

So They May Have Life

Roy Assanti—December 30, 2017

Good afternoon, brethren. Within the last five weeks or so, I attended two funerals. The first one was the father of one of our son's best friends since he was five-years-old. He was a developer, a builder. He was a lone man. He would go out and do incredible work for councils and so on, road works. What happened was that he was alone, and his excavator that he was sitting in toppled over from the truck. He tried to jump out of something that fell on him and crushed him. He was 61-years-old, and he was dead all of a sudden, didn't expect it. He was in superb physical health, and even while he was crushed, he held out his cell phone to someone who came to his aid—not able to do anything, he was massively damaged—to phone someone before he went to sleep.

At the funeral, between 1,200-1,500 people were there; they were everywhere. There was this courtyard in this hotel where we all sort of got around. What really got me was that there was not one mention of God. It was a kind of, 'Well, we'll meet somewhere, somehow.' There was a lot of grief and a lot of tears.

The next week, we went to another funeral. It was a niece of Alice's mother-in-law. She was in the Baptist Church. She was the head of the KYB. I'll tell you what the KYB is after. The lovely lady that was officiating the services made it known, and she called on everyone to speak. She continued to say at one point, that right now, the deceased was probably dancing on the streets of gold. The thought that came to me was, 'From nothing to error.' I actually, really felt grieved sitting there. I thought: you don't get it; you read it, but you don't get it.

I guess what I want to say is just what does the Bible say about death? What is this business of life? We know Scriptures, but sometimes when you stop, you think, you dig a little deeper, and you get a little bit more about what it's all about. What is it about? We live, and we have those we love—our children, our grandchildren, our friends. We enjoy this business of life. We eat together. We speak together. We enjoy harmony, but, what's it about?

I remember one time, not so long ago, I did something I don't normally do. I watched this movie; I only watched half of it. It was about space travel. All of these people were in suspended animation because they were traveling to a far off planet at half the speed of light. The journey was going to take 120 years. Thirty years into the journey one of the fellows is awakened all of a sudden by mistake. It was a glitch in the system. He had this incredible spaceship that seemed like a great big

hotel with a bar, a mechanical man there to talk to him that looked like a real person, a swimming pool, and so on, but he was all alone; no one else was awake. He went for a year until he couldn't take any more. He had to wake this young lady up. Then all of a sudden, he had companionship. That's where I broke it off.

Because Manola was over at our son and daughter and -in-law's home—she was helping look after a new grandson—I was also alone. It made me think. When you are alone and don't have anyone to talk to, in a sense, through the day. What I wouldn't mind, I wouldn't care about. We've got a reasonably large house, but I want to make sure the doors are lock and I'm safe inside. It's a funny thing being alone. I don't have a worry when we're together, but you think differently when you're alone.

What is this life? It's only temporary. It's going to end. I just feel like having a little bit of a talk before hand, too. Manola's mom had passed away and before coming here, we went to her home and retrieved various things. Hardly had the tears dried on my poor wife, she sees these things. She remembers. We enjoy life, we love, and then one goes and another goes. It is almost a grief. It has to do with the promises that God gives us.

- How do we hold on?
- How do we believe?

I was talking, also to someone on a plane and she was quite friendly. She was a grandmother, and she noticed something different about us. How do you begin to talk about God's Word? I told her that I'm an elder, a minister. I'm going to speak. *Oh, yes. My husband is a professor*, who was across the other side. The thing was, how can you make someone understand to tell them about the Word of God? That it is credible? *Flesh thinks of flesh. Spirit is spirit!* I think of these Scriptures to begin with:

2-Peter 1:20: "Knowing this first, that **no** prophecy of Scripture originated **as anyone's own private interpretation**... [it is specific revelation from God] ...because prophecy was not brought at any time by human will, **but the Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit**" (vs 20-21).

John 10:35—John added a parenthetical statement: "...**and the Scripture cannot be broken**." *It is absolute!* There are many ways to look at this business of what happens after death. What is death? There are many avenues we can take. We're going to take one road. There are many things and many ways we can approach this matter of death.

John 11:21: “And Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.’ Jesus said to her, ‘**Your brother shall rise again.**’.... [understanding] ...Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection **at the last day**’” (vs 21-24). “...Scripture cannot be broken.

This lovely lady that had passed away was a head of the KYB Group (Know Your Bible). How could you have missed something so obvious as that? *She cannot be dancing on the streets of gold.* They’re not there, yet. It has not happened, yet.

Let’s notice that Christ did not correct Martha. He didn’t go on to say that Lazarus’ soul had gone to heaven and he’s walking on the streets of gold, or anything like that.

In Jer. 30 we’ll follow another proof of a well-known character in God’s Word. If anybody has made it, King David has made it and God confirms it:

Jeremiah 30:9: “But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up to them.”

So, he’s going to be *raised up*. I’ll make a point about Jeremiah; he preached between 628_{bc.} to 586_{bc.} and at that time, King David had died around 960_{bc.} David was easily dead 300 years when those words were written. He was dead and he was to be raised up at a future time.

The Apostle Peter confirms that in Acts 2:29: “Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak to you freely concerning the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.”

Verse 34: “For **David has not ascended into the heavens...**” *So, even he is dead and with us!* There is an actual time when David, Lazarus, the apostles and all called throughout this age will be raised. What is this business of life?

Revelation 20:4: “And I saw thrones...” I wonder if we can imagine what it was like in Technicolor and in surround-sound, reverberating, visual color, impactful. John was smacked in the face with this incredible vision, so alive. If we watch some of the misguided clips of Hollywood with the different things you can imagine, they could really do something with this.

“...and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given to them; and *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and those who did not worship the beast, or his image, and did not receive the mark in their foreheads or in their hands; and they lived... [at a specific time] ...and reigned

with Christ a thousand years. (**But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed.**) This *is* the first resurrection. Blessed and Holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these **the second death...**” (vs 4-6).

The Scripture cannot be broken. Listen to what it’s saying. I think of KYB, *Know Your Bible. No, you don’t!* It’s not penetrated to be able to understand, to be able to accept it as Truth, other than fables that you’ve learned.

“...has no power. But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (v 6).

1-Thess. 4 describes a time when all true Christians will be raised, those who have the Spirit of God and have the promise when they are changed and they put on a different form, the character is given a different vessel.

1-Thessalonians 4:13: “But I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, that you **be not grieved, even as others, who have no hope.**” *It is an incredible grief!*

I was watching a documentary that was titled, *This Drug Will Kill You or This Drug Can Kill You*. It is talking about the various opioids, these drugs that are prescribed that lead to heavier stuff because they look for that high.

They showed a scene of a little girl with the face blurred, in a supermarket with these various articles on the floor: cans, etc.—on the supermarket floor, and the mother was absolutely passed out. The little child was crying out, ‘Mommy! Mommy!’ What a disaster. How many disasters are there? Deaths? Untimely deaths? Disease? War? There is such grief in life. It really took something to watch that documentary; it went through people’s lives, and so on.

“...that you be not grieved, even as others, who have no hope” (v 13). I discussed this a little bit with Fred about the disasters that are coming. They’re coming. He said, ‘Roy, we need to get our minds on the fact of the Last Great Day that there’s got to be a resurrection, that God has everyone in mind. We must think of God’s Plan and of what God promises.

Verse 14: “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have **fallen asleep in Jesus** will God bring with Him.”

Why didn’t God tell them there that those who had fallen asleep had gone to heaven? *KYB-Know Your Bible!* They are going to be raised at a

specific time.

Verse 15: “For this we say to you by *the* Word of *the* Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord... [a specific time] ...shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep, because the Lord Himself shall descend... [a specific time, He hasn’t descended, yet] ...from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (vs 15-16).

- they rise at a time
- they don’t go to heaven
- they’re not dancing on the streets of gold

Verse 17: “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord.”

There’s a timeline. Next, there’s going to be a thousand years to bring everyone else in line whom has lived. I wonder: When there is a death, when there is a tragedy, do these Words give us the comfort? the hope? the strength to keep going? As it says, ‘Without prophecy a people perish,’ but these are given to us to reinforce us.

Revelation 20:11: “Then I saw a great white throne and the One Who was sitting on it, from Whose face...”

Can we imagine a depiction of this? *There is no earth, there’s no sea, there’s nothing!* There’s only you and the One on the throne. You’ve got no leverage. You’re solely dependent on that judgment. There’s no one who’s going to talk about human rights, about global weather change, about any of the things that are going on, about politics. You’ve got no say. There’s no leverage. You’re looking up totally subject to this incredible power.

“...from Whose face the earth... [Can you imagine for John to write?]: ...and the heaven fled away; and no place was found for them.... [How impactful would this have been to John?] ...And I saw the dead... [what a vision] ...small and great, standing before God; and *the* books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the* Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of the things written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead *that were* in it...” (vs 11-13) *No one escapes, even in outer space!*

“...and death and *the* grave gave up the dead *that were* in them; and they were judged individually, according to their works.... [Have you ever thought about v 14 means?] ...And death and *the* grave were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life... [that’s what happened] ...he

was cast into the Lake of Fire” (vs 13-15).

The word *death* is from the Greek ‘thanatos’ meaning *loss of life*. The *grave and hell*, that’s ‘hades.’ The meaning of v 14 virtually is *the end of the existence of physical life*.

Everything that is temporary passes away. It’s finished! Whatever is temporary is gone. Now it’s only spirit. 1-Cor. 15:55 says the same thing, using the same words, with the final consumption of flesh and death and everything that’s temporary is consumed.

1-Corinthians 15:55: “O death... [‘thanatos’] ...where is your sting? O grave... [hades] ...where is your victory?” *It doesn’t exist anymore!* Nothing physically exists, because only the permanent thing will remain.

Verse 54—the confirmation: “Now, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruptibility...” *The character that God develops in us He then puts into a vessel that does not corrupt!*

“...and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”

In Matt. 25:31 a lot of details are left out and we have to go ‘here a little, there a little.’ Is this describing the same incident there of this Great White Throne?

Matthew 25:31: “Now, when the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the Holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon *the* throne of His glory.” *There are time-lapses that we don’t have time to go into there, but this is what happens!*

Verse 32: “And He shall gather before Him all the nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.... [the books were open] ...And He shall set the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at *His* left. Then shall the King say to those at His right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom **prepared for you from the foundation of the world**’” (vs 32-34).

Wow! If we could be a fly on the wall. Think about it; one party goes to light, *life and hope*, and another one goes to darkness.

Verse 23: “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! *Because* you were faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ *It is a joy to enter life, to enter light!*

I’m just going to go through about what it’s like to enter life and some of the principles of the journey.

I’m a pretty graphic person in my own self.

Before I came to the Church, before I came to understand, I had a really tough dad. a real disciplinarian. He sort of could crush the spirit. I guess when I was being called, I felt as if I didn't have God's Spirit. I didn't understand. I felt like I could picture myself as a silhouette, a face—but behind the eye sockets was darkness and in the mouth was black. There was black within, a kind of a hopelessness. When you begin to look at life and say:

- What is this?
- Will it continue?
- Are you grieved for the people that are gone?
- What's it about?

There was nothing in there, in a sense for me. That was my thinking and everybody is different in how God calls us.

Proverbs 4:18—here's a principle: "But the path of the just *is* as the shining light that shines... [it shines it continues to get better and better] ...more and more to the perfect day."

For the world—as Christ was sent—what has He described as? What was His presence describe as in comparison to Isa. 9:2?

Isaiah 9:2: "The people who walked in darkness..." Wait a minute! They had the Law of Moses, they had the Word of God! What do you mean they "...walked in darkness..."? Remember the point that I made: KYB, *Know Your Bible*.?

- Do you know it?
- Do you understand it?

I'm sitting here thinking: What are you saying? What are you telling us? *She's asleep!*

"...have seen a great light; they who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined" (v 2).

The sequel to that is Matthew 4:16: "The people who were sitting in darkness have seen a great light; and to those who were sitting in *the* realm and shadow of death, light has sprung up' From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent... [change your way, stop, go another way; there is a way to life] ...for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" (vs 16-17).

- A light?
- What are we talking about?
- How do we associate this Light? *Christ!*
 - ✓He's Truth
 - ✓He's the Reality
 - ✓He's the Spirit of God
- What is it like as we go on this journey?

Luke 24—there were certain two people

walking on their way to the village of Emmaus. Christ had been killed, crucified. They thought: It's over. We had light, we had hope and now it's over. Why did God allow this to happen? *So, they were talking and Christ was explaining how the Scriptures had to be fulfilled!* You didn't get it! He's emanating this light, this understanding. They wanted to stop Him and constrain Him.

Luke 24:29: "But they constrained Him, saying... [tell us more] 'Stay with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is declining.' And He entered in *as if* to stay with them. And it came to pass, as He sat *at the table* with them, He took the bread *and* blessed *it*; and after breaking *it*, He gave *it* to them" (vs 29-30). *They didn't realize Who He was!* They didn't realize in Whose presence they were.

Verse 31: "Then... [when He gave them the bread] ...their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He disappeared from them." What did they say? *This is what it's like to close to God the Father and Jesus Christ!*

Verse 32: "And they said to one another, 'Did not our hearts **burn within us**... [there's a burning inside] ...as He was speaking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?'" How is that we didn't get it? *We knew it, we sensed it!*

I don't know whether everyone can realize the point where you realize that there's something different. You're being called or called aside. This information is being imparted to you.

With me, I was a little bit lost as a 20-year-old. I had this weekend. It was a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I thought that something was wrong, but something was right. Something's different, but something was right. I had this joy; I was just happy. What is going on? After three days I realized ***that the knowledge of God was in my mind and the light, the fuel was burning!*** There was a light there, within. Then I was taken on a journey.

This flesh, this world, cannot perceive the things of God. ***It has to be given by God***, otherwise there is no idea. Those that were in darkness had the Word of God, but they were none the wiser. As I sat in that funeral service, I grieved. 'You haven't got it! She's not there!' It was a grief.

Lev. 6 is another rendition of this condition, of this state of God impacting on us, on our lives. I just want to make a comment. That was me, but it's about you. Think about it. As God began to work in your own private life, what was it like?

Look at Psa. 78, it says the same thing, *that they forgot*. Israel forgot the great works of God. Can you imagine walking through the sea? Can you imagine being imprisoned by the greatest military

power on earth at the time? *Then having seen them just fall apart*, completely decimated, devastated and killed? *Not only the firstborn of the people, but the firstborn even of the flocks*, and to see the mighty army that would have enslaved them just pulverized in the water? Yet, they forgot. They didn't have a mind. It's important for us to think about the way God's Spirit has worked in our lives individually, and how we came to understand. ***We should never, ever forget!*** They forgot where they came from. ***We never, ever forget!***

The burning coals represent an acceptable sacrifice; Leviticus 6:12: "And the fire upon the altar shall be kept **burning**. It shall not be put out...."

You never allow the fire that has been set alight inside of you to stop burning! You've got to continually provide it with fuel.

"...And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it..." (v 12). ***That's what makes our sacrifices, our lives, acceptable to God;*** that burning, that indwelling of His Spirit. The burning is required. That's what does it.

"...And he shall burn upon it the fat of the peace offerings. The fire shall... [never stop] ...always be burning upon the altar. It shall never go out" (vs 12-13) ***That burning is in your belly, in your heart!*** You've got to keep it there continually.

I can't do what Daniel did. He would look toward Jerusalem and ***pray three times a day***, with earnest. An angel was sent to him and said, 'You are dearly beloved. You've been heard from the very first time you set your heart toward God to seek Truth, to seek God.' ***We have set our hearts to seek God!*** There's the key. It's got to be burning.

If we look at Joel 2, this also describes the sincerity, the attitude, the direction, the emphasis, the force that we need to have to have that burning within us. ***The sincerity! The Truth!*** God knows, God and the angels. *It's known* in God's realm what is inside of you and me.

- Do you wait for a disaster?
- or*
- Do you continually build that strength?
 - Build that fire?
 - Put the fuel in?

Joel 2:12: "'Therefore, even now,' says the LORD, 'turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. Yes, **rend... [tear] ...your heart and not your garments...**'" (vs 12-13).

Don't let it be a show. God knows when it's a show. I'll tell you what. When your back is against

the wall with a trial, with a difficulty, then we ask: 'Why has this happened? Why has this happened to me?' *I've been with my back to the wall at different times and it just changes you!* You don't go back to where you were. "**...rend your heart and not your garments...**"

The burning is the effect of the consumption of God's Spirit. This is another kind of reference. The same thing as the burning coals, being hot, a combusting spirit and glowing, a perpetual fire. That's what we are talking about. That's got to be there every morning: ***prayer and meditation on God's Word!*** Get the fuel on the fire.

Revelation 3:15: "I know your works that you are neither cold nor hot... [you can't be in the middle; decide, either go or come] ...I would *that* you be *either* cold... [sayonara] ...or hot.... [come] ...because you are lukewarm, and *are* neither cold nor hot..." (vs 15-16).

Sometime in our life we must have vomited. It's not pleasant. One of the not so pleasant times in my life was time when I was 16 and I drank too much. Oh, it hurt! I had to likewise, vomit. As I did, I was on the back porch of my home and it would heave. I tried to control, but it was terrible. I said, 'Don't do it again. No! Never again.'

It did happen another time because I was sick, at the Feast and somebody wanted me to go fishing. We went fishing. They were catching fish and I was heaving on the side. My whole intestines were in pain. Someone said, 'Roy, pull your line up. You might have something.' I had two fish on the line. I'm being a little graphic, here. That is what it says. What effect does it have on you? It is not good.

So God says, "...I will spew you out of My mouth" (v 16). It doesn't happen all of a sudden. It builds up to the point to where you just can't take any more and out it comes. That's what happens. God has patience with us. The Word is, 'I want you hot or cold.' If you stay like that, you're done. This is what you're like to Me.

The specific thing that makes God sick, that makes us unacceptable; v 17: "For you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'; and you do not understand that you are wretched..."

You might have *stuff*. I know of a member who was a very, very dear friend of mine. He would say back in the Worldwide day, 'We will walk with our feet. We will vote with our feet. We'll get out of here.' We went; he stayed. He's good professional man. He's got property. When I spoke to him, maybe a year back—I hadn't spoken to him for maybe eight years before that—he said, 'Everyone understands the way they should understand.' Like,

Worldwide—now Grace Communion—is like this and this group. I thought: Where are you? He’s got a great bubble coming to him and he got travel. I thought, ‘Oh no! Oh no!’ What’s coming?

“...and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (v 17).

God would not be inspiring this in a nice way. It’s a scathing! **‘You’re poor! You’re blind! You’re naked!’** It’s a rebuke! Do you understand that? This is what you’ve got to do.

Verse 18: “I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified **by fire**...”—being smashed by a tremendous trial that causes us to turn to God in desperation. Again, get the fuel. Get the fire going, the burning in your heart, in your belly, in your life.

“...so that you may be rich... [when you’ve got a fire burning and going] ...and white garments... [wealth] ...so that you may be clothed, and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten...” (vs 18-19)—*when trials come, when the dark clouds come in!*

I can tell you sometimes for me, if I have been busy and I have not had the time that I need to pray, to meditate, to kindle that fire, I awake in trepidation, in fear, and I think, ‘Oh, no!’ Regardless, I have God’s Spirit, you have God’s Spirit; this is the effect of God’s Spirit in our lives. I’ve got to seek. Because when you don’t seek, what happens is that a condition begins to set in. We won’t go into it, but God’s Word reveals that as a ‘hardening.’ Zig Ziglar calls it *a hardening of the attitudes*, not the arteries.’ *Your attitude becomes hardened!*

I was listening to what causes criminality. A presentation for what causes a person to become a criminal. We all have a conscience. God talks about a conscience throughout. When we do something that is against our conscience, we feel bad, really bad. Then through desperation or whatever, if we do it again and we repeat it, it’s bad; it’s even worse. When it’s continued, that pain, that conscience is seared. That pain diminishes and we begin to become accustomed to that kind of behavior. You begin to lose out and you look at other things.

We’re going to talk about this fuel, burning. Luke 12:35 tells us about the process for the light to grow brighter and brighter until the full day dawns, until resurrection. By the way, that’s what we’re going to. That’s where it ends, or where it starts. That’s our journey, to resurrection.

Luke 12:35: “Let your loins be girded about and **your lamps burning**.” When they left Egypt,

everything in place, loins girded and what? *Lamps!* What about the lamps? *Not turned off, but burning.*

2-Peter 1:19: “We also possess the confirmed prophetic Word to which you do well to pay attention, as to a light shining... [burning up fuel] ...in a dark place, until the day dawns... [until the resurrection] ...and *the morning star arises in your hearts*”—*in the seat of your life!*

Who you are, the equator, the central you. Where you are: *the heart and mind, the person, the creation that God is making!* What’s it like? Let’s look at what Isaiah says. We put a focus on a specific Scripture. It’s set among other things being said. I wonder and I ask: Will these words or words like this be actually uttered at the resurrection?

Isaiah 60:1: “Arise, shine...” Can you imagine these words? They might be like a thunderclap coming down.

“Arise... [a command] ...shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you, for behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness *the people*; but the LORD shall arise **upon you**, and His glory shall be seen **upon you**. And the Gentiles shall come to **your light**... [What’s it describing?] ...and kings... [you shall be priests and kings and rule in the Millennium] **...to the brightness of your rising**” (vs 1-3)—*talking about the resurrection and another body, the incorruptible body!*

In Rev. 1 we get an idea of the bodily appearance. This next vessel that we are going to be given to occupy, here is Christ’s appearance, basically shown to us.

Revelation 1:14: “And His head and hair *were* like white wool... [when He appears, ‘we shall be like Him’] ...white as snow; and His eyes *were* like a flame of fire.”

Daniel 12:2: “And many of those who sleep in the dust...” —***death is sleep and they shall awake at a specific time!***

Again I repeat, as I was sitting there in that church, how can she be dancing on the streets of gold; you don’t understand. Though they profess the name of Christ, they love God’s Word. In a sense, it was over their heads. *They’re not getting it!*

“...of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they who are wise... [here’s this shining again, *the light*] **...shall shine** as the brightness of the firmament, and they who turn many to righteousness **shall shine as the stars forever and ever**” (vs 2-3).

How do the stars shine? You ever seen a close up of the sun? *Power! Nuclear power! Giving*

life to the planets!

If we could be a fly on the wall with the fate of those who do not obtain life. It says, Matthew 25:30: “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness...” I’m not going to focus on the darkness much. There’s more that you could focus in on the darkness. This is what happens to everlasting contempt.

Verse 30: “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness...” The one that’s lost the conscience, that’s had the conscience seared, or just been rebellious against God, who hasn’t undergone the process of change of character, of fearing God until the resurrection. *This process will never, ever stop!*

Verse 30: “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness...” (v 30). You notice the difference? ***Not light! Not power!*** But darkness! Hopelessness!

“...There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (v 30). As I have looked into it personally, the weeping of those who weep because they had it, they knew it and they were deceived. ***Let no man take your crown!***

- Why on earth would God say that?
- Why would He inspire it unless some are going to lose their crown?

That’s the weeping. The ‘gnashing of teeth.’ From memory there are six accounts in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament, where the ‘gnashing of teeth’ takes place with ***the wicked gnashing their teeth at the righteous!***

You’ll know the account in the New Testament with Stephen. They gnashed their teeth, they blocked their ears, they couldn’t stand to hear anymore. So, they stoned him. That was the example in the New Testament, but through the Psalm a similar thing. Personally, that’s my understanding of ‘weeping and gnashing of teeth’—two different categories.

The activity of Satan brings darkness as opposed to light! He’s a rebel; he goes against God (Isa. 14, Ezek. 28). I’m a pretty graphic person sometimes. In my early days, when I was starting to learn, to have this stuff in my mind, one time, I can remember where I was. I was lying down in my bedroom. I was looking up, and in between sleep and wakefulness I could feel myself rising. I thought: What is going on?

There were these dreams of rising. The thought came to mind to go against that tyrant who will take away our freedom. We are out for freedom. I thought: What is this? In a sense I think that when these spiritual influences are taken out of your mind.

That would have been exactly what Satan would have spread to the angelic realm. The tyrant that is taking away our freedom, that wants to constrict us! The spirit within says, ‘Whoa! What is this? What is this coming into my head?’ It never happened again, but at a time when there was a bit of a demonic situation, again, *God’s Spirit burns within you.* I was in a house that I know had some demonic stuff going in there. I’ll tell you some other time, but God’s Spirit *burns* within you.

Genesis 1:2 is what Satan’s activity brings, “And the earth was...” The word *was* is from the Hebrew ‘hayah,’ which means *became*.

In Job 38:7: “When the morning stars sang together and **all the sons of God shouted for joy**”—when the earth was created. It was joyful! Wonderful! But it says:

Genesis 1:2: “And the earth... [‘hayah’] ...was... [became, changed the form of] ...without form and void... [chaos, empty] ...and darkness...” (v 2)—*there’s the activity of Satan,* and the worthless servant is ‘cast into outer darkness’ ***away from life!*** We’re talking about life and death.

“...darkness *was* upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (v 2).

As we put together the scene—here a little, there a little—here’s the connection. Judas was going to betray Jesus Christ. Satan had filled him. Understand the activity of Satan was inside Judas.

John 13:30: “So then, after receiving the sop, he immediately went out... [What does it say? Why does it have to say]: ...and it was night.” Of course, it was night, but that’s a reference to the *darkness.* This is the activity of Satan; *Judas was completely taken over!*

Verse 31: “When he was gone, Jesus said...” *Jesus knew He was going to be betrayed and this is when He opened up and spoke freely.* If you’ve ever been the company of someone that doesn’t want to listen to your stuff—for example, your treasure, your pearls—it’s not easy to speak to them. When Judas went it was night, but inside, where they were, Jesus said:

“...Now has the Son of man been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him” (v 31). *He kept on revealing!* Then, He really opened up to them.

Mark 14 is the ultimate bad news where Christ refers to Judas. It was night and night is associated with what?

Mark 14:21: “The Son of man indeed goes, just as it has been written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born.”

Those who are *not* accounted worthy—some of us are accounted worthy and some are not. It doesn't say that all will obtain life. It does say that some are not going to be accounted worthy

Luke 20:35: "But **those who are accounted worthy...**" It doesn't say *all* are accounted worthy. The sheep not the goats.

"...to obtain that age, and the resurrection from *the* dead... [which is what we're talking about] ...neither marry nor are given in marriage" (v 35).

There, again, are those *who are* accounted worthy and there are going to be those whose light *did not* continue to shine and who are *not* going to be accounted worthy. What a sight! There's no leverage, no standing, no hope for those who have to enter darkness. *It will be as if they never were!* I wonder whether God will remove the knowledge that they ever existed from those of us that make it. I'll say that positively, those of *us* who attain life.

Revelation 20:11: "Then I saw a great white throne and the One Who was sitting on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and no place was found for them." *Now is the time, not then, to change!*

Revelation 21:3: "And I heard a great voice from heaven say, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men... [this is what we look for] ...and He shall dwell with them... [this is the joy, the glory] ...and they shall be His people; and God Himself shall be with them *and be* their God.'"

I have that picture of this little girl in a supermarket desperately holding on to a mother who has just fainted and down on the floor, perhaps not even alive. She's crying and trying to shake her mother. That is the state of the grief in this world with the wars, the personal tragedy, the untimely death, the number of abortions that are not grieved. Those that are given life and have it taken from them before they even have a chance to experience it. If I begin to think about that, I just become melancholy.

When I look at my grandchildren, I love them so much. One little one runs up to me, I put my arms out and she just jumps into my arms and gives me one of the biggest hugs. She just calls out in Italian. It could be grandfather, papa or whatever. She jumps and embraces me so warmly. There's such love. We think about our children, our grandchildren, and these little children not given a chance of life. It is a grief. This is what gives me personal comfort when I go to:

Verse 4: "And God shall wipe away every tear... [from every untimely death, from every tragedy; this is what it's coming to] ...from their eyes; and *there* shall not be anymore death..."

It's cast into the Lake of Fire. It's finished. It's combusted. Nothing else is combustible. It's only life that exists, that remains.

"...or sorrow, or crying; neither shall *there* be any more pain, because the former things have passed away" (v 4)—*gone, finished, over!* We've learned: Come inherit the Kingdom.

Verse 5: "And He Who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' Then He said to me, **Write, for these words are true and faithful.**"

Our journey, keeping that fire burning within us to the resurrection and on, continually to this point that was mentioned by Jesus Christ in:

John 10:10: "...**I have come so that they...** [all] ...**may have life...** [that's why He came, that's why our calling: so that *all* have life] ...**and may have it more abundantly.**"

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Peter 1:20-21
- 2) John 10:35
- 3) John 11:21-24
- 4) Jeremiah 30:9
- 5) Acts 2:29, 34
- 6) Revelation 20:4-6
- 7) 1-Thessalonians 4:13-17
- 8) Revelation 20:11-15
- 9) 1-Corinthians 15:55, 54
- 10) Matthew 25:31-34, 23
- 11) Proverbs 4:18
- 12) Isaiah 9:2
- 13) Matthew 4:16-17
- 14) Luke 24:29-32
- 15) Leviticus 6:12-13
- 16) Joel 2:12-13
- 17) Revelation 3:15-19
- 18) Luke 12:35
- 19) 2-Peter 1:19
- 20) Isaiah 60:1-3
- 21) Revelation 1:14
- 22) Daniel 12:2-3
- 23) Matthew 25:30
- 24) Genesis 1:2
- 25) Job 38:7
- 26) Genesis 1:2
- 27) John 13:30-31
- 28) Mark 14:21
- 29) Luke 20:35
- 30) Revelation 20:11
- 31) Revelation 21:3-5
- 32) John 10:10

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 78
- Isaiah 14

- Ezekiel 28

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