

The Restoration of All things

Introduction

In chapter 3 of the book of Acts we have Peter preaching the gospel after a great healing of a lame man. We accept and believe his clear presentation of salvation. What the evangelical charismatic church has not accepted was his great prophetic declaration “Jesus Christ... whom the heavens must receive until the times of the restoration of all things.” Peter did not say Jesus must remain in heaven until the time of the Rapture! The next thing on God’s Kingdom agenda is not the Rapture but the restoration of all things and Jesus will not return until the church has finished this task. We examine the restoration agenda.

In Acts 3:12-26 Peter declares the gospel to the thousands in the temple area who had just witnessed the miracle of healing of the lame man. Peter not only declares the way of salvation to his listeners but God’s plan for the return of Jesus Christ. He says this...*and He shall send Jesus Christ which was before preached unto you, whom the heavens must receive until the times of the restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*” (vrs.20-21)

Peter makes this great prophetic statement that Jesus is now in the heavens until the restoration of all things and then He will return. Where did Peter get this revelation from? From Psalm 110:1 *“The Lord said unto my Lord sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”*

Peter was preaching restoration and second coming; the church today is preaching rapture and second coming. The word rapture is not in the Bible, but the word restoration is. Actually the better word to use is “reconstitution” which is a better translation of the Greek word “apokatastasis” used in the text. We are to reconstitute that which was lost and Peter says all the prophets have prophesied about this restoration or reconstitution of all that we have lost.

The Restoration Agenda

There are numerous things that we can place on what I want to call the restoration agenda. It will have to include all things that the Lord has already given to us but that was lost in time; it must include all things that Jesus died for and paid for by His blood to buy back for us. Certainly there is a lot of talk from our pulpits on such things as restoring the five-fold leadership structure of the church with a strong emphasis on the restoration of Apostolic and Prophetic ministries.

There is talk of restoration of power and the authority of the believer, there is talk of restoration of the New Testament church. There is great emphasis also today with many prophetic ministries on the restoration of David’s tabernacle with an emphasis on worship and praise coming back into our churches. All of these topics I wholeheartedly agree with and they show me that the Lord is busy with the task of restoration in the church. But they do not go back far enough to what we lost.

The Restoration of Eden

At the top of the restoration agenda is the restoration of Eden. Everything we lost in Eden, Jesus Christ the second Adam has bought back for us and wants to restore to us. On one level all of us agree with this. We have all read the scriptures in 1 Cor. 15 that in the first Adam we all died in sin but that Jesus our second Adam has restored to us eternal life. But I believe that we need to go beyond the restoration of eternal

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life...Jesus is indeed the second Adam and He has restored to us all that we lost in Eden and therefore all of that must be restored as part of the process of the restoration of all things.

Can you see that Peter living in the New Testament church was not concerned with restoring Apostolic and Prophetic authority, he was living it; he was not interested in restoring the New Testament church, he was living it; he was not concerned with restoring miracles to the church, he was living it. So what “restoration of all things” was he declaring that all the prophets had prophesied about? **It is the restoration of Eden on Earth and all that goes with it!**

I know this sounds startling to most readers especially to those who believe that there is still a thousand year Millennium ahead when they believe Eden and God’s Kingdom is to be restored on the earth. Elsewhere in my teaching I showed you we are now in the Kingdom Age and there is no future 1000 year reign of Christ still to come. He is in fact now risen and ruling in the heavenlies seated at the right hand of majesty and power and He will return when all has been restored that we lost through Adam. This is what Peter preached in Acts 3, this is what Paul preached on the resurrection and coming of the Lord in 1 Cor. 15. and this is what all the prophets prophesied would happen.

The Secret of Genesis 2 to Revelation 21&22

What I want to show you is that the New Jerusalem of Revelations 21-22 is in fact the restoration of Eden in Genesis. That is how the Bible ends... the way it begins. And everything in between is the great story of restoration...God’s great plan to restore to us that which we lost. But that is not the end of the story!

Here is the great secret of the real “end times” :

By the time we get to Revelation 21 & 22 we are at the end of the beginning! This is vital to understand.

With the restoration of Eden/New Jerusalem we can now get on with the job of the ages, healing

the nations and taking dominion over all of God’s creation....world without end!

Adam and Eden: Restoration of Glory

If you go to Genesis 2 we have the story of how the Lord planted a garden to the east of Eden and there placed His representative on earth Adam, created in God’s image. Eden was a place on earth. This is not a mythical allegory. Adam had work to do and to do that work the Lord gave him help, Eve. And He called them, Adam (Gen.5:2). The two of them were to be the image bearers of God on earth. Now let me say some controversial things which you do not need to believe but which I believe are part of our Kingdom restoration calling:

The “tree of life” in the garden was not some mystical fruit tree. It was the Lord Jesus Christ who fellowshipped there with Adam. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not an apple tree. It was Satan who also had access to Eden. Scripture says of Satan, “thou hast been in Eden the garden of God”. (Ez. 28:13)

Adam was covered by the glory of God and was energized by the presence of God in Eden. While he lived in the presence of God his body would not deteriorate. When he sinned, the glory covering departed and he and Eve realized they were naked. Moses had a small taste of that experience when the glory of the Lord passed him by on Mount Sinai and coming down from the mountain his face shined with that glory and they had to cover him. But it so affected his physical body that his testimony before his death at 120 was that his eye had not dimmed nor his natural strength abated. In fact the Lord had to take him and his dead body was still so energized that Satan tried to contend for his body and the Lord Himself buried Moses’ body. Adam really did live almost a thousand years.

Adam was not the only person on the earth, neither was he the first person in the world. The people of the earth were created in Genesis 1 on the sixth day of creation, each race group created in God’s image and each to bear after their own kind. When Cain sinned and was judged by God he complained that people would kill him if they

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found him and he left the region of Eden and went into the land of Nod and built himself a city. That meant lots of people on the earth at that time as well as cities.

Adam was God's Melchizedek Priest!

Adam was the Lord's representative on earth....the first king/priest like unto Melchizedek.

If you wanted to know what the Lord was like you went to Adam who would reveal God to you. He walked with God and talked with God. He was supposed to teach people the way of God. He was supposed to bring God's government into the world. The Lord equipped Adam with glory and power and revelation to do his work of establishing God's Kingdom on the earth. Eden was not a farming operation. Throughout scripture nations are referred to as trees or mountains. When Adam was given the task of tending God's garden he was to be the administrator of nations and people.

Adam was to create heaven on earth. Heaven consists of God's family. The Bible describes the many hosts of heaven as the sons of God, they are His kids, He loves them and they have enormous family gatherings around the Father's throne. Central to God's plan for Adam was the creation of the family as God's vehicle for replenishing the earth and subduing the earth.

Restoration of Mankind's Purpose

The Psalmist in Psalm 8 asks this question which mankind has asked through the ages: Who is man? Who is man and what is his purpose in this vast universe?

When I consider thy heavens and the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him, the son of man that thou visitest him? For thou has made him a little lower than the angels and has crowned him with glory and honor; Thou hast made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.” (vrs.3-6)

Ask a scientist what is a man and he will tell you man is an intelligent animal originating from the primeval sludge. Ask the corporation what is man and it will tell you he is consumer and a worker. Ask government what is a man and it will tell you he is a tax payer and a voter. But ask the Lord what is a man? The Lord will tell you he is my son, my child, created in my image, crowned with glory and honor and all things that I have made are his to enjoy and have dominion over.

Our calling is not to be citizens or subjects, workers or consumers, lovers or fighters; we are called to be God's image bearers on this earth and to take dominion over all the works of His hands. For this task the Lord Jesus came from heaven to be our second Adam, to restore to us our calling and destiny.

The New Jerusalem: Restoration of Heaven on Earth

Now read Revelation 21 and 22 and see if you do not see Eden restored once again there. This city, the New Jerusalem is called the Bride of Christ. A restoration of Adam to Eve, the family of God restored. It says there is a river that flows from it as the river flowed out of Eden. It says there is the tree of life there just like in Eden. It says this tree bears fruits and leaves for the healing of the nations. Just as in Eden where Adam was called to minister to the nations. It says the glory of the Lord shines there just as His glory was manifest in Eden. It says that there is no curse in the city just as there was no curse in Eden. Inside the city are the righteous and the kings of the earth bring their glory into the city but outside the city are the unrighteous, murderers, sorcerers, whoremongers, liars. This is what Eden was like, the righteous inside minister to the unrighteous outside.

Is this a real city? No. This is a description of the Bride of Christ which is the church. We are the city of God, the Body of Christ, a holy nation, the tabernacle of God. It is within us as a people that the Lord will manifest His presence and His power for the healing of the nations to teach them the ways of God. Nations and kings will come into this spreading Kingdom of God.

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This was Adam's calling in Eden and this is our calling restored to us in Christ.

But there is a little secret about this New Jerusalem that is found in its measurements. Revelations tells us that the city was foursquare with 12,000 furlongs on a side in length. For one of John's readers during the time of the Roman Empire if he read that this great city was 12,000 furlongs on a side and with 660 feet to a furlong (see wolframalpha.com) that would mean a city about 1500 miles on four sides. A square city of that size in Roman days would cover all the great cities of the empire. So in John's day his readers would get a very clear message; the city of God, the ekklesia, the Bride of Christ would grow to envelope the entire Roman Empire.

But it has an interesting similar message for us today. If you take 12,000 furlongs times 660 feet you get a distance of 7,920,000 feet. But if you take the average diameter of the earth from north to south and east to west (the earth bulges a bit at its equator) you get a distance in miles of 7,920,000. What does that tell you? It tells me the same thing it told a reader in the time of the Roman Empire. The kingdom of God is going to grow and grow till it fills the earth as all the prophets proclaimed. The glory of the Lord will indeed cover the earth as the waters cover the sea!

And into space and beyond...

But it also tells me more than what an ancient reader would have even imagined. If the city that John describes is as tall as it is high then it must be also 1500 miles high. Can you see why this is not an actual physical city. A hundred miles high and you are already in space. But it does tell me where the Lord's agenda for His Church reaches...into space! And that agrees with Psalm 8. The Psalmist tells us to look to the heavens and then tells us all the handiwork of God and that includes all things in the heavens are to be brought under our dominion. Only in the last 100 years as telescopes have reached into the farthest corners of the universe have we understood the incredible magnitude of God's creation. Hundreds of billions of stars in our galaxy, each with planets and then billions of

galaxies throughout space! And it all belongs to us and we are to take dominion over all that!

The Restoration Agenda

Lets go through the great tasks ahead of us as we fulfill the restoration of Eden on earth.

Restoration of Relationship

First and foremost is the restoration of our relationship with the Lord. We have been brought back into fellowship with Him and back into His family through the death of Jesus Christ. Adam had relationship and fellowship with the Lord in Eden. I believe there lies ahead for the church a deeper relationship with the Lord than what we have ever experienced. This is typed out for in the restoration of the feasts of Israel.

The Process of Restoration: The Feasts of Israel

Israel was commanded by the Lord to commemorate three great feasts every year. These feasts hold a great secret. Each consists of a restoration process towards Eden.

1) The Feast of Passover (Deut.16:1-8)

This feast was in celebration of their deliverance from Egypt when they had to kill the lamb and apply the blood to their doors so that Angel of judgment would "passover" their house and spare them.

Jesus literally restored and fulfilled this feast by becoming the Lamb of God that took away the sin of the world when He died on the day of Passover on the cross and His blood was shed for our sins.

2) The Feast of First Fruits (Num. 26-31)

Fifty days after the feast of Passover the Jews celebrated the Feast of Pentecost or the feast of "First-fruits" or waving of the harvest sheaves before the Lord. This was literally restored and fulfilled when on the day of Pentecost the disciples gathered in the Upper Room waiting

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for the promise of the Lord were filled with the Holy Spirit speaking in other tongues and endued with power from on high. (Acts 1:9). This was the launch of the church and they were the “first-fruits” of the great harvest which was still to come.

3) The Feast of Tabernacles (Deut. 16:13-15)

This was the great feast of harvest that was preceded by the Feast of Trumpets and then on the eighth day was the great Day of Atonement when the high priest was to enter into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the people. This today is called Yom Kippur or the beginning of the Jewish yearly calendar.

I believed this great feast of the Lord will also be literally fulfilled sometime in the history of the church just like the previous two feasts were literally fulfilled. I believe this feast gives an indication of what to expect in the future:

This feast was to commemorate the great in-gathering of the harvest of Israel. I believe in the great in-gathering of the harvest of the nations.

This feast also speaks of the High Priest going in through the veil that separates the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. It was in the Holy of Holies that the ark of the Lord resided between the Cherubim and it was over the ark that the presence of God was manifested. So great and powerful was this real presence of God that a rope was tied to the High Priest to pull him out should he die there.

I believe we, the church are moving into a new anointing of power greater than that which we experienced on the Day of Pentecost. I believe in a far greater outpouring of power on His church that will manifest the presence of the Lord in the earth. This coming great manifestation of God's presence and power through His church will result in the great harvest of the nations that the Lord wants to bring into the Kingdom.!

Paul alludes to this coming power by declaring in Romans 8:19,22,23: *“For the earnest expectation of the creation waits for the*

manifestation of the sons of God ...for we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain until now and not only they but we ourselves also which have the firstfruits of the Spirit even we groan within ourselves...”

Paul says we have the “firstfruits” of Pentecost power available to us now, but there is coming still more from the Lord as we and the whole of creation waits for the coming spiritual breakthrough of the Feast of Tabernacles that will bring in the great harvest and restore the glory of the Lord in the earth.

Restoration of Glory

Isaiah gives us a further glimpse into the world ahead. He prophesied that as we establish the Kingdom there are going to come changes in our physical bodies as well. We are not meant to just live for 70-80 years on this earth and then still to be subject to sicknesses and diseases. Isaiah 65:17-25 the Lord says... *“Behold I create a new heavens and a new earth...”* where have you heard that before? What is going to happen in this new world that is coming?

Verse 20 says that a child will die at 100 years, meaning that the Lord will restore to us the long lives of Eden; He says in verse 21-22 we will build and inhabit, we will each have productive work and enjoy it and *“for as the days of a tree are the days of my people and my elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands, they shall not labour in vain.”*

Folks this is for our day and not some Millennium in the future. We can move into Kingdom abundance if we start the great move out of the world system and get on with God's Kingdom agenda. We have been equipped for this great task, we have been preceded by the great men of God of ages past who have restored to us all the teaching that we need, all the revelation from the Word that we need. The Lord has been pouring out greater outpourings of His Spirit with each passing decade. We are now ready for the greatest breakthrough ever; the restoration of all things that all the prophets spoke about that the Lord has been working for these last thousands of years. The world no

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longer has answers to the crises coming, we have the answers!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The purpose of the book of Revelations is not to outline the judgment of the world but the “apokalypsis” of Jesus Christ. The word means revelation, the purpose of God from ages past since Eden is to reveal Himself to the world. That is how the Bible begins and that is how it ends. God dwells with man and all eyes will see Him. But where does He dwell that men may see Him? In His Bride, who is His temple who is His image on this earth. The restoration of glory in the church will mean a greater revelation of Jesus Christ to the world through us. That is how the world will come into the Kingdom, when they see Jesus manifest in glory in His church (John 17:21). The prophets all told us that the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas! Every knee will eventually bow and every tongue will eventually confess that Jesus is Lord!

In this section of teachings I want to expound more in-depth on the Restoration Agenda.

I want to give you new insights on the coming of the Lord:

- What does it mean when scripture says He will come in the clouds?
- What does it mean when it says “we will meet Him in the air”?
- What does it mean that “we will be changed in the blink of an eye”?
- What does it mean “we will not all die”?
- When is the first resurrection?
- When is the “second resurrection” In fact how does the resurrection fit in to the Kingdom agenda?
- When is the end when heaven and earth will pass away?
- When does Jesus present the Kingdom to the Father so that God may be all in all?