CHRIST THE ANTIDOTE REGARDING DEATH

Part 8.

LAYING CLAIM TO HIS PURCHASED POSSESSION

When He ascended up on High, He led captivity captive.

"Therefore it says; Having ascended on high he captivated captivity, & he gave gifts to men."

I would delightfully like not only to suggest, but to assert to us all today that Christ is ascending up on high within us, captivating us & making us His most ardent, delighted & obedient captives.

"He tasted death for every man & purchased us with a price", & will not be satisfied until He captivates all who are rightfully his every man" & return them to Eden, or to that Edenic state where every one of us longs to be, & is our (every man's) true heritage.

Christ who is God manifested is the100% VICTOR not 1% or 50% or even 95% but 100%.

I WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME
Love will never fail.

How is this task being accomplished? By Love, Truth & Faith!

Recently a very good friend of mine posed the question! Ralph! As regard the 'Restitution of all things' I can see what you are saying has much merit, but how do we respond to this verse? And this I share with you now; Acts 13: 46 KJV "Then Paul & Barnabas waxed bold, & said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, & judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo we turn to the Gentiles." The question in my friend's mind was of course that those in question "judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life." On the surface if we were to believe what most of Christendom have believed & taught us for some time, this would seem like a foregone conclusion that these particular Jews were sure candidates for a long time in an eternal torment. But in love & concern let us scratch a little below the surface & see what lies hidden there! In what we are going to share, if I seem perhaps a little facetious, please forgive me as what I see is very close to my heart & the fallacy of the unenlightened stern opposer's, does at times bring out in us, well meaning barbs. Allow me to quote a portion of the above verse from the Greek Diaglott. "since you thrust away him, and not worthy judge yourselves of the age-lasting life," The word everlasting in the KJV rendition, is translated age-lasting in the Diaglott, & is from the Greek Aionian or Eon; Its meaning an Age, an Era or a Period of time. In a number of places in the Amplified we read about the Age to come. For instance in Lk 20: 34a, Amp. "And Jesus said to them, The people of this world & present age marry & are given in marriage: But those who are considered worthy to gain that other world & that future age"......In Mat 24:3b. Amp. We read, "Tell us, when will this take place, & what will be the sign of Your coming & of the end (the completion, the consummation) of the age." In the KJV the word WORLD is used in place of the word AGE, Age is the proper translation. Mt19:28a "Jesus said unto them, Truly I say to you, in the new age" the KJV renders the word AGE as regeneration. Now having said & shown that the true translation is AGE.
Two Ages And a Third

Let us now turn to Mat 12:32 Amp, "And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Spirit, the Holy One, will not be forgiven, either in this world and age or in the world & age to come." Now when Jesus was saying this He was still in the age or dispensation of the LAW, it had not been changed as yet, Pentecost had not yet come. So these Jesus was referring to could not be forgiven then (in the time or dispensation of law) or in the next age or dispensation which is Pentecost. Now I ask the question. What about the next Age or dispensation, "The future age, or the new age" as mentioned in the above verses. Now please do not think we are referring to the (new age movement) no, no! In Mk 3:29 "But whoever speaks abusively against or maliciously misrepresents the Holy Spirit can never get forgiveness, but is guilty of & is in the grasp of an everlasting trespass," the word everlasting is once again a mis-translation, it should read (an age lasting trespass). Now this alters things dramatically when we consider the above extract judged themselves unworthy of AGE LASTING LIFE. Once again an AGE is an EON or a DISPENSATION. They judged themselves unworthy of entering into salvation in that EON, they would have to wait. I hear a question. Wait until when? There are a number of Bible references regarding a THIRD day restoration, "a day with the Lord is as a thousand years & a thousand years as one day." If God is going to "draw all men to Himself" & I believe with all my heart He will, there must be a time in the future when He will. When the Son's of God are fully manifested, Rom 8:19-23, this will herald the beginning of the time of the era, which will climax in the Jubilee. (For those who are interested I have several copies of J. Preston Eby's, Jubilee! Or you can go on line & look for 'The Saviour of the World Series' & find it there).

A second chance?

Now you ask where is your proof of more than one chance? You see beloved ones, the "god of this world" which is the carnal man, does not want you to know these things. Gen 3:5, "For God knows that in the day that you eat, then your eyes shall be opened, & you shall be as god's, knowing good & evil." Lets turn to 1 Pet 3:19-20.

V19. "In which He went & preached to the spirits in prison." 20. "[The souls of those] who long before in the days of Noah had been disobedient, when God's patience waited during the building of the ark in which a few [people], eight in number, were saved through water."

First of all the word prison is from the Gk phulake # 5438, part of the meaning is the place, the condition. In Ps 142:7a, KJV "Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name," what did the Psalmist mean? Why a condition of the soul, of course! Yet in this case the word prison is from macger #4525, a smith, a thing, a prison. This is related to the word macoreth #4562, a band or bond. Taking all of this into consideration, I wish to suggest to us today that the prison that those in 1Pet 3:19, is not what we have been taught for many years, but is a condition of the soul the same as the prison that you & I were in & the one that David referred to in the above Psalm. When you & I were in prison that place or condition we could go nowhere, we could not move any where spiritually, WE WERE TRAPPED. I believe that the condition of the after-life is not quite like we have been led to believe thus far by the majority of Bible teachers. So these souls that Christ went & preached to, those who were TRAPPED in their unbelief, they had been preached to once before by Noah & his family but were "once disobedient" or as the Amp states had been disobedient & yet God gave them a second chance, don't say no! Let's be honest with ourselves & especially with God, forget what religiosity has taught us & let us read the evidence in front of us. Jesus went & preached to these once disobedient ones & God gave them a second chance. We are speaking about a God who so loved, that He gave, & before he was given, Jesus said that after I am lifted up on the cross I will draw ALL men unto myself.

Is God a respect-er of persons?

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Is there any other place where a similar thing happened? YES! 1Pet 4:6. KJV, "For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." Now I realise that this verse would be open for conjecture for some but the word also clarifies the thought & meaning. Remember that when Peter wrote this epistle there were no chapters or verses, he is still elaborating on his previous theme & has not yet completely changed it. Let me illustrate, to do so I will marry parts of the two verses "He went & preached to the spirits in prison who had been disobedient in Noah's day, when God's patience waited....For this cause was the gospel preached also them that are dead," God's love & patience are shown to us in many ways, especially in His imputed righteousness, which is to & for all men. But they must hear it before they can respond. But you say they did hear. God is not so interested in the outer ear. Hear the words of Paul, Acts 28: 26, "Go to this people & say to them, You will indeed hear & hear with your ears but will not understand, & you will indeed look & look with your eyes but will not see [not perceive, have knowledge of become acquainted with what you look at, at all.] 27, For the heart (the understanding, the soul) of this people has grown dull (stupid, hardened & calloused), & their ears are heavy & hard of hearing & they have shut tight their eyes, so they may not perceive & have knowledge & become acquainted with their eyes & hear with their ears & understand with their souls & turn [to me & be converted], that I may hear them." Isaiah 6:9-10.

The reason I have inserted these two verses is that I believe they would perfectly & adequately describe those who Noah preached to in prison. God to carry out His plan, "Who will have all men to be saved & to come to the knowledge of truth." 1Tim 2:4 KJV, sometimes in His love has to allow drastic measures for the ear or the inner ear (the soul) to be made ready. I wonder after many hundreds of years possibly close to 3000 years entrapped in what they thought was perhaps hopelessness, remembering the days of rebellion & disobedience before the flood, whether they were then ready to have open ears (souls) to give ear to the victorious Christ. With love, power & grace He captivated them brought their souls out of prison & took them captive & they ascended in spirit into that high place realm within themselves with Him, & one day soon we will have the privilege of meeting them. Can you say with me Hallelujah.

Now if God's patience, love, mercy & long suffering was shown to those in the preceding verses, & he did not feel similarly to those disobedient ones who "judged themselves unworthy of age lasting life" would He not be a respect-er of persons? Absolutely! "To everything there is a season, & a time for every matter or purpose under heaven. A time to break down & a time & a time to build up." Ecc 3:1, 3b. Amp. God who is so far ahead of us, had planned in aeonian times for the salvation of ALL MEN. Hear a word from Paul reading from Rom 16:25-27. Amp.

"Now to Him who is able to strengthen you in the faith which is in accordance with my Gospel & the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ (the Messiah), according to the revelation (the unveiling) of the mystery of the plan of redemption which was kept in SILENCE & SECRET for long ages."

Paul who was the champion of this previously hushed secret, which is now revealed, though in many quarters not yet realised. Please allow me to quote just a few excerpts. "As in Adam ALL die, even so in Christ shall ALL made alive." 1Cor 15: 22. "For just as by one man's disobedience...the many were constituted sinners, so by one man's obedience the many will be constituted righteous." Rom 5:19. "Who WILL have ALL men to be saved & to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Tim 2:4. "Therefore as by the offence of one, judgement came upon ALL men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon ALL men unto justification of life." Rom 5:18. "Who is the Saviour of ALL men, specially of those who believe." (specially not exclusively) 1Tim 4:10. "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto ALL & upon ALL them that believe: for there is no difference." Rom 4:22. These few quotations from both the KJV & Amp should suffice
for now. The reason we have underlined the above even so in two cases, is that in the Gk it is an equation, & of course it is the same in the English.

So to be consistent God will have a way through circumstances that His great Love Plan will be carried out & will bring us we who were made in His very own Image, spirit beings to the place where we are willing to embrace his love. & as the great Apostle Paul stated in Phillipians "I apprehend that for which I am apprehended" in other words once the love of God had become a conscious part of his life, he reached out with & in that Love of God that was in & upon him, & was apprehending him for himself. For it is God's love, it is God's faith, it is God's righteousness, it is God's grace, we can take no credit whatsoever, if we do this is self righteousness. For God's Love will NEVER fail.

YET DOES HE DEVISE MEANS THAT HIS BANISHED BE NOT EXPELLED FROM HIM

2 Sam14:14b "And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile ALL things unto Himself; by Him I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in Heaven." Col 1:20.

In 2 Sam 13:37-39. After Absalom had slain his brother Amnon, in his guilt he fled to his grandfather Talmai who lived in Geshur & he HID himself. And the spirit of David longed for Absalom. This is how we are in our dual thinking, unfortunately we are prone to take the negative. A similar instance was when Adam ate from the tree of duality, when he said to God I heard you walking in the garden & I was afraid because I was naked & I HID myself, & God said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded that you should not eat? In our mistaken identity we think that there is a separation between ourselves & God, or our soul & spirit, which is our true self. Why? For there is a veil between the two & that veil is our flesh. Heb10:20, but we have good news for all for when Jesus was crucified that veil was taken away & incidentally it was for every person, past present & future. There is a way that you can avail yourselves of, & to, what already belongs to you. "But whenever a person turns [in repentance]to the Lord, the veil is stripped off & taken away." 2 Cor 3:16. But sadly not all Christians are aware of this, but those who are reading this & have not realised this up until now. “The truth will make you free.” And so today I speak the Word of the Lord to you & say. Rise up in your understanding & be set free & walk in a new realisation as to your position in Christ, NOW & FOREVER. So be it!

We are now narrating from 2 Sam 14. Now Joab being a sagacious person knew that the kings heart (this is speaking of David Absalom's father) was toward Absalom. Absalom, instead of seeking God, he was listening via the veil (his flesh) which will always lie to us. Incidentally in this analogy, “David represents The Father & Absalom represents us all.” So Joab sent to Tekoah for a wise woman & said to her this is what I want you to do. Pretend that you are in mourning & put on suitable mourning apparel as if you had been mourning for a loved one for sometime. Then go to the king & say thus & thus. When she spoke to David she fell on her face & said help Oh king! David asked her, What troubles you? She said, I am a widow; my husband is dead. I had two sons & they quarrelled with one another in the field & there was no one to separate them, & one struck the other & killed him, & behold, the whole family has risen against me & are demanding me to deliver him to them, that they may kill him for the life of his brother who he slew; & so they would destroy the heir also. And so quenching my coal (or taking away the only one who can support me) which is left, they would leave to my husband no name or remnant on this earth. David said go home & I will give orders concerning you. And the woman said to the king, My lord O king, let the guilt be on me & my father's house; let the king & his throne be guiltless.

V 10 "David then said, if anyone says anything to you, bring him to me & he shall not touch you again. V11 "Then she said, I pray you, let the king remember the Lord your God, that the avenger of blood destroy not any more, lest they destroy my son. And David said, as the Lord lives, there shall not one hair of your son fall to the earth." V12 Then the woman said, Let your handmaid, I pray you,
speak one word to my lord the king. He said, Say on. V13 “[She] said, Why then have you planned such a thing against God’s people? For in speaking this word the king is like one who is guilty, in that [he] does not bring home his BANISHED one. V14 “We must all die; we are like water spoiled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. And God DOES NOT take away life, but devises means so that he who is banished may not be an utter outcast from Him.”’’ What a wonderful word this is, this is purposely written here, in the wisdom of God, for a word of encouragement to us today.

Now David even though he represents the Father in this analogy, is very human & so to fulfill his type in this case needed a wake up call as it were. So to continue the narration between David & the woman of Tekoah. Verse 20 "In order to change the course of matters [between Absalom & his father] your servant Joab did this. But my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the angel of God—to know all things that are on the earth. V21 Then the king said to Joab, Behold now, I grant this; go bring back the young Absalom..... V24 And the King said, Let him go to his own house, & let him not see the King's face.....V28 Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem & did not see the king's face."

The two full years is a type of two of the three days that Jesus referred to in John 2:19, 21. "Destroy this temple & in three days I will raise it up again. V21 But He had spoken of the temple which was His body." A prophecy concerning the body of Christ in these last days. This of course is explained by Peters statement, "A day with the Lord is as a thousand years & a thousand years as ONE day." We are now I believe right at the beginning of the Third Day. Absalom did not see his father the Kings face until the THIRD year. Also a similar analogy in Hosea 6: 1-3. In verse 2, we read "After two days He will revive us (quicken us, give us life); on the THIRD DAY he will raise us up that we may live before Him."

I wish here to bring to our attention that once again as we see three separate places of being or understanding in our experiences, this also applies to Absalom in this situation.

1 Outer Court = His grandfathers house, a long way from seeing the king face to face. To some today it represents a God who is not within us, & as some would even think a God up in the sky somewhere!

2 Holy Place = In Jerusalem still not seeing the King face to face, but knowing that He is close.1Cor 13:12.

3 Most Holy Place = As we are about to see Absalom in sincere desperation & dedication in seeking the King, & the King receiving him & kissing his son Absalom. Once again 1Cor 13:12, 1John 3:2.

Verse 29 "So Absalom sent for Joab to send him to the king, but he would not come to him; even when he sent again the second time, he would not come. V30 Therefore Absalom said to his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, & he has barley there; go & set it on fire. So Absalom's servants set the field afire. V31 Then Joab arose & went to Absalom at his house & said to him, Why have your servants set my field afire. V32 Absalom answered Joab, I sent to you, saying, Come here, that I may send you to the king to ask, Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still. Now therefore [Joab], let me see the king, & if there is iniquity & guilt in me, let him kill me. 33 So Joab came to the king & told him. And when David had called for Absalom, he came to him & bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king; & [David] kissed Absalom."

If you will seek me with all your heart you shall find me.

The sincerity of earnestness, & means which Absalom went to is very heart moving, he was not going to leave any stone unturned. He was determined to use every means at his disposal to be in the actual presence of the King & to see him face to face. Would to God that we all would have the same earnest desire. "Absalom bowed himself on his face to the ground before the King" & his reward was that the King kissed him. This is the true heart of God toward us all. "For God so loved that He gave, & the son said to him, Father I have sinned against heaven & in your sight & am not worthy....But the father said....bring quickly the BEST robe & put it on him." But before this happened we are told. "But while
he was still a long way off his father saw & was moved,...& he ran & embraced him & kissed him.
[fervently]."

The theme of our message is that God has & devises ways & means that "His banished be not expelled from Him." Listen to it; God will bring at some time in every persons existence, (somewhere) circumstances that they will, willingly want to burn every hindrance & bridge that would stand before themselves & a loving creator. "I have sworn by Myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness & shall not return, that unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear [allegiance]." Isa 45:23. Rom:14:11. Amp......."That at the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth, And every tongue frankly & openly confess & acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phillippines 2:10-11. Amp.

False burdens & causes of Banishment.

In the second Chapter of Lamentations & the 14th verse. KJV, we read. "Thy prophets have seen vain & foolish things for thee: & they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens & causes of banishment." Even though some translations do not word this verse the same, if we look at the context closely we will see that the KJV is correct. This verse is alluding to the false prophets of Israel, & the prophet, (more than likely Jeremiah), is by the spirit of God warning the people & berating the false prophets. The religiosity that we have had & are breaking free from today also have their false prophets 'who have seen vain & foolish things for thee: & they have not discovered thine iniquity," Make confession often to the priest, then live any way you like for the week & come back again next week & confess again. This is not turning away your captivity; but keeping you captive to their particular religious bondage. Many so called respected churches are no better. Come to our particular Church listen to the Pastor & no one else, you are not to do any thinking for yourselves (except to enhance their dogma) otherwise you are in rebellion & this will eventually lead to an eternity in hell fire. This is ruling by fear, & they are "seeing for you false causes of banishment." These rulers say if you don't pay your tithes each week then that is rebellion also. From Acts to revelation there is not one mention of the word Tithe except in Hebrews, & these references are certainly not advocating it is for us today. But they say Abraham paid his tithe to Melchizedek! Yes he did, but he also kept the Sabbath Day! Do you? He was also circumcised! Do you preach that also? If we keep one point of the law & offend in any other, we are guilty of offending the lot. James 2:10. Tithing was under the law, so was Circumcision & the Sabbath Day. Someone said but how do we keep the Churches afloat if we don't preach tithing. Teach giving, but for God's sake & heavens sake, the peoples sake & your sake, let's leave the LAW out of it. In retrospect, maybe some of them ought to sink any way the Churches that is.

For those of you who are interested in the scholarly point of view. “The above word banishment is from the word madduwach STRONGS # 4065 = seduction:- cause of banishment, & is directly from the word nadach # 5080 = a prim root; to push off; used in a great variety of applications, lit. & fig. (to expel, mislead, strike, inflict, etc):-- banish, bring, cast down (out), chase, compel, draw away, drive (away, out, quite), fetch a stroke, force, go away, outcast, thrust away (out), withdraw,” So we can see that the KJV was right on the mark.

Sometime ago whilst speaking to someone on the subject we are addressing, he mentioned Heb 6:4.Amp.

V4 "For it is impossible [to restore & bring again to repentance] those who have been once for all enlightened, who have consciously tasted the heavenly gift & have become sharers of the Holy Spirit, V5 And have felt how good the word of God is & the mighty powers of the age & world to come, V6 If they then deviate from the faith & turn away from their allegiance----[it is impossible] to bring them back to repentance, for (because, while, as long as) they nail upon the cross the Son of God afresh [as far as they are concerned] & are holding [Him] up to contempt & shame & public disgrace." The Diaglott renders age in verse 5 as the coming age. I would like to point out in view of what we have
mentioned as regards not being forgiven in this Age or the Age to come & remembering that there was a
time for "those who were once disobedient in the days of Noah" to consider that in the above verse 6
(because, while, as long as) supports God's very wonderful plan of the "restitution of all things, which
God hath spoken by the mouth of ALL his holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:21b

Once again I repeat part of the above verse in Hebrews, V6. "[It is impossible] to bring them to
repentance, for - BECAUSE, WHILE, AS LONG AS - they nail upon the cross the Son of God
afresh."...... Also "Those who were once disobedient in the days of Noah," at one time fitted the
description of the Heb 6 group, because, while, as long as they stayed disobedient, It was impossible to
bring them to repentance. For those who would say well I don't read it that way in the KJV. Let me
them again to repentance WHILE crucifying for themselves the Son of God again & holding Him up to
infamy." The word while makes all the difference to the context of the passage. It throws exactly the
same meaning on the verse as the Amplified, when it cites "because, while, as long as."

So considering that our wonderful Lord Jesus is now & ever in the process to,

*Laying claim to his purchased Possession.*

He will not rest until every last one of those that He has purchased is a LOVE 'captivated captive'.

**RETURN, YE CHILDREN OF MEN**
Ps 90:3.KJV.

In closing this particular subject I would Quote from Jer 29:13-14. "Then will you seek Me, inquire for, & require Me [as a vital necessity] & find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.V14 I will be
found by you, says the Lord, & I will release you from captivity & gather from all the nations & all the
places to which I have driven you, says the Lord, AND I WILL BRING YOU BACK TO THE PLACE
FROM WHICH I CAUSED YOU TO BE CARRIED AWAY CAPTIVE." This place is, if you can see it is none other than Eden. This verse is prophetic & is one of those verses that has a double meaning similar to
Hosea 6:2 & many others.

As we know when reading scripture we need to let the spirit show us the deeper meanings that God
has for us. Let us now compare Rom 8:20 with the above verse. "For the creation (nature) was
subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration), not because of some intentional fault on it's
part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it---[yet] with the hope." Let us add one more similar
verse which is saying the same thing. Rom 11:32, "For God has consigned (penned up) ALL men to
disobedience, only that He may mercy on them ALL [alike]."

As we stated at the beginning of the article the plan of God is in the process bringing man back to his
Edenic state, He is making man into the Image of himself which is Christ. To emphasise the thought I am
citing from the latest article that our good brother J. Preston Eby has written, which I received only
yesterday.

Quote :- “Men have been given a wrong view, a mistaken image of God! Religion preaches & serves a
God who is a monster, who is mean, cruel, & vicious. They say that God is love, but in their hearts they
believe that God is vindictive, implacable, harsh, unmerciful, & exacting, because they believe that God's
judgement against sin & sinners is eternal torture in the fires of hell without one degree of mercy. They
also believe that God is fickle, for He will send to this eternal hell men who never had a chance, who
never heard the name of Jesus, who were ignorant & undiscerning, who were careless & unconcerned,
although they did not hate God or deliberately walk in rebellion against Him. But then, the vilest man
who ever lived, who hated & blasphemed & abused & murdered, if on his deathbed, at the last breath of
his life, he simply says, “Father, forgive me; Lord Jesus, save me,” this one gets to go to heaven! Now
that, my beloved, is classical *fickleness!*
But God has revealed to us how wonderful He is ---- He loves every man so much that His judgement against sin & sinners is not eternal, unmerciful, unrelenting torture & damnation ----- His judgement against sin & sinners is Jesus hanging on the cross in our place & on our behalf! Oh, yes! God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself! God came in Christ to die for every man, yet He is going to torture most of mankind for all eternity with no respite ----- those two ideas don't compute! They just don't add up! They are contradictions!........ But I tell you by the word of the Lord ---- the Lord God who walks in the Garden in the cool of the day will bring you out from under your rock just as He brought Adam out from behind his tree! There is no place you can run & hide where this face cannot be seen! That's what the book of Revelation is all about ---- the revelation, the unveiling of Jesus Christ! There is no escape from the face of the Lamb. Somewhere, someday, somehow, He will get you, He will win, you will be captured, captivated, conquered by Him! He is out to get you ---- not to destroy you, but to save you & make you His chosen one! He will ravish your heart. He will win your love. He will gain your adoration. He will command your obedience.......If those who heard this voice on Sinai could not escape the voice speaking on earth, how much more can we not escape the voice that now speaks from heaven! End quote.

On that beautiful note we will close "Laying claim to His purchased Possession."

SOUL SLEEP?

In the article The Oneness of Man with God, Part 6. We made mention of whether the soul leaves the body at death or not! There was quite some response from several readers, in wanting to know more about the subject, so I promised that we would respond in a later article. Hence the change in the subject.

In broaching any subject where there is a seeming or supposed contradiction we must remember that while either party, (for or against) takes a hard, toe's dug into the ground attitude & will not not consider the other side of the story, then it is futile to continue.

There is no contradiction in the Scriptures, only seemingly so!

When we came from Outer court to Holy Place i.e. 'Pentecost', there were verses that those we had left, used against us, that seemingly would support their cause, but it was because they would not listen to the the 'Whole Counsel of God'. The same goes again with the 'Holy Place' & the supposed contradiction to 'The Most Holy Place.' In what we are going to say, there is always an answer to any to any so-called dissension, & that is attitude. Now all the references to 'Soul Sleep' are correct in part! Do I now have your attention ? But there is something to consider & that is the other side of the story, I wish, by the help of the spirit to marry the two.

If the soul is separated from the body at death, & it means that only the Spirit apart from the soul returns to God who gave it, would God talk to that spirit, without the soul, as regards it's past life ? And furthermore would He deal with that Spirit without the soul, to perfect it, 'the spirit'? Let us remember that this whole experience we are having is because God is dealing with our soul... Once again I would like to look at the case where Jesus addressed the spirits in prison in I Pet 3:19-20. Now if we think we can escape by trying to claim that these spirits are fallen angels. Jude Verse 6-7 puts a very smart stop to that by declaring that they have not yet been released, if you still insist, then we have a contradiction in God's word, but as mentioned there are no contradictions, only seemingly so, & the reason is, because of the lack of understanding. To continue with the spirits in prison. Christ went & preached to them. What without their souls? Beloved we cannot separate Christ, when God created man in His own Image, He created a MAN who was both male & female or spirit & soul. You will not find anywhere that God CREATED a woman, WOW! Before you send me any responses you had better check that one out very carefully & that includes Gen 2:22. The 'male & female' or the 'spirit & soul' are intrinsically one & cannot be separated. We were made in the image of God who is both Masculine & Feminine, the 'Father-
Creator & El Shaddai, the 'full, or twin breasted one'. And each & every one of us are both male & female. I am speaking spiritually now. If Adam was made in the image of God & this was before the body was formed; as God cannot be separated, neither can we; our soul & spirit that is; God has a soul! Go to your concordance & you may be very surprised. When Christ went & preached to those in prison, did He preach only the spirit that God gave them who & which is perfect? If you say yes, that is like saying that Christ preached to Himself, how absolutely ridiculous! No beloved the only way it fits is that as God is one & cannot be separated, neither can we. When Christ preached to the spirits - this is referring to both soul & spirit - in prison. This is referring to the feminine part of the spirit. Ps 142:7a

"He brought my SOUL out of prison." It is the soul that is brought out of prison, that part of the spirit that has it's own will.

Now you may be saying, Well you seem to be taking a one sided view! Bear with me for a little while, I am establishing the fact that there is another point of view & my question is. Can we marry the two?

Let us now look at Heb 12: 23. Amp. "And to the church (assembly) of the First-born who are registered [as citizens] in heaven, & to the God Who is Judge of all, & to the SPIRITS of the righteous (the redeemed in heaven) who have been made perfect."

If, as we have been told by some that "the spirit returns to God who gave it" is completely separate from the soul, which stays with the body, (& may I say that there are a number of verses that would seemingly support this). If this is true, how come that the spirit, apart from the soul, is made perfect. To be reasonable & to make sense of this verse, there must be something of the soul incorporated in that spirit.

When in 1Pet 4:6, "Christ went & preached also to them that are dead," once again to make any sense of this verse He had to be preaching not only to the spirit of God that returns to God who gave it, but the soul in some way had to be involved, somehow!!

In the case of Elijah & the dead child that he raised to life again. We read, 1Kings 17:21-22. "And he stretched himself upon the child three times & cried to the Lord & said, O Lord my God, I pray You, let this child's SOUL COME BACK INTO HIM. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah, & the SOUL of the child CAME INTO HIM AGAIN, & he revived." It is quite obvious that in this instance that the soul or at least (part of the soul) left the body & came back into it again. On this we must all agree. But we must be fair & honest with this topic & not ignore either side.

There are a number of instances where when referring to people the Book uses the word souls & it means exactly that. In the Heb it is the word Nephesh # 5315 & its equivalent in the Gk is Psuche # 5590 & simply put, it means = Life, Mind & Soul. So what is the answer?

The soul of any person will not come into an eternal relationship with God until it is first quickened by God. "He that believes on him will not perish." After death the experience of the person who has been quickened by God is vastly different to the person who has not.

Since starting this particular segment, I was in prayer & knowing what I felt in my spirit, I was sharing it with the Father & I needed a witness. Suddenly a book came to my mind very clearly. I had read this book a number of years ago & was not sure if I still had it, also I could not remember if it mentioned this subject or not, so I went hunting & Lo to my delight, in the first Chapter this is what I found.

Quote:- Each individual soul passes through many trials, tribulations & initiations, through the process of which these two principles of will & love are becoming united & perfectly harmonised in man & he becomes Christed. This is the true meaning of the immaculate conception, which is the outcome of the mystical marriage between spirit & soul within man.
We are trying to convey (and a very difficult task it is) the nature of the divine Godhead of Father, Son & Spirit or Mother, (Gk pneuma which is feminine gender). And we are trying to show the need for that union between spirit & soul in man, & the truth which underlies the teaching of the immaculate conception.

Now we are told that God created man a living soul, but this soul is not necessarily immortal, it is not the eternal part of man. Shall we describe the soul's body as a finer replica of man's physical form? This soul-body has two aspects – first, that portion which is the bridge between earth & heaven during mortal life but is not itself immortal, for it gradually disintegrates after the death of the body; & second, the part of the soul-body which lives on after physical death, the clothing of the spirit. But not until something happens – & that something is an awakening of the life of the soul by the breath of God – does the soul become truly quickened & live eternally. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen 2:7). This is a spiritual truth not understood by many.--: End quote.

So there we have it! We have married the two. I believe that if you can receive it, that the above chapter contains the answer for both sides of the age old dilemma of the subject of 'soul sleep' except that it is not 'soul sleep' as some have interpreted, but a disintegration of that part of the soul that was a part of this lower life. To further support what I am saying, read 2 Cor 5:1-9. Maybe at a later date we can go into the subject more fully.

Trust that this has been a blessing to all.

Written by Ralph Knowles, November 2009.

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