

This is the OT picture. After the Cross, Jesus came, declared His victory and took those in “Abraham’s Bosom” with Him (Matt 27).

Some Insights

- The man in Hades was fully conscious: he had memory; speaking; pain; desires.
- His eternal destiny was irrevocably fixed.
- He knew that what he was experiencing was fair and just. He also knew what his brothers needed to do to avoid his own fate: *repent!*
- (He was not yet in Hell, but only Hades)

The Underworld

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

1 Peter 3:18-20

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God;

Isaiah 61:1,2

Quoted by Jesus in His opening statement at Nazareth (Luke 4:17-21).

And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Matthew 27:52,53

Annihilationism?

*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to **destroy** both soul and body in hell.*

Matthew 10:28

“destroy”: ἀπόλλυμι *apollumi*, “to be delivered up to eternal misery” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon). Nowhere used to mean “annihilate” Mt 9:17; Lk 15:4; Jn 6:12, 27.

And these shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life.

Matthew 25:46

“eternal”: αἰώνιος *aiionios*, everlasting, eternal.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:2

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 14:10,11

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:10

After 1,000 years, the beast and false prophet are still being tormented, not annihilated.

Final Session

Read Chapters 21 & 22. Review your notes for the entire book.

The Book of Revelation Session 24: Eternity Revelation Chapters 21-22

- 1] And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

New heaven and new earth (Mt 24:35; Isa 65:17; 66:22; Heb 11:13-16; 2 Pet 3:7-13). “...in earth as it is in heaven” (Mt 6:10). Heaven and Earth to disappear! Outside of “time” => Eternity (Heb 1:10-12; 12:26, 27).

“...no more sea”: Why? Not needed for its cleansing action: 70% of earth covered to an average depth of 2.3 miles, antiseptic salinity (3.5%) purges, cleanses, and preserves our planet.

Is the sea evil? (Mt 8:26, “rebuked”?) End of old order? (Ex 20:11; Ezek 48:28); Beast out of the sea (Dan 7:1-3, 17; Rev 13:1, 6-8); Demon swine take refuge in sea (Mt 8:30); Job 26:5-6; Isa 27:1; Jonah 2:1-6; Lk 8:30-3; Ps 69:14-15. In John’s day, the sea meant danger, storms, separation—he was on an island at the time!

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:10-13

- 2] And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Heb 11:10, 16. “Down, out of heaven”: Doesn’t necessarily touch the earth! Heaven is a definite place. A new home. The Ultimate UFO!

- 3] And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

Cf. Jn 1:14; Mt 12:6. Jerusalem; *Jireh-shalom*, provides peace: Mt 23:37-39, “see me henceforth...”; Jn 14:2, 3, “go to prepare a place...”; Heb 11:10, 16, “...look for a city; Jn 1:14, “tabernacled among us”; 2 Cor 5:17, “all things new”; Ex 40:34; 1 Kgs 8:10, 11, “always fills.”

- 4] And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
- 5] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.
- 6] And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
- 7] He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

A fresh start! (I sure could use that!) Can we even imagine what this means? All things!

“Overcomer” = 1 John 5:4.

- 8] But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

A vivid and instructive catalog. Note “the fearful” and “the unbelieving”; Cf. Mk 4:40; Jn 14:27; 2 Tim 1:7,8. Notice also: the status of the lake of fire and the lost is unchanged; Sin and its potential is totally excluded; and, the lake of fire is eternal; final.

- 9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.
- 10] And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,
- 11] Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Mountain (Dan 2...) Abraham looked for this city (Heb 11:10). [In contrast to the false bride, the prostitute Mystery Babylon, also both a city and a woman, the New Jerusalem will be to eternity what the earthly Jerusalem is to the Millennium.]

“She that hath the bridegroom is the bride” (Jn 3:29). The citizens are identified with the city in Rev 22:3,6,19.

“Descending out of heaven...” No reason to limit it to any specific number of dimensions... cf. *Beyond Perception*, et al. (*It is not stated that it comes to the earth.*) [2 x 1016 ft/side; 8 1048 cu ft. Assuming 6 billion inhabitants: 1.3 x 1039 cu ft/person; 1 cu mi = 1.47 1011 cu ft; 1.7 x 1028 cu mi/person...] Similarity between the Hebrew word for crystal in Ezek 1:22 and the Hebrew word for “ice”; suggests diamond. A diamond in a gold setting—appropriate for the bride.

Hyperspaces (Spaces of more than 3 dimensions)

There are only two kinds of people seem able to deal with hyperspaces: mathematicians with special training and small children, but we can gain some useful insights by examining a two-dimensional universe... “Mr. and Mrs. Flat.”

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the **breadth, and length, and depth, and height**; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

Ephesians 3:17-19

- 12] And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:
- 13] On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.
- 14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

“...Twelve tribes”: a perpetual reminder that “salvation is of the Jews.” Access to the city is through Israel. No middle wall (Eph 2:14-18); no Temple (Jn 4:21-24). Suggests the order of Israel’s encampment around the Tabernacle in Numbers 2. Israel on the earth will enjoy the same relationship to the city that they did toward the wilderness tabernacle, and later, the temple (Song 8:5). [Notice that Peter isn’t guarding any of them!] Apostles are the foundation; Christ is the chief cornerstone.

- 15] And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.
- 16] And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

John was told to measure the old city (Ch. 11); now he reckons the New City. Furlongs (*stadia*): If taken as 600 ft (measures differed in ancient days) the city would be about 1500 (Roman) miles square (1378 miles)! Pyramid? Cube? [A Hinton Cube?] [The Holy of Holies was a cube.]

- 17] And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred *and* forty *and* four cubits, *according to* the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

“Cubit,” from Latin *cubitus*, elbow; while there are many variations, all approximate 18 inches. 216 ft thick (or high?)! If viewed as a cube, wall thickness (rather than height) seems more likely. [Herodotus describes the walls of Babylon as 50 cubits thick and 200 cubits high.]

- 18] And the building of the wall of it was *of* jasper: and the city *was* pure gold, like unto clear glass.
- 19] And the foundations of the wall of the city *were* garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation *was* jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;
- 20] The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

God is a God of beauty; Peter wrote of the “manifold” grace of God (1 Pet 4:10): manifold = *variegated, many colored*.

Precious Stones

- Breastplate of the high priest (Ex 28:15-21; 31-34; 39:10-14).
- Connected to the *Mazzeroth* (Josephus, *Ant.* iii.7.7; Philo, *De Monarchia*, ii.5; cf. *Vit. Mos.* iii. 14).
- John’s order is the reverse of the zodiacal order.
- Cf. heavenly Eden (Ezek 28:13).

These stones may also be related to the stones in the breastplate of the high priest (Ex 28:15-21; 31-34; 39:10-14). There is great difficulty in associating the specific stones since the terminology is not consistent throughout the literature, and John is also making his own translation from the Hebrew to Greek equivalents. Cf. Isa 54:11-12.

- **Jasper** (*iaspis*): clear. Associated with Pisces, and Simeon.
- **Sapphire** (*sappheiros*): blue. Ex 24:10, the foundation of God.
 - Moffatt: blue; Pliny, opaque with gold specks Petrie agrees.
 - Associated with Aquarius, Reuben.
- **Chalcedony** (*chalkedon*): greenish.
 - Robertson, green silicate of copper.
 - Associated with Capricorn, Naphtali.
- **Emerald** (*smaragdos*): green.
 - Associated with Sagittarius, Asher.
- **Sardonyx** (*sardonux*): red.
 - Robertson: white with layers of red.
 - Associated with Scorpio, Dan.
- **Sardius** (*sardios*): fiery red.
 - Pliny, red for Sardis; Swete, fiery red.
 - Associated with Libra, Levi.
- **Chrysolyte** (*chrysolithos*): golden yellow.
 - Moffatt, golden hue.
 - Robertson, golden like our topaz.
 - Associated with Virgo, Zebulon.
- **Beryl** (*berullos*): green.
 - Robertson, like an emerald; Pliny, sea green.
 - Associated with Leo, Judah.
- **Topaz** (*topazion*): greenish yellow.
 - Robertson, golden greenish stone.
 - Associated with Cancer, Issachar.
- **Chrysoprasus** (*chrysoprasos*): gold-green.
 - Robertson, a golden leek.
 - International Bible Encyclopedia, sea green.
 - Associated with Gemini, Benjamin.

- **Jacinth** (*huakinthi*): violet; hyacinth.
 - Associated with Taurus, Joseph.
- **Amethyst** (*amethystos*): purple.
 - Associated with Aries, Gad.

- 21] And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city *was* pure gold, as it were transparent glass.
- 22] And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.
- 23] And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.

Pearls were not “kosher”: cf. Mt 13:45, 46. They come from the sea, not the land; they grow in response to an external irritation; they grow by accretion; they are removed from their place of growth to become an item of adornment. The church will be the fairest jewel of all (Mal 3:17, 18). Gates are never closed: cf. v.25.

- 24] And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.
- 25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

It does not say they will live there; the New Jerusalem will give light unto the earth.

- 26] And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.
- 27] And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

God has apparently accomplished His original purpose with man (Eph 2:7).

Revelation 22

- 1] And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
- 2] In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.
- 3] And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

“Every month”: there will be a form of time there.

“Leaves”: no sickness, yielding continuous health. No more sin; no more death. Nothing will be lost. [Entropy will be conserved: the “second law”

of thermodynamics will be repealed...information will never more be confused, ordered systems will not deteriorate, etc.] Heaven will be a place of ceaseless activity.

- 4] And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.
- 5] And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.
- 6] And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Immanuel = “God with us,” finally fulfilled. [Cf. Shannon’s verifiability definition of meaning... That which cannot be verified is, in a real sense, *meaningless*.] The Lord is talking about reality. Heaven is more than a destination: it is a motivation!

- 7] Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.
- 8] And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.
- 9] Then saith he unto me, *See thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

Christ is the centerpiece of this book. “Quickly” = *tachu*, rapidly (7X in Revelation; 3X in this chapter v.7,12,20). [Not shortly, immediately, or soon.]

“Book,” 7X this chapter 7, 9, 10, 18(2X), 19(2X). Faith = more than just believing (Jas 2:19,20).

- 10] And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Time is at hand (*kairos*, opportunity; next event, vs. *chronos*, time, vs. Sealed (Dan 8:26; 12:4,9 which was sealed).

- 11] He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

The sinful condition of the lost is a permanent and eternal thing. “All things continue” (2 Pet 3:1-4).

- 12] And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

“Quickly” again...It is unbiblical to become careless and lazy just because we believe Jesus is coming soon.

- 13] I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
- 14] Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
- 15] For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Alpha and Omega (4X: 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13). What He starts, He will finish. Seventh beatitude in this book (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14). Obedience is a mark of true salvation

Dogs come off rather badly in Scripture: (Isa 66:3; Mt 7:6; Ps 22:16, 20; Jer 15:3; Deut 23:18; 2 Pet 2:22); they were the scavengers of the ancient world, and considered unclean. Also, “dogs” were a designation for Gentiles (Mt 15:21-28) and Paul’s label for Judaizers (Phil 3:2).

Seven Glories of Redeemed:

- 1) No curse
- 2) Throne of God and Lamb
- 3) His servants shall serve Him
- 4) Eternal vision: His face
- 5) His Name in their foreheads
- 6) Eternal day; no night
- 7) Eternal Reign

Amen. Even so, Come, Lord Jesus!

- 16] I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.
- 17] And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Sun of righteousness (Mal 4:2). 3X in this chapter: “I come quickly” (vv 7, 12, 20).

- 18] For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
- 19] And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Similar to Deut 4:2, “Ye shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it.” “For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name” Ps 138:2.

[I shudder to think what will happen to the members of the “Jesus Committee” or the publishers of the “politically correct” Bibles!]

“They that are unlearned and unstable who wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction” (2 Pet 3:16).

- 20] He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
- 21] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

Are you ready? Let us remember that this book was written not only to inform the believer, but was also written to warn the lost of their eternal doom and to bid them to seek the Savior who alone can deliver them from a godless eternity. How far away is eternity? Only a heartbeat, for all of us.

What Is the “Gospel”?

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Why couldn’t I convince you that “JFK was killed by a bow and arrow”? Too many eye witnesses present...

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

The Plan of Redemption

The First Act of “Religion”: *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons [covering, armor]. Genesis 3:7*

God’s Plan of Redemption: *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. Genesis 3:21*

Teaching them that only by the shedding of innocent blood they would be covered (on another tree in another garden).

The Scarlet Thread

- From the Seed of the Woman Gen 3
- The Call of Abraham Gen 12
- The Tribe of Judah Gen 49
- The Dynasty of David 2 Sam 7
- The Virgin Birth in Bethlehem Isa 7
- To another tree...in another garden

The Attributes of God

- Omnipotence: Infinite Power.
- Omniscience: Infinite Knowledge.
 - The Creation manifests both of these.
- Infinite Love?
 - Knowing that Man, if left free to choose, would enter a predicament that only the death of God would suffice to extricate him: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

God makes the rules. He has chosen to measure all things through His Son. His righteousness is the only one that qualifies. No one will enter heaven without the proper credentials. No visas are granted on the other side of the border; you need to arrange them here first.

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:36

The Basis of Your Fate?

- “I’m as good as the next guy” Strike 1
- “I’m doing the best I can” Strike 2
- “I try to live by the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount” Strike 3

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Why Now?

- Your eternity is only a heartbeat away...a car crash...a stray bullet... an unexpected stroke...
- You have an appointment; there are no “accidents” in God’s Kingdom.
- Where will you find yourself? *How sure are you? What is your basis of conviction?*

The statistics on death are impressive: it is still 100%: one for one. Incidentally, there are no “if onlys...” in God’s Kingdom. The appointments are *entirely* in His lap.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 7:21-23

Our Coming King (Inspired by Pastor S. D. Lockridge)

He is King of the Jews (*racial king*); King of Israel (*national king*); King of all the the Ages; King of Heaven; King of Glory; King of Kings...and Lord of Lords. *Do you know Him? Do you really?*

He is a prophet before Moses; a priest after Melchizedek; a champion like Joshua; an offering in place of Isaac; a king from the line of David; a wise counselor above Solomon; a beloved/rejected/exalted son like Joseph. *And yet far more...*

The Heavens declare His glory and the firmament shows His handiwork. He who **is**, who **was**, and who **always will be**; the first and the last; He is the **Alpha** and **Omega**, the **Aleph** and the **Tau**, the **A** and the **Z**; He is the first fruits of them that slept.

He is the אֲנִי אֵשׁ the ἡ ψὶ ἦ ἄ ῥῶ ἡ ψὶ ἦ ἄ the “I AM that I AM” *The voice of the Burning Bush!*

He is the Captain of the Lord’s Host; the conqueror of Jericho. He is enduringly strong, entirely sincere, eternally steadfast; He is immortally graceful, imperially powerful, impartially merciful;

In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily, The very God of very God. He is our Kinsman-Redeemer and He is our Avenger of Blood; He is our City of Refuge, Our Performing High Priest, Our Personal Prophet, Our Reigning King.

- He’s the loftiest idea in Literature;
- He’s the highest personality in Philosophy;
- He’s the fundamental doctrine of Theology;
- He’s the Supreme Problem in “higher criticism”!
- He’s the Miracle of the Ages; the superlative of everything good.

We are the beneficiaries of a love letter: it was written in blood, on a wooden cross erected in Judea 2,000 years ago.

He was crucified on a cross of wood; yet He made the hill on which it stood.

By Him were all things made that were made; without Him was not anything made that was made; by Him are all things held together!

What held Him to that cross? *It wasn’t the nails!* (At any time He could have declared, “I’m out of here!”) It was His love for you and me.

He was born of a woman so that we could be born of God; He humbled Himself so that we could be lifted up; He became a servant so that we could be made co-heirs; He suffered rejection so that we could become His friends; He denied Himself so that we could freely receive all things; He gave Himself so that He could bless us in every way.

He is available to the tempted and the tried; He blesses the young; He cleanses the lepers; He defends the feeble; He delivers the captives; He discharges the debtors; He forgives the sinners...

He franchises the meek; He guards the besieged; He heals the sick; He provides strength to the weak; He regards the aged; He rewards the diligent; He serves the unfortunate; *He sympathizes and He saves!*

His Offices are manifold; His Reign is righteous; His Promises are sure; His Goodness is limitless; His Light is matchless; His Grace is sufficient; His Love never changes; His Mercy is everlasting; His Word is enough; His Yoke is easy and His burden is light!

He’s indescribable; He’s incomprehensible; He’s irresistible; He’s invincible!

The Heaven of heavens cannot contain Him; man cannot explain Him; the Pharisees couldn’t stand Him (and learned that they couldn’t stop Him); Pilate couldn’t find any fault with Him; the witnesses couldn’t agree against Him; Herod couldn’t kill Him; death couldn’t handle Him; the grave couldn’t hold Him!

He has always been and always will be; He had no predecessor and will have no successor; You can’t impeach Him and he isn’t going to resign! His name is above every name; that at the name of Yeshua every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! His is the kingdom, the power, and the glory... for ever, and ever...Amen!

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