



JAN- FEB 2013

STRAIGHT TALK

"In Him is LIFE: and the life is THE LIGHT OF MEN. And the light shines in the darkness; but the darkness comprehends it not."

(John 1:4-5)

CITY OF THE LIVING

LIGHT & LIFE = AWAKE & AWARE

We who are alive in Christ (i.e., the "raised") are citizens of **New Jerusalem** ... also known as **The City Of The Living**.

Among Bible believers there seems to be some misunderstanding about the benefits of being "born again" (i.e., "raised" in Christ). At least part of the misunderstanding can be blamed on the pervasive teaching of Futurism coming from churches. Futurist theology teaches that man's benefits are mainly scheduled for the distant future after an epochal "return" of Jesus from an ascribed abode in the sky.

Of course, the idea of Jesus living in the sky, or on some distant planet, is silly ... nonetheless, it is the accepted belief of most churchgoers. Thus, their theology includes the sad belief in an absentee savior/king ... and accordingly leaves them abandoned on planet Earth.

To be unaware of Jesus' present Reign on Earth, and to not be able to see the present New Jerusalem, leaves churchgoers in a state of blindness and hopelessness.

So let us take a quick journey through Scripture to see what the Bible teaches about the present benefits of being "ALIVE" in Christ today. And we will dispel the cruel lie of Futurism.

The focus of this study will be on the "LIFE" that God currently offers to us who believe in Christ. To be ALIVE in Christ is to walk in LIGHT. It means we can be AWARE. That inner light can enable us to SEE and perceive Christ's present Kingdom ... to perceive things that cannot be seen by those who live in darkness.

In Bible vernacular, we the "LIVING" have an ability that sets us above the world around us. God's creation and his laws that govern it become understandable to us who are "ALIVE," whereas these things are not understood by the "dead" and "unenlightened" people around us.

The Bible is about LIFE and DEATH first and foremost. Unless we have a basic understanding of these things, all the doctrine and details of the Bible will remain confusing and lost to us.

THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Every man of good conscience has a deep desire to know and understand the central theme of the Bible. He wants to have a grasp of the big picture ... to understand what God intends for us.

Churches tell us that the Bible is a guide to get us out of this world and into another world: an outer-space "heaven." But that doesn't agree with the actual message of the Bible.

The churches teach that this present creation is a mess, and that someday God is going to rescue us away from it. This theology leaves churchgoers with the dreary expectation of living without God in this present age. As they see it, they are stuck in a world dominated by evil angels and no escape for them except death. Their god is keeping Himself away ... somewhere in outer space.

That isn't a very hopeful or uplifting theology. What they actually teach is a dreadful non-biblical theology that robs them of hope, faith, and the spirit of life.

Suffice it to say that the message of the churches is in fact NOT God's message at all. They have programmed their followers with a message of death ... whereas the real message of the Bible is a message of LIFE and HOPE!

Therefore, I say this to you: if your impression of the Bible (God's word) leaves you feeling insecure and alone, then you are a victim of wrong theology. Regardless of what it calls itself, that theology is NOT of the Bible. It may call itself "Christian" ... but in truth it is not Christian at all.

You need to understand and take hold of the HOPE and LIFE that God offers you right now.

THE BIBLE TELLS US OF "LIFE"

From its beginning in Genesis the Bible's true story is about "life":

7. "And Yahweh God ... breathed into his (Adam's) nostrils the BREATH OF LIFE; and Adam became a LIVING SOUL."

– Gen. 2:7

To “breath life” into someone is to INSPIRE him.
Inspiration gives “life.”

At its end, the Bible is still promoting “LIFE”:

17. *“... And whosoever will, let him take of the water of LIFE freely.”*

– Rev. 22:17

Throughout the Bible we are taught about the “LIFE” that He offers us. God’s word is “THE WORD OF LIFE.”

1. *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the WORD OF LIFE;*

2. *For THE LIFE was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness and show to you that EONIAN LIFE which is of the Father, and is manifested to us;*

– 1 John 1:1 & 2

The “life” He offers us changes the way we perceive his creation ... including the physical world around us. God created biological life. We see it around us. But He does not stop there. God also gives EONIAN LIFE (inspiration). That SPIRITUAL LIFE was given to Adam, and he was told how to keep it. Adam, however, opted for a different inspiration and a different view of the world around him, and that choice brought death to him in “that day.”

As babes we are born into a world of flesh. It is all we know. We are immersed in it, and we learn to live in it.

But as we grow and mature, the LIGHT of God that shines upon us and gives us inspiration. That provides us the opportunity to be born spiritually (a second birth); to become AWAKE and AWARE. It enables us to perceive reality and truths ... to see God’s creation as He intended us to see it. This is called being BORN (inspired) FROM ABOVE. Only those who are ALIVE can understand this.

This is what the Bible is about. LIFE and DEATH! Jesus said clearly that his Father is the God of LIFE:

27. *He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living.*

– Mark 12:27

In the Bible, “life” is often symbolized as “light” ... whereas death is symbolized as “darkness.” Every man who accepts the “light” that God offers is said to have “life.”

9. *That is the true light which lights every man that comes into the system (of Christ’s Reign).*

13. *Who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

–John 1:9 & 13

6. *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.*

19. *And this is the condemnation, that LIGHT is come into the world, and men love DARKNESS rather than LIGHT, because their deeds are wicked.*

–John 3:6 & 19

26. *For as the Father has LIFE in Himself; so has He given to the Son to have LIFE in Himself;*

39. *Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have EONIAN LIFE: and they are they which testify of Me.*

40. *And you will not come to Me, that you might have LIFE.*

–John 5:26 & 39

9. *I am the door: if any man enter in by me he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

10. *The thief comes for nothing but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they (my sheep) might have LIFE, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

–Jn. 10:9-10

MOSES TAUGHT OF LIFE

Moses, after giving God’s law to Israel, admonished the people to obey God. This he equated with LIFE:

19. *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you LIFE and DEATH, blessing and cursing: therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both you and your seed may live:*

20. *That you may love Yahweh your God, and that you may obey his voice, and that you may hold to him: for he is your LIFE, ...:*

– Deut. 31:19 & 20

WHITED SEPULCHRES (PAINTED TOMBS)

While Jesus was teaching his disciples about life, He described the members of the churches/synagogues as “whited sepulchres ... full of dead men’s bones.” (Mtt. 23:27). In other words, they were dead and in darkness ... because their religion rejected the “LIFE” God offers.

Some people around us are alive, and some are “dead.” Jesus told one man to “let the dead bury their dead” (Mtt. 8:22) ... referring to those not born from above.

Jesus tells us in John 10:10 that He is “the Good Shepherd” and that He is come to give us “LIFE MORE ABUNDANT.” How could He have said it better?

In John 11, Jesus (newly raised from his tomb) told Martha: “I AM (present tense) the raising, and the LIFE.”

Through Him, men were receiving life that was “more abundant.”

WHAT WAS “THE GOOD NEWS”?

Church theology has programmed millions of people to think that the gospel (the good news) published by Jesus and his apostles was that He was leaving them and wouldn’t be back for a few thousand years ... and that in the mean-

time they must fend for themselves. In addition to that, Jesus had supposedly left a super evil angel named “Satan” to rule over the Earth and create havoc in their lives.

What a sad theology! It doesn’t sound like “good news.” No wonder men programmed with this theology are prone to look to institutions of men (churches and governments) rather than to Christ and his Kingship. No wonder they rely on politicians and Wall Street economists. Their churches have taught them that God is not here for them.

It is sad to see folks needing hope while devils in pulpits cause them to lose their faith in God.

But what can I say to them? How can I give them hope? If I tell them to look to the Bible they read it with the jaundiced perspective of the churches ... which leaves them cold. They remain blinded to reality. The book of life they hold in their hands is a sealed book to them. Their faith and hope in Christ’s Kingdom is lost, so they place their faith in institutions of the Serpent System (Church & State).

In past publications of Straight Talk I reminded my readers that man-made constitutions and charters NEVER benefit the common man. Such charters are not created for that purpose. They are created by and for the elite criminals who run governments and banks. They are designed to benefit only the devils at the top ... whose agenda is to steal, murder, and rule over the world (Jn. 10:10).

Thankfully, the “good news” is that God gave us a King and the option of choosing New Jerusalem (LIFE). Unlike the criminal wolves that prey upon the sheep, the Good Shepherd provides a better life and sanity for the sheep.

New Jerusalem is not a city made by man. It is made by God (Heb. 11:10). When we accept citizenship in New Jerusalem we are no longer citizens of the Beast System. Our hope is no longer in man’s institutions. We seek God’s laws, and we live by LIGHT from God: *“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”* (Ps 119:105)

THE TWO WORLDS

The New Testament Greek word for “world” is “kosmos.” It means “system” and is translated “world.”

There are two worlds (systems) that coexist: 1. God’s world, and 2. the Beast’s world. These worlds reflect the hearts and minds of their citizens in terms of how they perceive things. These are two paradigms. We invest ourselves in one or the other. They are two paths, and much depends upon which one we choose.

God’s world offers light and life. It benefits us. The other world benefits only a few criminals at the top. One world is “New Jerusalem” (The City Of The Living). The other is “Babylon” (The City Of The Dead).

These two worlds represent the paths of life and death.

Adam was given LIFE, but he opted for DEATH. All who follow Adam’s example inherit that spiritual death (i.e., the wrong system). They exist in a state of blindness and death.

On the other hand, Jesus was given LIFE (eonian life) and He did not reject it. Thus, all who follow Jesus’ example inherit the LIFE that God gave Him. We are RAISED! We are AWAKE! We are citizens of New Jerusalem: THE CITY OF THE LIVING. Outside the walls death reigns, but inside the walls we are ALIVE.

Abraham is our example. He understood and exempli-

fied faith in God. His faith was invested in a city that others around him did not see. This he did while sojourning as a stranger in lands that were not his own.

Abraham, by faith, **“looked for a city ... whose designer and builder is God”** (Heb. 11:10).

Abraham did not look for citizenship in the lands where he sojourned or resided. Instead, he considered himself a citizen of **THE CITY OF GOD**. This was his faith. In Galatians 3 Paul tells us:

6. Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

7. Know you therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

The faith that directs our minds reveals our true citizenship. We, today, need the faith of Abraham so we can see that city that is not made by man, *“whose designer and builder is God”* – and we ought to have no faith in the cities and institutions of the Beast System.

When we take citizenship in that CITY OF LIGHT it changes us and separates us (i.e., makes us “holy”). It is the greatest gift God gives men. We are offered LIFE. Why would anyone prefer DEATH?

31. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby you have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel?

– Ezekiel 18:31

New Jerusalem cannot be seen by people whose faith is invested into man’s system. New Jerusalem began nearly 2,000 years ago ... but many people still cannot see it. This is according to our Lord’s own words in the book of John, chapter 3:

3. Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, Except a man be born from above, he cannot perceive the Kingship of God.”

THE NEW AND BETTER LIFE

Life in New Jerusalem is an upgrade. New Jerusalem life takes on better and higher qualities and capabilities.

When Jesus ascended the Throne, He began giving LIFE to dead people. He shined light into their lives ... giving them *“eyes to see, and ears to hear.”* Those who see his LIGHT are reborn and awakened. Their eyes, ears, senses and minds, which had been buried by the lies of Babylon, arise from the dead and begin working correctly ... the way God designed them to work.

This “raising” began when Jesus ascended his Throne. Scripture describes this as the marriage of Christ (the Bridegroom) to his Bride (New Jerusalem). This is Biblical symbolism representing a King and his Kingdom. It was the Good News (gospel) of the Kingdom/Kingship. Jesus’ disciples were instructed to publish it abroad. Death was being destroyed by LIFE.

This message of hope and light was hated and attacked

by the devils who ruled in Babylon's world of darkness and death. Those whose business required darkness didn't like it when light shined upon them and exposed them.

The Sanhedrin hated it. Jesus was shining light upon their dark world, exposing them as criminals.

"Then from that day forth they (the Sanhedrin and the Pharisees) took counsel together for to put Him to death" (Jn. 11:53).

The Sanhedrin and the Pharisees wanted to protect their kingdom of darkness. They arrested Jesus, tortured Him, and intended to murder Him. But they needed Roman authority to finish this, so they took their prisoner to Pilate. Before Pilate they all shouted **"Away with him, away with him, crucify him."** Pilate said to them, **"Shall I crucify your King?"** The chief priests answered, **"We have no king but Caesar"** (Jn. 19:15).

Pilate washed his hands publicly, signifying he had no wish to be involved in Jesus' death. He said to the Sanhedrin: *"I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see you to it."*

Then the Sanhedrin answered and said: **"His blood be on us, and on our children."** (Mtt. 27:25)

This was the most wicked act ever committed by men. This was a political vote for the Beast System, and the abandonment of Jesus. It prefigured today's political campaigns in which Republicans and Democrats vote for Beast System candidates and against Christ. It depicted the essence of choosing the Beast System over God's System.

Old Jerusalem had become "Egypt" and "Sodom" (Rev. 11:8) as it still is today.

The hatred of Christ's System was carried forward into the 4th century when the Roman emperor Constantine began the church industry as a replacement for the Reign of Christ. Churches have continued the lie by claiming it was Jesus who wanted them to build a church industry. But in fact it was Constantine, not Jesus.

Today, the churches are still wrong about Jesus and his Bride ... telling their followers that Jesus flew away into outer space and that his Bride must wait until some unknown time in the distant future when He will return and marry her ... then his Reign can begin. It is an insidious lie.

THE MANIFOLD BLESSINGS

Jesus said He came to *"heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"* (Lk. 4:18). The churches ignore this and claim that He retreated to outer space and left us to suffer under the Beast System.

The dead cannot see through this lie. The physical eyes of the "natural man" cannot see New Jerusalem.

9. *But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him.*

10. *But God has revealed them to us by his spirit: for the spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

12. *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but*
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the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

14. *But the natural man receives not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

– 1 Cor. 2:9-14

The "natural man" with the "spirit of the world" sees only the physical things. He relies upon what he sees: the Beast System. He knows of no other source. His world is different from ours. The things that we value and enjoy – love, family, generosity, security, happiness, etc. – all have different meanings for the dead who have no spiritual sight. The things we treasure mean little or nothing to them.

Authority, law, responsibility, honesty and profit all have different meanings to them. Their god is not our God.

The joys and fulfillment that we enjoy, and sometimes take for granted as we live day-to-day in New Jerusalem, are completely unrealized by the "natural man" who has accepted the Beast System and "the spirit of the world."

PEACE OF MIND, SECURITY AND SANITY

At issue here is the question of where a man's mind is fixed. It can be in darkness, or in light – in a "Matrix" of death, or in the life of Christ. A mind enlightened with Christ is mentally safe from common delusions.

The state of our lives depends upon which paradigm we choose. We can choose security and hope where we perceive and understand the world around us. We can find Christ's "rest" (Heb. 4:10-11) and contentment and build upon "the Rock."

Or, we can reject Christ and live our lives in labor without rest, insecure, without stability, with our foundation washed away by the floods of lies and confusion.

The only sound mind is the one enlightened by Christ. He raises us to see aright; to make good decisions and have better lives; to have clarity of mind. He is the light that gives us "life" and PEACE OF MIND.

13. *... yield yourselves to God, as those that are alive from the dead, ...*

– Rom. 6:13

5. *... The Lord is at hand.*

6. *Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and seeking, with thankfulness, let your petitions be made known to God.*

7. *And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

– Phil. 4:5-7

27. *I am leaving you peace. My peace I am giving you. I am giving it not as the world gives it. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be timid (cowardly).*

– Jn. 14:27

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