

The Restoration of All Things - Introduction

As Western Christians we have had an ESCATOLOGY as a calamity that lands us in heaven. BUT THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN IN A CULTURE THAT REQUIRES A HEAVENLY UNDERSTANDING

The Bible is a Jewish Book

- It was written by Jews, about Jews and (mostly) for Jews
- JESUS was a Jewish man
- We have used REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY to make the Bible a book about us = Non-jews

The important thing that God is doing NOW is that we are beginning to understand the nature of the coming days in the right way...

- **IT DEMANDS A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORIGINAL COVENANT**
 - **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE ENDING**
- **NO... THE LORD HAS GIVEN US AN AMAZING UNDERSTANDING OF THE DAYS AHEAD**

Luis brought up the Idea of "EMBRACING A ROBUST ESCATOLOGY"

- **Escatology = A way of understanding what God tells us about the days ahead**
- **I FELT LIKE THE LORD IMPRESSED UPON ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT**
 - **WE NEED A BIG PICTURE understanding!!**
 - **Right now we are focused on the RESTORATION of the New Covenant... This is good**
 - **But where are we headed!!**
 - **THE BIBLE GIVES US SOME VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE DAYS AHEAD**
 - **Some things are not clear**
 - **Our ROLE as the people of God is clear...**
 - **I discerned that we should SET THINGS IN ORDER**
 - **It will give us OUR FUTURE (the coming days)**
 - **Confidence = not fear... in**
 - **The ability to participate and understand**
 - **A knowledge of our role in...**
 - **How important we are in**

EVENTS IN OUR FUTURE

- **The Ingathering**
 - **The Restoration of the Church (new covenant)**
 - **The gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed to all nations**
 - **The Restoration of Israel (old covenant)**
 - **Jews in Israel -**
 - **The fullness of Israel will come in**
- **The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord (Day = period)**
 - **Tribulation and overcoming of the Saints**
 - **The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord**
- **The Second Coming of Christ**
- **The Judgement**
- **The Millennial Reign**
- **The New Heaven and Earth**
- **The restoration of all things**

Act 3:19-21 (NKJV) Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, [20] and that **He may send Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you before, [21] whom **heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

- **Jesus came and proclaimed the kingdom of heaven to us**
 - o Our response is to repent = be converted
 - our sins are blotted
 - refreshing will come from the PRESENCE of the lord
- Heaven received Jesus = seated at the RIGHT HAND of God
 - o UNTIL THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS
 - This was prophesied since the world began
 - OT Description - Isaiah 35:1-10
 - OT prediction of “the Prophet” who announces therestores Deut. 18:15 – prophet who will come & be associated with the restoration of all things
- The Restoration of all things is the completion, of the promises that God has made to ALL
 - o Restoration of the Old covenant – Restoration of Israel
 - o Restoration of the New Covenant – Restoration of the Church

Understanding the RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS is like trying to understand the Big Bang Theory (The Creation of the Universe)

- **There are some things which we cannot understand – won’t understand until we get ther**
- **There are basic things that we can understand – but it sounds fairly fantastic!**

IT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE CREATION OF ALL THINGS...

- **Biblical View of Creation**
 - o Gen 1:1-3 (NIV) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [2] Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. [3] And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

What is the Big Bang Theory?

Simply put, it says the entire universe (everything) was condensed in an infinitesimally small SINGULARITY, a point (smaller than the size of your thumb) of infinite denseness and heat. Suddenly, an explosive expansion began, ballooning our universe outwards faster than the speed of light. This short period of cosmic inflation that lasted mere fractions of a second (about 10⁻³² power) percent of a second.

During this first second when the universe began, there was an immense burst of every kind of radiation (including light) The temperature of everything was insanely hot, at about 10 billion degrees Fahrenheit according to NASA. The cosmos now contained a vast array of fundamental particles such as neutrons, electrons and protons — the raw materials that would become the building blocks for everything that exists today. As the particles expanded they cooled and, over time, they formed the entire universe that we see today. The Universe is still expanding (radiating outward in every direction) from this first Big Bang..

This is how the Bible and Cosmologists say that CREATION started

- **The completion of all things is just as fantastic and similarly difficult to believe**

The BIG PICTURE is about the RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

- **We need to know about this because Something that we need to know about where we are going...**

Rom 11:1-32 (NIV) I ask then: **Did God reject his people? By no means!** I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. [2] God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew..... [7] What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened, [8] as it is written: "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear, to this very day." [9] And David says: "May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them. [10] May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever."

- God made eternal promises to His people – Israel
 - o Did God RENIG on His promises? – NO!
 - o Every promise that He gave to Israel will come to pass

[11] Again I ask: **Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.** [12] But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring! [13] I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry. [14] in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. [15] For **if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?**

- **IS THE OLD COVENANT DEAD and OVER?**
 - o Did ISRAEL fall from grace forever?
 - o Did they lose their place with God?
 - NO, They will never lose their covenant with God
 - o **THEY DID REJECT THE PLAN OF GOD**
- **God added US (GENTILES) THE ENTIRE WORLD to the story** – He planned this from the beginning..
 - o Gen 22:17-18 (NIV) I will surely **bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars** in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, [18] **and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed,** because you have obeyed me."
- **ISRAEL'S REJECTION ENABLED GOD TO BRING RECONCILIATION TO THE WORLD!**
 - o Imagine what will happen **when they ACCEPT GOD'S PLAN** = RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD!

[16] If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. [17] **If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in** among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, [18] **do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches.** If you do, consider this: **You do not support the root, but the root supports you.** [19] You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." [20] Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. [21] **For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.** [22] **Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God:** sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. [23] **And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.** [24] After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

- WE CAN NEVER LOOK DOWN ON ISRAEL – The old covenant the prophets...
- WE ARE NOT SUPERIOR (we are not the original chosen people)
 - The original branched (Israel) were broken off so that we could be grafted in BY FAITH
 - We must be humble and stay connected
 - WE CAN ALSO BE BROKEN OFF BECAUSE OF UNFAITHFULNESS
 - In fact, this is happening.. Most Christians don't really believe the New Covenant
 - More and More Jews are BELIEVING and PARTICIPATING in the New Covenant
 - WE MUST CONSIDER THE JUSTICE OF GOD – HIS KINDNESS AND HIS STERNESS
 - We must be humble and participate in relationship with God as partners GRAFTED IN...

[25] I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, [26] and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. [27] And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins." [28] As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, [29] **for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.** [30] Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, [31] so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. [32] **For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.**

- **WHY DIDN'T THE JEWS ACCEPT JESUS**
 - Hardening of hearts
 - Gave opportunity for God to bring the WHOLE WORLD into reconciliation
 - God allowed the rejection by the Jewish people to bring EVERYONE into the kingdom

THE GOAL OF GOD WAS TO REVEAL HIS GLORY TO THE WHOLE WORLD THROUGH THE JEWISH NATION

- They were first