

Eternity

Ecc 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has **put eternity into man's heart**, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. *(Emp. added)(ESV)*

Psa 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou *art* God.

Eternal, according to Webster, is “without beginning or end; everlasting”. But how does the human mind comprehend such a timeframe. It can almost understand the concept of time unending into the future but to fathom the thought of it having always previously existed is mindboggling. Such is the nature of God’s existence. And such is the nature of His plan to redeem us back to Him even before man denied Him after the creation.

Eternal Purpose

Old Testament prophecies are filled with God’s eternal purpose to rescue man from his own human naturalistic desires, his self-centered lust for power to do as he wishes without the bonds of morality. Within that plan God had always required that where sin existed it would come with a cost. He paid that final price through His own Son and continually proclaims that message of salvation through His faithful children.

Eph 3:21 Unto Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world **without end**. Amen. *(Emp. added)*

One prophesy had to do with the kingdom that the true believers would lay hold on into eternity.

Dan 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even for ever and ever.

As Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar of “the stone (*that*) was cut out of the mountain without hands” (**Dan 2:45**), the final kingdom that God would establish above all other man-run dominions, would be later understood as the spiritual kingdom, the church.

Isa 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days (*of the Mosaic dispensation*), *that* the mountain of the LORD’S house (*the church*) shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

The church, by God’s design, surpasses all other governments and is made up of believers out of every nation. The Great Commission was to go “unto the uttermost part of the earth” (**Act 1:8**) to invite all people into the kingdom. It is the responsibility of the church then to proclaim that message.

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known **by the church** the manifold wisdom of God, **11** According to the **eternal purpose** which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: **12** In Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith in Him. *(Emp. added)*

Not only was it intended for all of mankind, the message preached by the church, at her inception, revealed her purpose to even the higher beings of the creation.

1Pe 1:12 ... unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven; which things **the angels desire to look into.** (*Emp. added*)

How else could the angels minister to us if they didn't understand the message of the Gospel? How mankind receives and acts on the calling of the Gospel will ultimately determine where he spends eternity.

The Eternal Purpose contains Eternal Consequences

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of **life**; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of **damnation.** (*Emp. added*)

All that are in the graves- Whether a person believes there's a Heaven and a Hell won't make a gnat's thumb print of a difference whether God calls them from the grave! All will be called! Even the once professed atheist who will, even before that point, no longer be an atheist because there will be no such belief in Hell! Then it will be too late to back pedal, wishing to have done differently while they still had the chance to get things right with God. And anyone who follows a "faith" not according to the Bible is still considered a "non-believer". The moment Jesus returns will be the moment repentance will no longer be accepted.

Rev 22:11 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. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward *is* with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. (*shows the eternal nature, thus Deity, of Christ*) 14 Blessed *are* they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life (*the privilege Adam and Eve lost in Eden*), 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.

And this is of such a serious nature that sadly, many in the church don't want to hear such lessons about it. Many will say "Oh that's just hate speech being spewed by a hate filled preacher" even though quite the contrary is true. It not only has to be one of, if not, the most painful of lessons to prepare, knowing the fate of some of my own loved ones, truly it's because as God is eternal, so is His judgement.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven (*both to be understood as physical*) fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand 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 those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Some want to say that the other book that was opened is the Bible but miss the understanding that it's the same book that Moses referenced when attempting to defend the rebellious Israelites in Exodus 32, a time long before the Bible was canonized.

Exo 32:31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.

Unlike “Santa Clause” who, it is said, keeps a **physical** list of the names of children who are either “naughty or nice”, God’s books are **true spiritual records** that contain the names of all of mankind. Your name, the names of your loved ones, your friends, co-workers, neighbors and even your ancestors and those who will come after you, will be found either in the “books”, that dwarf the accumulated volumes in the library of Congress, or they can be found in the “other” book that will be “opened, which is the book of life”. But please remember, we all have the choice as to which list we will be on.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (*Gk.86- “Hades” or the place of departed souls*) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell (*Gk.86*) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found **written in the book of life** was cast into the lake of fire. (*Emp. added*)

The physical sea is to be dissolved along with the earth (*v. 11*). Verse 13 begins with the sea that is before the throne in Rev 7:14. They are the righteous dead of Paradise found in the Hadean realm. The remainder of that realm, those in torment on the other side of the great gulf that separates the two realms, will be “cast into the lake of fire” and will suffer “the second death”, i.e., the eternal separation from God.

Rev 21:6 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. (*Do you thirst for righteousness?*) 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. 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.

Since “perfect love doth cast out the fear, because the fear hath punishment, and he who is fearing hath not been made perfect in the love” (*1 Jn 4:18*), the “fearful” are those at the judgment that haven’t accepted, in their earthly life, “the love of God...that hath been given to us” (*Rom 5:5*). Without having obtained that “fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son” to cleanse their every sin (*1 Jn 1:7*) they will be **absolutely petrified** when standing naked before God with all their sin exposed for all to see. How painful the thought for those of us who know the truth to realize many of our loved ones will be in that position when that time comes because they refused to believe and obey the truth. They will stand in gut-wrenching fear while watching the righteous ascend with Jesus, begging God for a second chance, only to realize that their tardiness will be rewarded with an eternal torture in a fiery Hell. A “second” of anything means there must be a “first”. So in order to escape the “second death”...

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first** resurrection: on such the **second** death hath no power... (*Emp. added*)

Rom 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His **death** (“*baptized into Jesus Christ*”- *v.3*), we shall be also *in the likeness* of His **resurrection**: 6 Knowing

this, that our old man is crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (*Emp. added*)

How much more lovingly can it be spoken then to **plead** that those who haven't taken part in the **first** death, burial and resurrection, will at the last resurrection "have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the **second** death"? (*Emp. added*) A righteous person will **never**, as long as they remain right with God, have to worry about suffering such an eternal Hell! Which, sadly, there is a doctrine that states that Jesus Himself had to go there and suffer that fate for us.

Act 2:25 For David speaketh concerning Him, I foresaw the Lord always before My face, for He is on My right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did My heart rejoice, and My tongue was glad; moreover also My flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell (*Gk.86- Hades*), neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.

This is prophetic of Jesus' own words understanding that His body wasn't to remain in the grave after His crucifixion. That was what He meant when He told Peter in Mat 16:18 that "the gates of hell (*Gk.86- Hades*)" would not prevent Him from building His church. He had to resurrect first, having conquered death, before He could finish what He came to do.

Joh 17:4 I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.

Jesus built the kingdom that the saints were to (*and do*) possess (*Dan 7:18*).

1Pe 3:18 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: 19 By which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

Peter wrote concerning those who were disobedient during the age before the global flood of Noah's day. The prison they are now in is not a place of "second chances" as the false doctrine of "purgatory" teaches. At the time of Peter's letter this had already taken place even before Jesus came as the incarnate Son of God. Verse 19 then is to be read "By the Spiritual pre-Incarnate Son of the Godhead known as the Angel of the Lord, He influenced Noah via Holy Spirit to proclaim salvation from the, then, future flood to those who did not heed the message and after the flood came, who were at that time, and at the time of Peter's writing, and to this day still are, in the realm of the dead, specifically the realm of torment." We need to next deal with what the Hadean realm really is according to truth.

Luk 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell (*Gk.86- Hades*) he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

This is the go-to passage for understanding where all dead go after leaving their earthly existence. In this instance Jesus is rebuking the Jews concerning their status as being the children of Abraham through genetic lineage. They were proud of that fact and Jesus would use this subject to point out their folly using stones as their replacements.

Mat 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

This passage also uses the extremities of rich and poor, good and evil, water and flame, comfort and torment. But first notice the difference between how each man's death was attended to; Lazarus by the angels and the rich man just being buried. We understand that the angels, according to Heb 1:14, are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation". What a comforting idea that when a faithful saint leaves this earth there are angels waiting to attend us into the next life, since, according to the words of Jesus to Mary before He raised Lazarus, "whosoever liveth and believeth in Me **shall never die.**" (*Jn 11:26*) (*Emp. added*) Faithful Christians continue to live even though our bodies die! That's why we need to be "dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (*Rom 6:11*). Concerning Abraham's bosom; it was the understanding of the Jews that Abraham was in a "paradise" and to be in his bosom there, would be to be in a place of utmost honor.

"Our Saviour, therefore, showed them that this poor and afflicted man might be raised to the highest happiness, while the rich, who prided themselves on their being descended from Abraham, might be cast away and lost forever." Albert Barnes

The rich man in this story would have ended up in the same place with those that didn't heed Noah's warning. This is a part of the realm that came into existence as a "holding cell" until the resurrection and final judgement, created partly because of disobedience, and or indifference, toward God. It houses both the righteous in one area (*paradise*) and the unrighteous in the other (*torment*) but with a wide chasm between them. Jesus, at His death, would comfort the repentant thief in the realm of paradise.

Luk 23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise.

But what of the rich man, those before the flood and all others that end up where he is? Why does Peter refer to it as a prison (*1 Pet 3:19*) and how long will they be there?

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from Heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

The thousand years binding of Satan began on Pentecost and will last until Jesus returns to judge the world. He is presently chained by the message of the Gospel.

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison (*Gk.5438*),

Satan's prison is understood as such because he is handcuffed, hindered from unleashing his fury on the world, specifically God's people, like he did on Job. Then he was hindered from his unbridled attempt to take Job's life which would have been considered a "binding" to the ultimate torment Satan could have inflicted on him.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

In the end, where Satan ends up, those whose names that are not written in the book of life will be there also. But for how long?

Rev 20:10 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 (*Gk.928- to torture*) day and night **for ever and ever**. (*Emp. added*)

“The word ‘torment’ means ‘pain, anguish’; particularly the pain inflicted by the ancients in order to induce people to make confession of their crimes. These ‘torments’ or tortures were the keenest that they could inflict, such as the rack, or scourging, or burning; and the use of the word here denotes that the sufferings of the wicked can be represented only by the extremist forms of human suffering.” Albert Barnes

And God knows the difference between the good and the evil, unlike man, because He knows the heart.

2Pe 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell (*Gk.5020- the deepest abyss of Hades*), and delivered *them* into chains of darkness (*Gk.2217- gloom*), to be reserved unto judgment (*Gk.2920- tribunal*); 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly (*Gk.769- irreverent, impious or wicked*); ...9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Thanks be to God that He has given us the message of hope through the eternal Gospel.

1Co 15:54 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. 55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? 56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, Who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eternal Consequences came with an Eternal Price

Our victory came at a cost.

Heb 10:8 Above when He said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin Thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; 9 Then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified **through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ** once (*Gk.2178- upon one occasion*) *for all*. (*Emp. added*)

It is a cost beyond the realm of our finite understanding.

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish** and **without spot**: 20 Who verily was foreordained **before** the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times

for you, 21 Who by Him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. *(Emp. added)*

The eternal purpose to save mankind, devised in eternity before all things physical were created, was implemented the moment Eve gave in to Satan's subtility (*2 Cor 11:3*). At that point books containing the names of all of mankind and their works, whether good or evil, began to be recorded. Many of...

Rev 13:8 ...whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb **slain from the foundation of the world** (*i.e., the moment Eve sinned in the beginning the plan, born in eternity to save man, was set in motion*). *(Emp. added)* It came with a great cost to the Godhead.

Joh 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name (*Gk.36867- authority*) of the only begotten Son of God.

"The entire Bible may be boiled down to two bottomline themes. The complete message of the Bible may be distilled into two points that run through all sixty-six books, condensed into two words: grace and obedience. "Grace" refers to the incredible efforts that God has orchestrated to make it possible for human beings to be forgiven of sin and permitted to live eternally with Him. He so loved the world that He gave His only Son to atone for the sins of humanity. Here is the most important thing in the entire world. The second key point of the Bible is the essentiality of human obedience – correct response to God."

Dave Miller (pg. 457) *Piloting The Strait*

What will your response be to His calling you through the Gospel? After all is said and done to convince you of your lost state, what will you now do? You don't want to be caught off guard, naked and with your sins exposed before God, knowing what you **should have** done when you had the opportunity.

#1.You've heard

Romans 10:14 ..."how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**" *(Emp. added)*

#2.Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ..."for he that cometh to God **must believe that He** is, and *that* He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." *(Emp. added)*

#3.Will you repent?

Act 3:19 ..."Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." *(Emp. added)*

#4.Will you confess Christ as the Son of God?

Joh 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

#5.Will you have your sins washed away?

Act 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

#7. Are you growing?

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

Charli Yana
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