

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GOD

RLJ-1476

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 8: ANOTHER WATER MIRACLE

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

It is difficult for mankind to understand the way God thinks since we only know bits and pieces of the plans He has gradually revealed over the millennia. **Isaiah 55:6-9**

The prophet Isaiah was given powerful revelations when he was told that there is no one else like God in existence because He is eternal and never changes. He isn't like humanity in the sense that He has no beginning or end. God is not a created being and has always existed. This concept is hard to grasp intellectually; it is something we just need to accept it as fact. **Isaiah 45:21-25; 46:9-13**

TWO CREATIONS

We are informed by God that there are two creations.

1. The first creation is the universe in which we currently live. **Genesis 1:1-2; 2:1-4**
2. We don't know a whole lot about the second creation; what we do know is that the current universe will dissolve and cease to exist and be replaced with a new one. **Isaiah 51:6; 2 Peter 3:8-13; Revelation 21:1-2**

Jesus told us that in the Father's house (heaven) are many mansions or dwelling places. **John 14:1-3**

The two creations each have a beginning because they have not always existed. The first has a beginning and will have an end; the second has a beginning but it be eternal.

God resides in a place outside of these two creations and the Bible only gives us a glimpse of this place:

- ❖ The Mountain of the congregation (**Isaiah 14:13**)
- ❖ The Holy Mountain of God. (**Ezekiel 28:18**)
- ❖ The City of God. (**Psalms 48:1-2**)
- ❖ The Third Heaven. (**2 Corinthians 12:1-4**)
- ❖ Heaven (**Revelation 4:1-4**)

With this knowledge we can safely conclude that God has an eternal dwelling place outside the two creations. God has hung the two creations and separated them from each other in a space uninhibited by boundaries somewhere outside this dwelling place. Satan and his fallen angels do not have access to this second creation.

There was a war in the heavens because of Lucifer's rebellion. It ended in defeat for Satan and he was sentenced to the Lake of Fire. **Isaiah 14:12-20; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Revelation 12:7-12; Matthew 25:41**



There is no specific chapter and verse in the Bible about the trial of Lucifer and his fallen angels, but the information presented in the Bible indicates the Devil challenged God and questioned His righteousness. God has therefore created mankind to prove His righteousness to the holy and unholy angels. **Romans 3:20-28**

THE BATTLE ON PLANET EARTH

The earth was chosen by God to be the battleground between Lucifer and Himself. Satan's first attack on the human race began in the Garden of Eden and the Bible tells us that Eve, and later Adam rebelled when they believed the Devil's lies over the explicit instructions given by Jesus. Satan must have thought this act of disobedience on Adam and Eve's part would make it impossible for God to prove that He is righteous and this would allow Lucifer to escape his punishment in the Lake of Fire. **Genesis 3:1-8**

Lucifer was not privy to the fact that God is omniscient and had known beforehand that Adam and Eve would choose to sin. He had already devised a plan to redeem mankind and continue to prove to the angels that He is a righteous God. **Genesis 3:15; 1 Corinthians 2:1-8**

SELECTION OF A MAN AND A PLACE

God is operating on a redemption plan that has been unfolding for some 6,000 years since Adam and Eve learned about it. They had no information about what had transpired prior to their creation. No details were given until the prophet Isaiah came on the scene around 700 years before Christ. **Isaiah 9:1-9**

The man selected for the bloodline of the future Messiah was Abraham. **Genesis 12:1-4**

Jerusalem, originally known as Salem, in the land of Canaan was chosen by God to be His city. Did Moses know anything of this? If he did, he never wrote it down. Did Joshua know it? If he did, he too never wrote it down.

The children of Israel were clueless as to why they were inheriting the Promised Land. It wasn't for them to pursue a good time, although God is certainly not opposed to that, but they were to be the custodians of the land selected by God to be the battleground between Lucifer and Himself. With this thought in mind, let's examine the entry of Joshua and the people of Israel into the Promised Land.

CROSSING THE JORDAN RIVER

The Jordan River's banks overflow every spring and turns into a creek later in the summer. God knew the situation and yet He deliberately wanted Israel to cross the river while it was running high. Why? God had a twofold purpose; He wanted to build faith in the children of Israel and He also wanted to instill fear into the different people groups living in the Promised Land (Canaan). **Joshua 3:1-8**

God did not tell Joshua to hold out a rod to part the waters; instead, the people were instructed to watch as priests carried the ark toward the river. They must have looked on in awe as the priests got to the edge and the water stopped flowing. **verses 9-16**

The priests that carried the ark were told to stand still in the middle of the river bed until the last Israelite had passed over. This took an act of faith since the priests could not see any barrier holding back the floodwaters. **verse 17**

God commanded that one man from each tribe take a stone from the middle of the river and erect a memorial for future generations to remember what God had done. **Joshua 4:1-9**

The priests were then commanded to come up from the river bed. The waters came crashing down the moment they set foot on the bank on the other side and the river overflowed its banks again. **verses 15-18**

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

Joshua and the people of Israel had no knowledge of God's eternal plan. They knew that a redeemer would come in the future but were ignorant of the details. All they knew was that God had chosen them and that they had a destiny. Joshua and the people trusted that what they were told to do by God had a purpose and that end goal was good. It was faith in God that gave Joshua the victory. **Hebrews 11:12-16**

Joshua was a link in a long chain from Abraham to Jesus. It was necessary for each specific link to be there in order for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem. That chain did not stop with Jesus as there were twelve new links added and from those new chains have been formed and leads to our present time. You and I are links in a massive chain that reaches all the way back to Jesus. Make sure that your link will not break so that God can forge another link to you. **Matthew 5:13-16**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?