

### 3. (a prophecy)

and so it came to pass  
that the brigades of Armageddon  
got exactly what they wanted  
and managed to rush the schedule of God Himself  
the Temple was rebuilt  
    according to plan  
the red heifer made ready for sacrifice  
    according to plan  
the script played out  
    according to plan  
the armies came and went  
    according to plan  
just as had been predicted  
and just as had been predicted  
the Lord returned  
and the skies were filled with glory  
and just as had been predicted  
He began to gather the Faithful unto Himself  
from around the world, the poor began to disappear  
the oppressed rose out of hovels and sweatshops  
sewing machines and miners' helmets abandoned  
the faces of the children with distended bellies  
shone with unearthly light  
and then they were gone  
in some countries entire prisons were instantly empty  
refugee camps fell silent  
as their occupants were wafted away  
but there in America, there in the heartland  
the well-scrubbed faithful with earnest smiles  
the insurance salesmen and the nicely coiffed  
housewives  
gathered on the hilltops with their quiverfull families  
and waited in vain  
they had kept the faith, had they not  
they had done everything right, as they had been told  
they had identified and convicted the sinners  
they had crushed the infidels  
they had managed their finances expertly  
they had led their children in the path  
    that was straight and narrow  
they had mowed their lawns  
they had carefully tithed  
they had bought the tapes and the study guides  
they had voted for the right men

they had sent their sons when requested  
they had earned their promotions  
they had refinanced at exactly the right time  
they had sent blankets to Kenya  
they had shared their testimony  
    at the full gospel breakfast  
they had backed the Israeli government to the hilt  
they had fought for lower taxes  
they had defended the institution of marriage  
they had filled the stadiums  
they had kept their guns at the ready  
they had trusted their leaders  
they had taken over the country  
and now here they were  
their feet firmly stuck to the ground  
"Why, Lord?" they cried, "why are we still here?"  
they had worked so hard for this moment  
to see the infidels cast down  
into that lake of eternal fire  
this was going to be the payoff  
for all those years of jokes and putdowns  
the condescensions, the refusals to believe  
now they would see how wrong they had been  
the believers were waiting to hear the sound  
of the trumpets  
of the wailing  
of the gnashing of teeth  
and it was not happening  
and then He was with them  
there in their midst  
"My children!" He said, "do not be aggrieved.  
I know your hearts, I know your desires  
better than you do yourselves.  
But listen, those of you who yet have ears"  
I have come to free those who are captives  
but you have already declared yourselves free;  
from what shall I liberate you?  
I come to lift up the miserable and give them comfort  
but you have already made yourselves  
    quite comfortable;  
from what misery shall I release you?  
I come to show my power, and to share it with you  
but you have already claimed  
absolute power in this place;  
why should you accept a smaller portion?

I come to lead you to paradise  
but you have found it fit to make your own;  
do I still have anything you want?  
I come to level judgment  
but you have already judged, sentenced, and executed;  
what opinion is left that I should add?  
I come to overthrow Mammon's grip  
but you have already mastered his ways;  
do you think you have made him your servant?  
But listen, you who have ears "you have yet a choice:  
Stay here if you will, enjoy the fruits of your labors,  
behold, it is all yours;  
or if you think there may be something more  
let it all go, put it all down, and follow Me  
and share the Kingdom with all your brothers and sisters  
for they will all be there with you, yes,  
truly I have paid for them all" "and most heard, and understood  
that they had misunderstood so much before  
but this was the time for seeing clearly, face to face  
and they saw that for their own forgiveness  
they must let go of even this final satisfaction  
but not all could  
no, not all could  
they who wanted to be the judges  
they who longed to be the executioners  
they who saw themselves  
    as the agents of divine retribution,  
they who would be the wielders  
    of His terrible swift sword  
they knew that they had earned the Kingdom  
for themselves and themselves alone  
it was inconceivable to them  
that they might have been mistaken"  
but the Lord is perfectly just, perfectly merciful,  
perfectly fair  
He forgives, He understands, He makes provision  
    for all His children  
they have their own place now, it is their own paradise  
they take turns judging each other  
they take turns meting out and receiving  
and they are perfectly  
perfectly  
happy

#### 4. *the resurrection of the data*

And in that day indeed shall the sea give up its dead, and the grave yield up those who lie within it. All who have passed shall rise - the ashes of the cremated, the remains of those devoured by animals, or crushed by avalanches and earthquakes, even the shattered molecules of those exploded or dissolved, in that day shall all be restored.

And when all of those who have ever drawn breath stand upon the Great Field before the Throne, then behold, comes the next resurrection: this is the resurrection of the data.

And behold I heard a great roar: for the landfills and dumps and offshore repositories gave up their secrets, and spewed forth the noxious substances therein, the offal and the poisons, which were all identified and returned unto their rightful owners; and moreover every file in every drawer in every file cabinet was opened, even unto the most concealed of data warehouses, and every disk drive and every backup tape, behold, and all CPUs performed their core dumps; and all the microfilm was restored, and the records of old, all the newspapers and books and pamphlets, screeds and pleadings and broadsides and gossip sheets, from the scrolls and papyri of Alexandria to the terabytes of Langley, all were refurbished, catalogued, indexed, cross-referenced, and filed upon the infinite shelves of the Almighty; and yea, behold, every shredder yielded up its secrets, and all the encrypted files were decoded, and the classified files released, and all the gathered knowledge and information and experience collected by Man was uploaded unto the Cloud of the Most High, and displayed for all to see upon the Great Jumbotrons of Heaven. And behold, all the hidden-camera videos were shown, and all the stories were told, and all the secret tapes played, and all the mysteries resolved, and every secret revealed, yea, even unto the Grassy Knoll itself. The petty scams and tawdry trickeries of men all stood exposed, each conspiracy unraveled, all deceptions debunked, and the machinations of the mighty were laid bare to the searing light of that fiery day. Each moment, each thought hidden and unseen, each jealousy and fantasy, each ghostly secret carried into graves, yea, all became known unto all, from the most heinous crimes even down to the last burp and nose-picking, and great was the abashment and embarrassment thereof, for who has lived a life devoid of shameful moments, or gross behavior?

And a great voice filled the air, and it pierced every heart, for it was at the same time stern and amused: öDid you really think you could get away with that? Sillies.ö

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## FURTHER FRAGMENTS FROM THE ANTICALYPSE OF SEBASTIAN OF APPALACHIA

3. *(a prophecy)*
4. *the resurrection of the data*



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