

Kingdom Report

Week 11 August 2018

The Mystery of Meeting the Lord in the Air

The rapture of the Church is one of the most beloved doctrines of the evangelical movement and one of the most controversial. For those of you who love scriptural mysteries and want to dig a bit deeper on this...here are some things to consider. There is more here than the sudden disappearance of 700 million evangelicals.

A cursory reading of 1 Thessalonians 4:17 seems to be quite straightforward.. ***“...then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”*** And 1 Cor. 15:52 ***“In a moment in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.”***

But bear with me as we look a bit deeper in scriptures to see what maybe Paul was reading in what we call the Old Testament. Which to him was scripture and all that he had to study. Keep also in mind that scripture warns us that the Lord tends to hide things so that those who are serious and zealous must dig deep to discover His secrets:

Prov. 25:2 ***“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing but the honour of kings to search out a matter.”***

First there is a strategic mistake in the idea of escaping the earth... You see my spiritual senses tell me that the Lord really does not want to take us out of this world, which is why Jesus prayed ***“Father I pray that you do not take them out of this world but that you should keep them from the evil one.”*** (John 17:15) Which directly contradicts why Christians believe they are going up in the rapture. They need to get taken out of the world to escape from the antichrist!

Jesus compounded this issue by saying that the coming of the Lord will be as the days of Noah and Lot...one taken, one left behind (Luke 17:34-36) And if you remember your Bible stories it was in both cases the wicked who were taken away and the righteous left behind....so....I want to be left behind!

Now let's look a bit deeper as to what Paul might have been reading in scripture that informed his vision of the coming of the Lord. Remember that Paul was a Pharisee scholar deeply taught in scripture. And those scriptures only started to make sense when he could see them as shadows of the reality to come....including the coming of the Lord in the clouds.

If you look at Israel at Mount Sinai you have a very vivid picture of what I believe Paul was able to interpret to his gentile converts in Thessalonica about the coming of the Lord and the “going up” to meet the Lord. For there we have all the elements of “thunder, lightening, clouds, fire, trumpets, noise” and with the Lord descending and the elders of Israel ascending to meet the Lord and guess what....sit down with the God of Israel for a drink and a meal....did anybody say “marriage supper of the Lamb?” Let's read some of that....

First this is what Paul describes as the coming of the Lord...

1Th 4:16 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God:*

Now from Exodus....

Exo 19:16 *And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud;.... And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.*

And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Exo. 24: *And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.*

So God comes down from heaven with a shout and trumpet blast in a cloud on Mount Sinai and He commands that Moses and Aaron and Aarons two eldest sons plus the 70 elders of Israel come up to meet Him. And what do they do up there in the clouds...they see God and have supper with Him!

Are you beginning to see some parallels here? Do you recognize that number 70? Remember the 70 that Jesus sent out?

Luk 10:1 *After these things the Lord appointed other also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come....And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.*

Remember the Lord who came down at Sinai and told Moses to bring 70 elders with him is the same Jesus who sent out 70 disciples ahead of him to every place that He would come and this is very important to understand....what was their report back? "The devils are subject to us!".

This is very important typology information for you to understand what I believe the "rapture" is all about.

Why does Paul say we are to be changed in a twinkling of an eye and meet the Lord in the air? Why not meet the Lord in Paradise like Jesus told the thief, "this day you will be with me in paradise"? Are we meeting Him in the atmosphere above us?

No! Again it is best to look at what Paul thinks is the 'air" and more importantly Who is in the air that we meet as well who resides there!

Eph 2:2 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

So when Paul takes about us meeting Christ in the air...this is not the atmosphere of oxygen and nitrogen....it is the second heavens, the realm of angels and spirits around us which is not some place way out there in the sky but the spirit realm around us filled with fallen angels and demonic entities.... And they are ruled by a powerful fallen angel Satan who is the prince of the power of the occult realms of the second heavens.

Here is my belief...we are changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortal body to spirit body as Jesus demonstrated for us on the Mount of Transfiguration (which by the way was Mount Hermon) that Peter, James and John witnessed and then He changed right back into His mortal body.

I will explain a bit more of this in a moment. But first I need to explain to you the mystery of the 70 elders and how they fit into this story and why the 70 who Jesus sent out came back rejoicing that demons were subject unto them.

The 70 Nations and their Fallen Angel gods

After the Tower of Babel incident when the people of the earth rejected the rulership of the Lord we read in Genesis that God divided all the people into 70 different nations. You can count them up...

Gen 10:32 *These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood.*

The Lord chose Abraham and his family as His portion to start a new nation to serve Him and through this people...to win back the other nations of the world back into His Kingdom rule.

But here is the important fact that most teaching ministries do not realize. The Lord gave these 70 nations to be ruled over by the rebellious fallen angels. These mighty angels were referred by the people who worshipped them as “gods” and the Lord Himself recognized that they were all once His mighty angels who scripture terms “elohim”, the sons of God.

Deu 4:19 *And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.*

Deu 32:8 *When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the angels of God.* (This is what the Septuagint reading of this verse is which is the version that Paul read)

In Psalm 82 the Lord declared judgment on these fallen angels who rule over the nations. It says....

Psa 82:1 *A Psalm of Asaph. God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods (elohim).
How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked?
Selah.
I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.
But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.
Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.*

Can you now see why Paul wrote to the Corinthians to say “**Don’t you know you will judge angels?**” (1 Cor. 6:3)

Now here is my view of the rapture....

There is coming an overcoming body of God’s Kingdom warriors (the “70 elders”) who will receive an infusion of the power of the Spirit of God and do the greater works that Jesus promised His church would do...break down the gates of Hell and bind the Satanic powers in the “air” who rule over nations and people.

These are the “elders” of God, the “firstfruits”...they are seated in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus while living on earth. Time and distance will be no object to where they need to go on earth to set the captives free. They have taken up the challenge of God to judge angels and take authority over them since Christ Himself has bound their leader, the strongman of the house, Satan and they no go forth to spoil him of his goods...and set the nations free.

They move with equal ease in the natural as in the spirit realm. They can like Christ on the mount move between the natural and spiritual world. They sit down to eat with Christ on mount Zion and with David can say “Thou preparest for me a table in the presence of my enemies...you anoint my head with oil, my cup runneth over!”.

They are not taken out of the world. They instead are called to clean out the heavenlies of satanic forces so that we can heal the nations and disciple the lost nations back into the Kingdom of God.

And my earnest prayer for you and I is that you are filled with the anointing oil of the Holy Spirit so that when the cry goes out the Lord is descending with His cloud of angels to take judgement against these forces of evil you and I are prepared and ready to join Him in the spirit realm for Kingdom warfare.

We are not destined to meet the Lord in the air to escape planet earth. We are meeting with Him and the armies of heaven to conduct spiritual warfare to finally bind the demonic forces that have destroyed peoples and nations for ages and bring them into judgment. (Psalm 149)

And so come Lord Jesus.