

NEW LIFE

AS THE AGES ROLL

Col 1:26 ²⁶*Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: ²⁷To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Eph. 3:5 ⁵Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Eph. 2:7 ⁷That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

1 Cor. 2:7 ⁷But we speak God's wisdom in [a] mystery, that hidden [wisdom] which God had predetermined before the ages- for our glory: ⁸which none of the princes of this age- knew, (for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;)

Since I was a very young boy growing up in a small Ozark village I have been fascinated by the idea that, in heaven, God has planned age after age after age to unfold in a drama never seen, never written. What an idea !! In heaven, when we have seen Jesus and have become 'as He is', we will be part of that Royal Family working with those whom Father assigns us, developing Father's unfolding plan age after age after age. We, those Father calls His children, are an integral part of all this, nay we are THE NECESSARY INGREDIENT which will bring it about.

Let your mind take wings, let your imagination soar. If your imagination differs from mine, let it be, so what! Perhaps you are correct, perhaps I am, perhaps we both are. Our Father's creativity and imagination has already proven to go far beyond anything our puny minds can sniff out. Here are some of my thoughts concerning the ongoing ages in the plans of our wonderful heavenly Father.

Before the ages began – God was. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit dwelt together in total unity and harmony. They were just the same in personality and character as they are now, they never change. They were just as active and creative then as they are now – perhaps I should say they are just as active and creative now as they were then. That is just the way they are. I find the concept of 'ages' fascinating. God surely does not change but He does different things in different ages. No human, certainly not this writer, knows very much

about God's different 'ages' but we have been given clues in scripture and I plan to also use my creative imagination some. I encourage you, I implore you, the reader, to do the same. It is not required that we be 'theologically correct'. It is good for us to prayerfully meditate on the vast creativity and possible plans of an outrageously powerful and loving Father. Any loving thing we can imagine, He just might do!

What was God doing before He chose to begin the succession of Ages? We are not told and this author can not even guess. I only imagine that He was doing things that my simple mind can not conceive. We do have reason to believe, from scripture, that before He chose to create this space-time continuum in which we live, He created the 'Spirituals'. This is the habitat of Spiritual beings which include Archangels, Cherubs, those beings we now call Angels, Devils, and perhaps other beings about which we are not told. This is the 'Third Heaven' referred to by the Apostle Paul. Now all things which exist must exist in some kind of time reference frame. We have only recently discovered, thanks to Dr. Einstein, that in our universe time and space are not independent. Study of the connection between space and time is absolutely fascinating and high level math is not required. You may rest assured on excellent authority that without space there is no time and without time there is no space. They are inexorably tied together. It seems to me that nothing can exist without some sort of time reference frame so I conclude that in the 'Spirituals' there is also a time-space continuum. It is just a different one than ours. I think of it as being at a different frequency. We know, for example, that very short waves travel through walls. X-rays penetrate all but the most dense metals such as lead. Shorter waves penetrate (pass through) all known materials. {Note: the length of the wave is equal to one over the frequency so that the shorter the wave the greater the frequency. X-rays therefore have a high frequency} . I suggest that the 'Spirituals' exist at such a high frequency that our eyes can not see them and our ears can not hear them unless they, somehow, slow themselves down to our frequency for some particular purpose. This was reported to have happened to Abraham just before Lot's wife turned to salt. I believe that these spiritual beings have some of the same problems with us that we have with them. Except for special circumstances when Father makes exceptions the interchange between the 'Earthly's and the 'Spiritual's' is not easy. This limits the help that Angels wish to give, limits the harm that the devils wish to do. In fact there is only one creature {besides God, of course} who is readily adaptable for living comfortably in both realms. This is a very special creature indeed but we will get around to him in a bit. In this first age

of many which God was planning there were many inhabitants who were created by God with a definite hierarchy. The Archangels Gabriel, Michael, and Lucifer were at the top of this hierarchy . We know little about the gifts and glory given to Michael and Gabriel. We know a bit more about Lucifer. It appears that in some ways Lucifer was given some attributes that set him apart even from Gabriel and Michael. He was beautiful in a special way that set him apart and he was one who was so talented musically that he led the choruses and praise in the Spirituals. Gabriel and Michael also were extraordinarily gifted but it appears that their gifts were not so apparent. At least their gifts didn't 'go to their heads' like Lucifer's did. The Spirituals were a bureaucracy but one that is far better than any that have ever existed on earth. The 'Peter Principal' did not exist in the Spirituals. What ?

You are not familiar with the Peter Principal? Let me digress because it is quite important. Shortly after the Second World War an economist named Dr. Peter was assigned to evaluate governmental efficiency in England. His work was brilliant, though disheartening. His documentation is beautiful in simplicity and beyond refute.

RULE #1. In all bureaucracies, people are promoted to their level of incompetence. As long as they are doing a good job, they get promoted. When they stop doing a good job they stay where they are. Almost no one ever gets fired. This is remarkable and both your experience and mine confirms the truth of the rule.

RULE #2 Every office seeks to expand it's power and influence without regard to the value of the work being done. Ouch !!

These principals were not present in the Spirituals. Each creature was precisely designed and equipped for their very own task. They loved their work, were happy in their work, and there was no incompetence, no expansion or intrusion into other areas. UNTIL !! You know, everyone knows. Until something was found in Lucifer. How did it get there ? I don't know, neither do you. It was just found there.

Now begins the second age, the age of the 'Fall' from the Spirituals. Lucifer began to work amongst the other spiritual beings. Until now, all praise and glory had been directed toward Father, Son {He has eternally been the Son}, and the Holy Spirit {He was around long before Pentecost}. Now Lucifer began winning others to himself. After some small successes in currying favor to himself he decided to commence a real campaign. Father knew about it but He didn't seem to care. Jesus, the one to whom Lucifer was probably assigned, was taking no action.

The Holy Spirit wasn't getting involved so Lucifer stepped up his program. More and more he brought attention to himself. More and more he worked to bring the lime-light on Lucifer, rather than the Trinity. There were others in whom evil was found and they began looking more and more toward Lucifer and less and less toward the Creator. This is an age of catastrophe. It is horrible! It is just not conceivable that such a thing could happen. Beings who were created by Father, given everything by Him, provided with work for which they were perfectly suited, and limited in no way whatsoever – these same beings now began to give their praise and adoration to another. This 'other' was one such as themselves, though perhaps more gifted but one that had been gifted and empowered by their Creator just the same as they themselves had been. Now they were worshipping a created being rather than the creator. How very very strange. How very very awful. How could this happen? Let me suggest something that I have heard few others mention. God tells us often in Scripture that He values humility and is opposed to pride. If He values humility and hates a proud Spirit then even in the Heavens He did not exalt Himself. He was the servant of all. He remained in the background and exalted others. He exalted Lucifer so much that Lucifer came to believe that some of the glory residing in him, came from himself. He was confused by the goodness, patience, humility, love, and kindness of Father, the Creator. This confusion has led to his doom and destruction.

I freely confess to the reader that I can not imagine the Spiritual realm when all was functioning perfectly. Neither can I imagine the Spirituals when Lucifer, son of the morning soon to become Satan. the deceiver was hatching his plots and dragging a full third of heaven down with him. Since I can not imagine these things let us move on to something more familiar to us all.

The next age begins, I believe, with two very major events occurring simultaneously. God created the heavens and the earth – Lucifer fell from heaven bringing a third of the angels with him. He became Satan, they became devils. A careful study of Genesis shows that there was more happening than I understand but it seems clear that these two things happened – I am assuming they happened about the same time and thus began the start of a new age. In this new age God seems to have lost control and Satan seems to have gained a kingdom. As we know God spent six days creating this fabulous creation, about which we know just a little. Even after all these years and even with the growth of science, we know so very little about our own world. As a scientist myself, I so enjoy reading in the newspapers about discoveries in physics, astronomy, and geological history. In today's paper I read about an experiment which verified a particle which had been

theorized some few years ago. The article implied that this was the last particle on which physicists are laboring. That simply indicates the reporters ignorance. We are still wondering about the various kinds of quarks. We have only the vaguest idea of how energy is related to the various fields (magnetic, gravitational, electrical). We 'sort of' know how energy and matter relate. Sort of. There are thousands of unanswered question is physics alone. When we gaze out at the universe with black holes, dark stars, twins, etc, etc we are still in kindergarten and the true scientists know it. I will not explore the situation with geological historical histrionics lest I offend some of my readers. All of these are mere child's play compared to the real regions of ignorance. Consider our ignorance related to ourselves. We have discovered much about the body although not nearly all. We have discovered much about the brain but little about the mind. We, as a church and a society seem to have lost sight of the fact that we are, in essence spiritual beings. We hardly knew the basic function of our spirits much less how to feed and nurture them bringing them to some kind of spiritual maturity. We are 'fallen'.

We are, in the words of one of my heros C.S. Lewis, bent. This is the dark planet! There are deep laws which we, as a society do not understand. Unfortunately we, as a body of God's people, also fail to understand many of the important deep laws. In this age, mankind lost their innocence. We FELL. How far, we do not know. Where we fell to, we do not know. How we can get back, most have not a clue. We are in spiritual darkness and many, perhaps most, do not even recognize light when they are exposed to it. We, the human race, handed the keys to the earthly realm over to Satan. He took those keys gladly and has been building a kingdom for himself ever since. The four thousand years after creation was an age of great fallen-ness. God Himself was barely known though during that time He began His Self-Revelation. Of course God was known by all of the patriarchs from Adam down through Noah but even in the time of Noah there was only a tiny remnant (as few as eight persons) who remembered God. After Noah landed back on solid ground the light grew even dimmer until perhaps only Shem remembered the creator God. Then, in His own slow ponderous way He began to speak to one man, Abraham. From Abraham He established a people, the Jews. From the Jews He spoke through many prophets. From the Jews He brought a Savior, Himself. Through Himself He fulfilled all the old deep laws by becoming an unblemished sacrifice, slain without cause, canceling out the bill of debts accumulated by all the fallen men from the time of Adam and extending forward to all men who will ever be born. Jesus ushered in the next age, the age of redemption.

The age of redemption is so wonderful and glorious that very few, even those who partake of it, can fully believe it. God, the creator of all things desired family. He chose to have a bride for His Son, Jesus. He had created man innocent, creatures made in His own image. Placed in the Garden, man was given dominion over all things and given care for all the creatures and plants created by Father God. When man decided that they would choose to become ‘like gods’, knowing good and evil and making their decisions based on good and evil rather than obedience the fall was very great. Innocence was no longer possible. The Pandora’s Box and been opened and no one could undo that which had been done, not even God. God’s plan was to, Himself, pay the debt of sin which held all mankind in bondage. Then, having paid the debt He has made available to ALL WHO WILL the right to become SONS OF GOD. What work must be done in order to earn such an exalted station? None! All that is required is that we believe Jesus is who He says He is and to trust what He has done. This age in which we live is the age of redemption. It is the age in which the family of God is selected. Lest you fail to understand the significance – this is an eternal selection. What you are now is not at all what you shall be. This is the age during which the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of men, leading them to Jesus, God’s Christ. Having led them to Jesus, He then works in them, bringing them to maturity so that they may be brought to Father bearing the likeness of Jesus Himself. Now we can examine the very special creature referred to earlier. By the work of Father through Jesus, we have been made to be the one creature that comfortably dwells in both the ‘earthlies’ and the ‘spirituals’. We are of the earth, earthy. We belong here on earth. We fit. Through our birth in the Spirit we have also become fully Spiritual. Our Spirit has been enabled to commune with God our Father, God our Brother, and God the Holy Spirit. We belong to the Spirituals. We fit. No other creature in the entire Universe is suited to both realms, only us. We look at one another, even ourselves, and we are like the Prince in the book “Prince and the Pauper” who dressed in filthy rags bearing no likeness to a Prince – but Prince he was. For those who have believed themselves into Christ we are beheld as royalty by all those who dwell in the ‘Spirituals’. The angels view us with great awe. The devils view us with great hate because we have the glory they desired. It was given us without cost. They can’t buy it and therefore hate us with unmerciful hate. We have entered a war zone and are embattled simply because we have sought to take the love of the Creator into our hearts and become ‘like Him’ {however poorly}. This is the age of the gathering of the Sons of God, the eternal family which God has chosen from before the foundations of the world. This is the age of election and selection. Is my theology Calvinist or Armenian? I do not even know the meaning of those

terms. I just know that before I was born my eternal Father knew me. He called me, He brought me to Himself and I am delighted that He did so. Has He excluded others because He included me? I think not! Scripture seems clear that He is not willing that any should perish. This is a GREAT age. These years between the coming of Jesus to earth as savior and sacrifice and the second coming of Jesus as reigning King are the years of the gathering together of the family of God. It is a great time!

It seems that the age to follow this is the millennial reign of Jesus here on earth. There is a way earth was supposed to run. It has never yet run that way but it will. There will be a thousand years during which Satan will be bound and this will no longer be the 'dark planet' with the 'Bent Eldil' as Lewis called it. Can you imagine what earth will be like when all are operating according to the nature of Jesus Christ. Recall that the nature of the Holy Spirit, therefore the nature of both Father and Jesus, is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, longsuffering, and gentleness. These will be the elements flowing from and to every human being on earth. I believe that health will be universally excellent. I believe that all the works of the flesh mentioned in the fifth chapter of Galatians will be totally absent. There will be no need for lawyers, no need for politicians, no need for law enforcement personnel. People will live for hundreds of years, they will be diligent, industrious, thrifty, and generous. No one will have any needs because whatever they lack will be gladly given to them by those who have excess. I believe that some will grow very wise in their studies of science, agriculture, medicine, physics – whatever the Lord has fitted them for. Artistic endeavors of all kinds will bloom and excite the Spirits of all around. Economics, as we presently know it will cease to exist because men will no longer work to exorcize the 'curse of Adam'. Work will no longer be the fight against weeds and thorns but will be the delight of all men. Let your imaginations soar. When all men are motivated by love for one another and work for the sheer pleasure of serving one another, there is virtually no limit to what can happen in a thousand years. Oh yes, this will be a great age, unlike any other. It will be the utopian dream of mankind – and it will just be a short step forward into the next, even more exciting age.

At the end of the millennial reign of Jesus there will be a sudden culmination of the seven days of Creation. As told in Genesis, God created the world in six days and then He rested. I am persuaded that this is a picture, a prophecy {though I do believe it to be literally true} of six thousand years of man's occupancy on earth followed by one thousand years of Christ's reign. After that – we all go home!

There is, I believe, in the heart of every Christian a kind of longing for something we have never seen. I love to sing a song called “Beulah Land”. In it there is the line ‘I’m kind of homesick for a city I’ve never seen before’. All of us are kind of homesick for this place, these Spirituals we have never seen before. In our hearts, in our Spirits there are dreams, urges, feelings which lurk just around the corner of our hearts, just out of sight of our minds. We can’t quite touch them but we still know they are there. There are promises of joy, depths of relationships, completeness of peace and security never experienced with complete purity in this life but – ah, there is the promise, there is the hope. And it is to this that we are brought in a marvelous rush after all things on this earth, in this universe cease to exist. We return to that home to which we have not yet been, to begin the next age as full fledged Sons of God, doing the works commensurate with that station. We will wake on that great morning to discover that all previous ages have been mere preludes to the unfolding plans of OUR FATHER. What are those plans? Where will Father take us? I have not a clue. But, oh, isn’t it exciting to know that it is to this purpose we were called. It is to this purpose that we have experienced all the trials and hardships in this life. It is to this purpose that we were given the earthly father, the earthly mother, the earthly genes, that boss, that wife/husband, that disease, that limitation, that gift. Then, finally we will understand that the experiences in this life were just the creation of the seed. Just as a mighty Oak tree which stands one hundred and forty feet tall, spreading limbs far out from the huge trunk – that mighty tree was once merely an acorn. The acorn weighed an ounce or two. You can hold ten of them in one hand. Yet within the acorn was all that the Oak tree would be. Within that seed were the ingredients which dictated every aspect of the mature tree. Just so are you, just so am I. During this present life the seed is being prepared. Every thing that happens, every response to tribulation and blessing goes into that seed. The seed takes years to prepare but when Father knows it is finished – He takes it home where it ‘Sees Jesus’ and when it sees Jesus it becomes ‘As He Is’. The Seed will be ‘Glorified’ and will stand strong and mature, without spot or blemish.

And such as these shall judge the very Angels, shall perform all the works for which the Father has fitted them for truly

THESE ARE THE SONS OF GOD !!

Written under the auspices of New Life Inc., a non-profit Christian organization. If you are interested in other writings contact R.L.Pendleton, 322 Quincy St., Rapid City, SD 5701-2813 or contact us at our Web Page: www.rapidnet.com/~newlife. There are no charges for writings and there will be no request for donations.