

Kingdom Report

Week of 18 August 2018

The Mystery of Meeting the Lord in the Air: Part 2...the Eden Exit Plan

Let's go a bit deeper in considering an alternate scenario for the rapture of the saints. What was God's original plan in Eden if Adam had not sinned? Could it be that Jesus the Second Adam is going to restore the Eden Exit Plan?

I consider the Rapture of the saints to be an interesting mystery that needs to be solved. Paul himself acknowledged this when he said "***Behold I show you a mystery, we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed....this mortal must put on immortality.***" 1 Cor. 15:51.

Paul makes this incredible statement to the Corinthians which he repeats to the church at Thessalonica (1 Thes. 4:15) which basically comes to this...we shall not all sleep...meaning we are not all going to die...but we are all, those who have died and those who are here at the coming of the Lord...all, are going to be changed from mortal to immortal bodies.

Now this is an incredible statement in this sense. There is nothing new about the idea of the resurrection of the dead. That was standard Pharisee doctrine which was different from Sadducee theology and which Jesus Himself confirmed the Pharisees were correct.

The incredible theological breakthrough that Paul made was to assert to the amazement of his listeners that God has a plan for exiting this earth realm that did not require death of the body as the means of exiting. Now he acknowledged that this is a mystery that needs explanation. The idea of the resurrection of the dead was not a mystery. That was a common belief among the religious Jews. But where did he get that idea that the manifestation of Christ will result in bodies being changed? They all knew that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to hundreds of people after His resurrection. None of them suddenly changed into immortal bodies upon contact with the risen Christ.

Now let me say that after many years of study on this issue and being raised a good Pentecostal and a firm teacher and believer in the current presentation of the Rapture as a sudden disappearance of hundreds of millions of people in a single moment...to me is no longer an answer to this mystery. I think there is an equally miraculous and equally seemingly crazy explanation of this mystery if we let scripture interpret scripture. But have no fear...I am still with Paul on this....God has a plan and has always had a plan since the days of Eden, that He wants mankind to transfer from this world to Paradise without death being the mechanism of that exit.

Unfortunately we do not have Paul's lengthy sermons and teaching on how he came to discover this mystery or how he went about explaining it...he just gives a couple of lines in his letters to the Corinthians and the Thessalonians hinting at this. But he is

adamant...death is the last enemy...and we are going to conquer it: Through the Second Adam, Christ. And there is the starting point I believe of Paul's journey of discovery...a closer look at what happened in Eden.

Think of it this way. Since Paul tells us that Jesus Christ is the second Adam..."And so it is written The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." Obviously Paul was thinking, What would was God's plan for man if Adam had not sinned? Because whatever that plan was, the second Adam Jesus Christ is going to restore it.

So lets look closer at Eden. Genesis 3:8 says Adam and Eve "hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God..." Then their sin caused them to be exposed naked. Then God tells them as a consequence of their sin they would be thrown out of Eden and they would return to dust through death. And then God places a Cherubim with a flaming sword at the entrance to Eden to prevent anyone from entering, "lest they eat of the tree of life and live forever". Amazing stuff!

Now move forward to Exodus and Paul would have studied thoroughly the passages I related to you last week of the happenings on the mountain of God, the ascension of the elders to dine with Yahweh. He would also have noted that the amount of time that Moses spent in the presence of Yahweh caused a change in Moses' physical state, his face shown with the glory of God so that he had to wear a veil not to scare the people. And Moses testimony at 120 was I am as strong and vigorous as when I was young...age reversal had taken place. In fact Jude tells us that the body of Moses was so unique even after death that Satan and Michael fought over the body.

Then Paul would have read of Isaiah's prophecies that the time is coming when a person of 100 if died would be like a child dying. He would have noticed that all those living near Eden could not only consult with the presence of Yahweh as Cain did but lived for many hundreds of years. But after Eden was destroyed by the flood, the ages of mankind dropped drastically down. The Paul would have access to Luke's research on the life of Christ and the amazing happening on the Mount of Transfiguration...when a human bodied Jesus changed in the twinkling of an eye to put on a supernatural body and then changed back again before coming down from the mount.

So what would the world have looked like if Adam had not sinned? Here is what I think....

Adam had the responsibility for being God's king/priest on earth. He was the teach the people the ways of the Lord. He was to teach them how to take dominion over the earth and how to serve Yahweh. Adam was covered in the glory of God caused by his constant exposure to the presence of God. Adam could move from the human/earth realm to the Paradise spirit realm and back. There was a gate in Eden from this world to the next. When you had lived for hundreds of years on this earth and been disciplined and developed into the person God called you to be and done the tasks of this life that were assigned to you....you go to the Adam in Eden and say Brother, I have done the work that the Lord Yahweh has given me to do and I have been molded into His image...I am ready to move on. And you walk through the gate of God..and

Jesus is the gate and He is the tree of Life. “Enter good and faithful servant to the house of our Father”.

Jacob and many others in scripture knew of this gate to heaven. In Genesis 28 we have his story of his journey where he went to sleep and God appeared to him and he saw a high ladder from earth to heaven and angels ascending and descending and he said upon waking ***“Surely the Lord is in this place and I knew it not and he was afraid and said How dreadful is this place, this is none other but the house of God and this is the gate of heaven.”***

This is the place spoken of in Revelation...the New Jerusalem, the house of God with its many gates. At each gate is an angel with a flaming sword. Just like the gate in Eden. And from the city of God flowed a river of life and the tree of life was in the inside with leaves for the healing of the nations. This is what Eden was...one of the entrance gates to the City of the New Jerusalem...which is all around us. Jacob stumbled on one of its gates....by divine appointment.

Revelation 22 is a graphic description of Eden restored on earth as the Lord meant thousands of years ago to be His original intent. Yet outside the city as Rev. 22 describes are sinners and nations that need to be saved, healed and disciplined into the Kingdom. Each time the Lordship of Jesus is established over a convert or a people or possessions of the earth are dedicated to the Lord's use, businesses or land or arts or science...when we declare “Kadosh”, Holy unto the Lord, only to be used for His purposes, then the walls of the New Jerusalem grow wider and longer till they cover the earth.

Paul had seen this New Jerusalem in the Spirit. He knew there were gates on earth that we can enter in and out. He knew the time was coming when the presence of the Lord would once again be manifested in the earth, as it was in Eden, as it was on the Mount Sinai as it was on the Mount of Transfiguration, and it would have incredible ramifications. He knew it meant the progressive destruction of Satan and all his works, it meant the victory over sickness and disease, and the healing of the nations.

If you understand this is how he saw it, then you understand what he was saying in Romans 5:12 which I consider one of the most misinterpreted scriptures from the pulpit:

“For by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.”

Please understand this...the scripture does not say that Adam passed a sin nature or guilt onto all men...it says he passed on “death” to all men. You are not guilty of Adam's sin. You are guilty of your own sin. Jesus had an earthly mother...he did not inherit a sin nature from her who was a descendant of Adam and Eve!

What happens was that Adam's sin meant he was kicked out of Eden and the gate closed to eternal life. Now you exit this world through death. That is how all men now have to exit, through death because all men have sinned. But praise God through the second Adam we have passed from death unto life and while we still have to die,,,Paul is saying the time is coming when the presence of the Lord will be restored to earth and the gate of Eden opened again and those alive at that time will have the

privilege of passing from this world to the next without dying...just changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal.

And it meant that the last enemy would be conquered....death. That God would tell the Cherubim that guard the gate of Eden and the gates of the New Jerusalem....let them in....all those who have walked with God, who have developed into maturity and into the full stature of Christ and done the work that God gave them to do...regardless of how many hundreds of years it took to get there...they like Enoch, like Elijah, like Christ...step from this mortal through the gates into the immortal...in the blink of an eye.

Now let me tell you something interesting I have discovered thanks to the incredible access we have via the internet to what is happening all over the world. There is a wonderful phenomenon multiplying in places all over the world....churches are setting up centers of 24 hour round the clock prayer warriors. Watch this phenomenon...this will open the gates of heaven to the miraculous because it allows angels to ascend and descend from the heavenly realm into the world to stand by us and to release the miraculous power and presence of God into all the earth!

Already I am astounded at the number of just ordinary people who are experiencing angelic visitations, visions, miracles. People are being miraculously transported from one part of the earth to another to minister and pray and heal the sick and do the miraculous. There are no boundaries anymore, neither in Islam or in dictatorships. The gospel in power demonstrations is happening all over the world. There are numerous credible accounts of the physical appearance of Jesus to individuals and small groups. There are angelic interventions into the lives of sinners and politicians and media personalities.

The gates are opening! The presence of God is manifesting itself in new waves of worship and praise and intercession that is shaking the heavenlies and destroying the works of the enemy.

And I really believe we could be the generation that sees the manifested glory of God return to all earth, first in His church and from there into all the world...and we will be the "firstfruits" of those in ages to come who will live in the restoration of Eden the New Jerusalem.