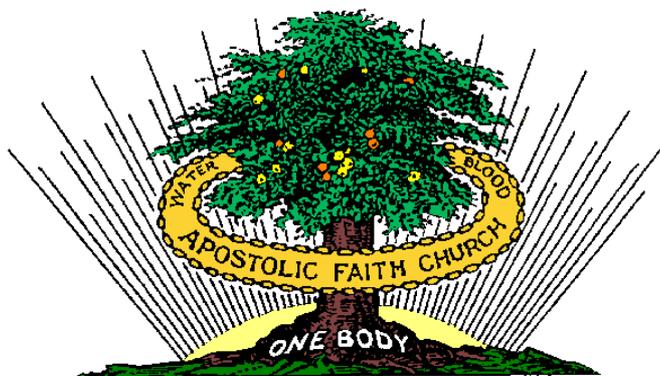


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Showers of Blessing

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The Spoken Word (15/5/22)

"I have caused you to sing this morning in My Spirit, and I will add unto you more than you can contain. Therefore I say unto you, be fervent in your prayer life and I will answer in a remarkable way, for I am a never changing God, but I do fill up My body day by day, and you are part of My body which is now in operation in the earth. Open wide your eyes and see that disturbances are coming in the earth, but they are for a purpose. Not that you should be downcast about them, no, but look up for this is the day as I have told you when I distribute the wealth of the nations amongst all. There shall be a weeping and a wailing with those that have had it easy, as it were, for many generations, but that time has come to an end, for I am marching on with My Word in the new. My kingdom is coming in and you will be able to dwell in it if you are of a high quality of faith. Therefore don't put off until tomorrow that which you should be doing now, for the day is here and the harvest is plentiful. I need you My people to go out and bring in the good wheat."

Towards The New Heaven (Continued from Showers no. 5378.)

And Jesus said: "no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven" (John 3:13). This statement seems to be a contradiction, but understood in its context, it is perfectly consistent.

He laid aside His former spiritual body and glory, when instead a natural body was prepared for Him, yet by walking in a spirit-filled state, He was also dwelling very closely with His Father in heaven. This heaven which is God's dwelling place, remains forever. In contrast to the above observations, referring to the heaven which will never change, we read in 2 Peter 3, about two other heavens which do change. The first is replaced or succeeded by a Second heaven, which is even now in turn being superseded gradually, by the appearing of a Third heaven, wherein dwells righteousness, "and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44), overarching the whole earth.

We now quote excerpts from 2 Peter 3:5-14. "...by the word of God the heavens were of old ... whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men ... 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 a 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 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 ... seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

Now we quote from Hebrews 1:10-12, "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of thy hands: They shall perish; but thou

remainest: and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shall thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."

The process described in Hebrews shows that the foundations of our earthly society and its arrangements of ruling, shall perish, describing them as all waxing old like a garment; and as a vesture or cloak the Word shall fold them up and they shall be changed: but the Lord - the Word - is the same, and shall not fail to bring into being the Third world order of righteousness.

Without realising it, those who by faith pioneer the developments of this New Day, become the new heavens which shall make the new earthly order, which John saw. This is the Third heaven which both he and Paul were caught up in spirit to preview, and is what we are now beginning to experience in this day.

Peter describes each of these periods as having a separate heaven and earth. Here the word 'earth' symbolizes human government and social arrangements, but the literal earth abides for ever (Ecclesiastes 1:4) and these changes all take place on the planet on which we live. So we can see how the first heaven and earth, having fulfilled their purpose, passed away at the flood, but the physical heavens (sky and atmosphere), and the physical earth did not pass away, they remained. Figuratively, the second heaven and earth are beginning to pass away with a great noise, fire and melting in confusion, trouble and dissolution. We see evidence of this all around us.

The second heaven was mainly controlled by Satan, and now is giving place to the "new heavens" under the spiritual control of the anointed Word, which is the Christ. For this is the beginning of the Day of the Lord, which has begun to burn as an oven, slowly melting down the old human social order on earth.

The Word 'come again' in the Body of Christ is gradually making all things new, causing to be destroyed that which has become obsolete. The Word is arising by faith to a higher plane of authority, asserting its right to change the corrupt order of society. The mighty Stone Word falling from a great height will indeed destroy the false values held in man's mind.

Righteousness, peace and love will rule among men, as Christ's Kingdom is fully developed, the basis of which will be strict justice.

Article by the late Pastor R. Pain, first published in Showers no. 4291, 22/7/99.

The following article has been taken from the UCB Word For Today (<http://www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today.html>), written by Bob and Debby Gass.

Heaven

In the book of Revelation, John wrote: 'I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true"' (v.2-5 NIV). As redeemed children of God, we're assured of having an eternal home in heaven and the promise of being citizens of 'the new Jerusalem'. John continues, 'The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city' (v.15 NIV). The city is a square of about fourteen hundred miles (see v.16 NIV). As a rough idea of its size, imagine a square stretching from London all the way across Europe to Russia's western border, down to the Egyptian and Libyan coasts, then back up to London. It's approximately twenty-one times the size of the UK, or ten times the size of France. And that's just the ground floor! It's as tall as it is wide; six hundred thousand storeys high. That means there's more than enough room for billions of people. We may not know all the details of what heaven's like, but we can be sure that if we believe in Him, God has a place there for us.

