

The Status of the Souls after Death in the Relation to the Event of Universal Resurrection. Different Views on Life after Death: Millenarianism or Hiliasm

His Eminence Prof. PhD IRINEU POPA
University of Craiova,
cabinetmol@yahoo.com

Abstract

The Church has never encouraged the apocalyptic speculations, contrary she condemned the chronological calculations, the predictions of the apocalyptic millenarian sects. She never allowed in this way, to be confused the eschatological hope with the apocalypse. It is true that, throughout the history, some would say there is a precise term of years up to the second coming of Jesus Christ, but the eschatology, thought it is a theological chapter, does not lend itself to the apocalyptic confusion.

So, given that the „afterlife” is a concern of every Christian, it goes without saying that the faith by which the Lord will return in glory on earth, is an observable evangelical reality.

Therefore, some people, over the time, through their eschatological aberration, have taught the heresy that between the end of the world and the coming of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, he will establish a kingdom on earth of a thousand years.

We could say that the origin of this delusion is still from the Old Testament, when the Jews, after a wrong understanding of the prophecy, hoped that the Messiah will come to establish an earthly kingdom and then will follow the end of the world.

Over the time the Church has condemned the millenarianism suddenly with the heresy of Apollinaire at the second Ecumenical Synod, when she fixed in the symbol of faith the words „whose kingdom shall have no end”. Then, the Savior, the Holy Apostles and the Church Fathers taught that the key issue is not the time of Parusia but the diligence of every believer to be prepared for this final event.