to teach about certain spiritual events which occur during the Day of the Lord.

So what makes the Thousand Years different from the Day of the Lord? It is different because the Thousand Years <u>only</u> applies to the Elect who will reign with Christ during the Day of the Lord.

The Day of the Lord is Christ's judgment which He uses to destroy carnal mankind who is "condemned already" (John 3:18). Since the Elect are "born again" prior to that judgment commencing upon them, they will reign with Christ over their own judgment. In the final age, the Day of the Lord will come upon the rest of mankind and the Elect will reign a second time with Christ over that judgment.

Ecc 6:6 Yea, though he live a thousand years <u>twice told</u>, yet hath he <u>seen no good: do not all</u> <u>go to one place</u> (Lake of Fire)?

During both Thousand Years, the Elect will reign with Christ and will judge carnal mankind in the Lake of Fire until they have <u>perished</u>. Since the "lost" of the final age are not "born again" as a child of God prior to their judgment commencing, they will experience God's wrath while they are being judged. But before the "lost" of the final age perish from that judgment, Christ will have mercy upon them and give them the same faith that He earlier gave to the Elect.

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: <u>justice, mercy, and faith</u>: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Christ's mercy will come to the "lost" in the form of the Early Rain of the Spirit. With the Early Rain, the lost person will receive a "measure of faith". With this faith, the pathway will be

made <u>straight</u> for Christ to come to them and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit and convert them into children of God. They will then be gathered to heaven as the Elect were in this present age (spiritually speaking). Justice will be served by the destruction of the child of the devil who will remain in the Lake of Fire.

Joe

M_____ never responded but another member did.

Dear FaithWillDo,

Nonsense. The word for alive in Rev 20:4 is zao and zao never appears in New Testament scripture in reference to any person who is not **alive in the body.** Zao always refers either to the living God or to a human alive in the body in the New Testament

- but these **had been beheaded** and the verse actually states **why** they were beheaded. Then John goes on to call their living in the body (zao) and reigning with Christ the first **anastasis** (the first **resurrection of the body)** and the word anastasis always only refers to the **resurrection of the body** in the New Testament.

Your assumptions that you make when you read Rev 20:4-6 and state the above fail to pass the test of fact and what Christians will choose to believe about this **exposes all Christians for the facts that they will choose to ignore** so as to interpret scripture not for what it says, but **for what they choose it to be saying.**

Z

Dear Z____,

You need to read my post more carefully.

You said:

The word for alive in Rev 20:4 is zao and zao never appears in New Testament scripture in reference to any person who is not alive in the body. Zao always refers either to the living God or to a human alive in the body in the New Testament.

I said nothing that disagrees with your statement above. Rev 20:4 is a teaching on the <u>conversion</u> <u>event</u>. When Elect are <u>converted</u>, they will spiritually come to life in Christ. At the time of their conversion, they are also said to be "beheaded" because Christ becomes their new head; the head of the body. The thousand years represents judgment when the new child of God (the bride) reigns with Christ over their own judgment. This is why the Elect do not experience wrath during their time of judgment. They have become a child of God (the bride) who is not judged. The judgment which occurs falls on the <u>spirit of anti-Christ</u> (man of sin) and the <u>Great Harlot</u> (the believer's worsened carnal nature) and is what completes a believer's conversion. Mat 24:40-41 applies to this judgment.

The spiritual symbol "First Resurrection", which is mentioned in Rev 20:5, is shown in detail in

chapter 19 and the first part of 20. It is a believer's <u>spiritual resurrection</u> when they are saved. It is the cleansing of the inside of the cup (Mat 23:26). The symbol First Resurrection is synonymous with the term "conversion".

The First Resurrection is not the bodily resurrection. The bodily resurrection is shown to have occurred at the end of chapter 20 when Christ separates the sheep from the goats at the White Throne.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

Rev 20:4 is a teaching on the conversion event.

That's not true, and you have offered no scripture in support of your claims.

You're making a statement without producing any evidence. You may as well have people believe a swan is a chicken just because you say it's a chicken.

The truth is the swan - and your statement is a chicken. No biblical basis for it whatsoever.

FaithWillDo said:

When Elect are <u>converted</u>, they will spiritually come to life in Christ.

What you are linking it to is once again simply untrue.

Unconverted people are spoken of as being zao (alive in the body) also in the New Testament when they are still alive, i.e alive in their bodies (those who have not died physically). Here's just one of many such verses:

Matthew 9:18

While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, **My daughter is even now dead:** but come and lay thy hand upon her, **and she shall be** alive [záō].

So as you can see, Rev.20:4 has nothing to do with the *conversion* of those being mentioned, **just because the word zao** (alive in the body) is being used - and certainly not just because **you** say so. You cannot invent a new definition or add *conversion* to the definition of the word **zao** just so you can make Rev 20:4-6 comply with your doctrine.

Their **conversion** is not even mentioned in Rev.20:4-6 - only **their bodily resurrection** (anastasis) and that they had been beheaded before John saw them alive in their bodies (zao), and that they had been beheaded for refusal to worship the beast. Their "conversion" **at that point** is is a meaning that you plainly (and have very obviously) **eisegetically inserted into the text** in your own mind (but not according to scripture).

We can **infer** that they **had been** converted and received the quickening of the Spirit of God in Christ **at some point prior** to their being beheaded, because of what is **indeed** being said of them (i.e not what **you** are saying about them), i.e that the second death will have no authority over them, **and John linking their zao to the anastasis - resurrection of the body** (unlike your own private interpretation of linking it to "their conversion").

But John himself (unlike you) linked his seeing zao (alive in the body) those who had been beheaded to (a) their refusal to worship the beast as the reason for their beheading; and (b) to the anastasis - the resurrection of the body - and that is the swan in Rev.20:4-6, unlike the chicken you want us to believe Rev.20:4-6 is, "just because you say so".

And you say it's a chicken while having absolutely no biblical basis whatsoever to say so. You're making it obvious that you're just guessing, and you are just guessing and believing your own private interpretation to be scriptural **because that's what you think Rev 20:4-6 "should be" saying.** But you don't even attempt to provide any biblical basis. And frankly, because you have already made it obvious that you are given to just guessing, I'm not going to devote more time to discuss this with yourself - at least not in this thread.

It's already clear that Amillennialism and its theological daughters have produced a vicious circle of interpreting all biblical scripture in such a way as to make scripture always comply with Amillennial theology, or their own personal adaptions of it, thus inserting an Amillennial interpretation into the text of each and every passage (practicing "eisegesis"), which in many passages results in changing what scripture is *actually* saying (the swan) into something scripture is **not** saying (your chicken), instead of allowing what the text is **plainly** saying to produce doctrine and theology (exegesis).

Dear Z____,

What you stated in your post makes no sense. Rev chapter 19 and the first part of 20 is talking about the spiritual conversion of the Elect.

Do you not understand conversion?

You quoted this verse:

Matthew 9:18

While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, **My daughter is even now dead:** but come and lay thy hand upon her, **and she shall be** alive [záō].

This verse teaches its message by "type" and it is teaching about conversion. The Elect are spiritually dead just before Christ comes to convert them. In other words, the Elect are spiritually dead and then made spiritually alive - just as Christ typed by raising the dead girl to life (zao).

You said:

Unconverted people are spoken of as being zao (alive in the body) also in the New Testament when they are still alive, i.e alive in their bodies (those who have not died physically).

At the time the writers of the New Testament wrote their letters to the churches, the spirit of anti-Christ had not come and devoured the church. The unconverted believers in the churches remained in "faith" and were "alive", just not converted. They were waiting as a chaste virgin for the Lord to return to convert them (the return of the Bridegroom).

But shortly after Paul's death, the spirit of anti-Christ did come and destroy the church. Now (since the end of the 1st century), <u>all believers</u> shortly after they receive the Early Rain of the Spirit (unconverted state), will come under the deceptions of the spirit of anti-Christ. With the spirit of anti-Christ indwelling the believer, the Abomination of Desolation will occur. It is at this time that the believer will fall from grace and lose their salvation. <u>No new believer is excluded from experiencing this "day of evil"</u>.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Because no one is excluded from the day of evil, the "many" who have been called into the church will lose their salvation. But from that group of "many", a "few" have been chosen for salvation before they physically die. They are the Elect. For them, Christ will "come again" and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit; immediately followed by His judgment. This spiritual work that Christ does within the Elect believer will result in their <u>conversion</u>. Conversion is what is being taught in Rev chapter 19 and in the first part of 20.

The fallen away believers who are <u>not Elect</u> will die in their sins and will receive their portion with the unbelievers in the Lake of Fire (Luke 12:46).

Below is where Christ teaches how a new believer falls from grace:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and <u>taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself</u>, and they enter in and dwell there: and the <u>last state of that man is worse than the first</u>. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents a spirit which teaches Satan's false truth through lies and deceptions.

Since a new believer remains <u>spiritually blind</u> (Mark 8:21-25) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more. The number "seven" represents perfection. In this case, the number seven represents the perfection of Satan's lies/deceptions which come to a believer by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within the believer, they now have EIGHT. The number eight is a spiritual symbol which represents a <u>new spiritual condition</u>. In this case, the new spiritual condition is <u>worse than the first</u>.

This "worse than the first" spiritual condition causes the believer to become a <u>False Prophet</u>, a <u>Man of Sin</u>, a <u>Minister of Satan</u> and a <u>Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns & Crowns</u>.

Don't think that what Christ taught above doesn't apply to you. It does because it applies to <u>everyone</u> who is given the Early Rain of the Spirit.

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, <u>but by</u> every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

You said:

We can **infer** that they **had been** converted and received the quickening of the Spirit of God in Christ **at some point prior** to their being beheaded, because of what is *indeed* being said of them (i.e not what **you** are saying about them), i.e that the second death will have no authority over them, **and John linking their zao to the anastasis - resurrection of the body** (unlike your own private interpretation of linking it to "their conversion").

Your understanding of scripture is carnal and not spiritual. Being beheaded happens to cleanse the inside of the cup so that Christ can become the Elect believer's new head. The second death is the spiritual death that occurs upon conversion. The Elect experience the second death during their lifetimes. But because they are saved PRIOR to judgment falling on their carnality, they do not experience wrath and are not harmed by the Lake of Fire.

However, the "lost" of the final age will experience wrath during their time of judgment because they are not converted when they are cast into the Lake of Fire (a symbol for Christ's judgment).

Because the Elect are "born again" prior to their judgment, Rev chapter 19 shows the new child of God (the bride) riding with Christ over the judgment of their carnality (child of the devil). The child of the devil is removed and judged in the Lake of Fire as shown in Rev 19:20 and Mat 24:40-41.

You said:

But John linking his seeing zao (alive in the body) those who had been beheaded to (a) their refusal to worship the beast; and (b) to the anastasis - the resurrection of the body - is the swan in Rev.20:4-6, unlike the chicken you want us to believe it is, "just because you say so".

Your understanding of how Christ saves a person is incorrect. When a believer receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, the child of God is said to be <u>within</u> the believer alongside the child of the devil. A spiritual war develops between the two to see who will rule the believer's mind (head). Before the child of the devil can die, the spirit of anti-Christ enters the believer and causes the child of the devil to win the war. This is when the deadly head wound that the sword of Christ caused to the person is healed (Rev 13).

At this point, the believer is "fallen away" and is governed by the spirit of anti-Christ rather than the Holy Spirit. This makes the believer "worse than the first"; a man of sin. The Holy Spirit is still within the believer but cannot govern the mind (head) of the person.

However, when Christ "comes again" to the Elect believer, Christ will bring the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) and the baptism of Fire (judgment).

John the Baptist mentions them here:

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: <u>he shall baptize you with the Holy</u> <u>Spirit, and with fire</u>: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

After both baptisms are complete, the believer will be converted. They will then have a new head (Christ). The spiritual death of the "man of sin" whose head is Satan is symbolized by the beheading which occurs during judgment.

What I have explained is just one of the <u>many ways</u> scripture teaches about the conversion process.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Lol. Joe, Joe, Joe. The circumcision of the heart that takes place in the believer is not called or metaphorically referred to as "beheading" anywhere in scripture and such a ludicrous idea clearly never popped up in the minds of any the New Testament authors as you falsely claim.

You would call the apostles' understanding of the gospels carnal and not spiritual. And you would call the teaching of the apostles carnal and not physical, because I only quote what they actually taught.

You quote your own very strange adaptation of the scriptures, that neither existed in the mind of Christ nor in the minds of His apostles who were inspired by the Spirit of Christ to teach and to write, as can be seen by what you say above.

Anyway I can't discuss this with you any more as you clearly have your own non-Christian unbiblical version of Christianity.

Thanks for the time.

Z

Dear Z____,

You said:

Lol. Joe, Joe, Joe. The circumcision of the heart that takes place in the believer is not called or metaphorically referred to as "beheading" anywhere in scripture and such a ludicrous idea clearly never popped up in the minds of any the New Testament authors as you falsely claim.

I never said that it did. I can't imagine why you would say such a thing.

The circumcision of the heart occurs when the Holy Spirit enters the heart by the Latter Rain of the Spirit. That event is what leads to a person's conversion.

With the Holy Spirit now governing the heart, the heart is changed and becomes a new heart:

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

The "beheading" occurs as a <u>result</u> of the new heart that is within the person. With a new heart, the carnal mind of the believer will be converted into the mind of Christ.

This verse applies:

Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: <u>for when thy judgments are in the (new) earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness</u>.

The spiritual symbol "earth" is synonymous with the symbol "heart". When the Holy Spirit is in the New Earth (New Heart), the believer will learn righteousness by the judgments that come from the Spirit within the converted believer. These judgments will remove the believer's head (Satan/carnal mind) and replaced it with the head of Christ (mind of Christ).

This is how conversion works: the carnal nature (wicked heart/natural earth/Great Harlot) is removed and destroyed by judgment after a person receives the Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit. This judgment is called the Baptism of Fire/Day of the Lord/Thousand Years Reign. With the Spirit within them, the believer will have a new spiritual nature (New Heart/New Earth) which will judge (destroy/transform/behead) their carnal mind (Satan's head) and give them the mind of Christ (Christ's head/New Heaven). As I said earlier, conversion is frequently taught in scripture and it is taught in <u>many different</u> <u>ways</u>. Those ways include analogies, parables and "types" - all of which use <u>spiritual</u> <u>symbols</u> (spirit words, John 6:63). This is what it means when scripture says that Christ will teach in "another language" when He comes. This language is the <u>spiritual language of</u> <u>Christ</u> which He uses to teach the truth of the New Covenant. <u>It is not same literal language</u> which He used to teach the Old Covenant of Law.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (converted believers who "see" spiritually). 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and <u>ANOTHER LANGUAGE</u> will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little; that they might go, and <u>fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken</u> (by Satan/how the apostate church was formed).

When a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, they will remain unconverted, carnally minded and spiritually blind. In other words, they will only be able to see Christ (God's Word) <u>in</u> <u>the flesh</u> (carnal understanding of Him). This is what Paul meant when he said that unconverted believers can only understand "Christ and Him crucified" (1Cor 2:2). Paul said this because new believers can understand the physical work of Christ that He did under the Old Covenant but they will have great difficulty understanding the spiritual work that Christ is now doing under the New Covenant to convert a person into a child of God.

You said:

You would call the apostles' understanding of the gospels carnal and not spiritual? And you would call the teaching of the apostles carnal and not physical, because I only quote what they actually taught?

When the apostles walked with Christ during His journey to the cross, they had only received the Early Rain of the Spirit. Because of such, they were still <u>unconverted</u>, <u>carnally</u> <u>minded</u> and <u>spiritually blind</u> just as all new believers are today. They had a measure of faith and certain spiritual gifts but they could not understand the spiritual teachings of the New Covenant.

I will make a second post which supports what I just stated because it is a little too long to fit into this post.

Joe

Dear Z____,

Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, it is because we have no bread. 17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, why reason ye, because

ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? 18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. 20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. 21 And he said unto them, <u>how is it that ye do not understand</u>?

In the verses above, Christ is giving His disciples a lesson on the spiritual language of God's Word - His language:

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and <u>another language</u> will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line; hat they might go, and <u>fall backward, and be broken</u>, and snared, and taken.

At this point in time (before they were converted at Pentecost), the disciples had received the Early Rain of the Spirit but had not yet received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain of the Spirit). And because of such, they were still <u>spiritually blind</u> and could not understand the spiritual language of Christ.

Christ ends His comments above by asking the disciples this question: "<u>How is it that ye do not</u> <u>understand?</u>" No response from the disciples is recorded in scripture. However, Christ answers His own question in the very next four verses.

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Since Christ is the Word of God, He teaches us not only through His words which are recorded in scripture but also by the things that He did. In answering the question that He proposed to the disciples in verse 21, Christ goes to Bethsaida and gives us His answer in <u>type</u> by the healing of a blind man.

In verse 23, Christ leads a blind man out of the city. Once outside the city, Christ places spit on his eyes and touches him with His hands. These actions occur as the blind man is looking down which symbolizes the <u>carnal aspect</u> of His healing. Christ does not have to tell the blind man to look down, the blind man just does it naturally. The spit (water) symbolizes the blind man receiving the <u>Early Rain of the Spirit</u> with its accompanying vision (carnal understanding).

This event represents the time when an unbeliever is called out from the world and enters the church.

After Christ asks the man what he could see, the man looks up and says that he could see men "walking as trees". "Walking as trees" is a spiritual symbol for called out believers who walk by sight (the flesh, carnal nature) rather than by faith & the Spirit. The man's blindness was not total any longer but he was still very near-sighted and could only see Christ carnally. Paul stated that this near-sighted type of understanding will only allow a believer to see "Christ and Him crucified" (1Cor 2:2). This means that the new believer can see Christ's physical work that He did under the Old Covenant, but Christ's spiritual work that He is presently doing under the New Covenant will remain blurred.

This first healing of the blind man reflects the true spiritual condition of a new believer when they first enter the church. At this time, the believer is left carnally minded and spiritually near-sighted. They can see a little, but that only opens the door to Satan's carnally based deceptions - deceptions which each new believer will <u>readily accept</u> due to their carnal nature still being in control of them (Mat 12:43-45, Mat 24:24 & Luke 5:39).

For a carnally minded and spiritually blind believer (Early Rain only), the Old Wine still tastes better than the New Wine:

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desires the new: for he says, <u>The old is better</u>.

The Old Wine represents the Old Covenant which is based on the <u>works of man</u>. The New Wine represents the New Covenant which is solely based on the <u>spiritual works of Christ</u>.

Peter says that this near-sighted condition is the same as being blind:

2Pet 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Peter makes this statement because the believers to whom he was addressing were mixing their own works with faith. They were still preferring the Old Wine.

In the final verse of the story of the blind man, Christ lays His hands upon the man's eyes again, but as He does, Christ has the man look up instead of down. This second healing represents the **Latter Rain of the Spirit** when true spiritual vision is given to a believer. The man's upward gaze represents the <u>spiritual aspect</u> of the healing in contrast to the carnal aspect when the blind man was looking down at the earth.

From that moment onward, we now know that the blind man is a type for a <u>called AND</u> <u>chosen</u> believer who has received <u>both</u> the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit (James 5:7-8). The man has been given eyes that can see spiritually ("drawn from the breasts" Isa 28:9).

From his new ability to understand God's Word, he will then come out from Satan's deceptions and will begin walking by faith. He will be included in the resurrection of the First Fruits and will receive the reward of life during the ages.

You said:

You quote your own very strange adaptation of the scriptures, that neither existed in the mind of Christ nor in the minds of His apostles who were inspired by the Spirit of Christ to teach and to write, as can be seen by what you say above.

Anyway I can't discuss this with you any more as you clearly have your own non-Christian unbiblical version of Christianity.

My "strange adaptation of the scriptures" comes from being able to understand the spiritual language of Christ. I was converted in 2005 and my understanding of scripture quickly changed from that point going forward.

This scripture applies:

Prov 2:1 My son (a converted believer), if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Someday you will have the ability to understand and "see" what Christ has shown me. God's Word says it will surely happen in "due time":

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 <u>who will have all</u> <u>men to be saved</u>, and to come unto the <u>knowledge of the truth</u>. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, <u>to be testified in due time</u>.

If you ever have any questions, I will try to make myself available to answer them (as the Lord "wills").

Joe

Z_____ never replied.