

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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What Happened When Our Lord Entered Death?

Considerations

Since the Lord was Holy He could not die naturally, for natural death is the result of physical lineage from Adam and, on the spirit level, it is sins committed by the individual.

- a) Throughout the earthly pilgrimage of the Lord, despite the temptations from the Devil and His faith being tried, He remained incompatible with sin, impervious to it, unattached to it and uninterested or having any desire for it. This man, so lovely in the sight of God, was not only clean but holy, and that holiness was the holiness of the Godhead. There was never the foolishness of imagination in His mind nor the slightest iota of sin in what He did, what He taught, what He thought, or where He walked. Just as Moses covered his face so that the glory could not shine through, so the physical body of the Lord covered the brightness of His glory preventing individuals from falling before Him as those dead.
- b) Being morally and physically perfect it was an impossibility for the Lord to die through weakness, lack of blood or any physical cause. His death was, is and forever will be a mystery for it was a deliberate activity. He was never a dying man but in the fullness of life He entered the portal of death and the spirit world. Nothing and no power could prevent His entrance, nor determine His duration in death or when He was to exit it except God the Father.
- c) Some foolishly ask, "If Jesus was God and died, who was looking after the universe etc?" The foolishness of this question is answered by the fact that the body died, but the spirit never dies. When asked about resurrection the Lord answered, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (Matt 22:32). They were dead physically but alive in spirit. As with our deceased loved ones, their spirits are alive while their bodies have died and gone to corruption. So where was the spirit of the Lord in the days His body lay in the tomb?

We must never let an obscure verse hinder a verse that is clear in understanding, (obscure because we do not have the right key of understanding). The scripture informs:

- a) The Lord said when speaking to God, "Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Acts 2:27).
- b) The Lord said, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit" (Lk. 23:46). The Lord promised the thief he would be with him that day in paradise (Lk. 23:43). There are false teachers who teach the comma is in the wrong place, making the verse read, "Verily I tell you today, Thou shalt be with me in paradise".

[How did He enter death?](#)

- 1) I recall Dad saying, “The Lord took away the fear of death, but not the fear of dying”. Therefore, when hanging on the cross, the hours of darkness were past, within minutes He would, of His own volition, step out of this earthly sphere and enter the celestial. He had no fear, for perfect love casted out fear (1 Jn. 4:18). The Lord knew the unbounded fullness of the love of His Father and the promise had been made, “Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, nor suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (Acts 2:27). The Lord knew that the God who cannot lie and the love of the Father for His Son in manifested devotion toward Him, and the supreme focus of the life to glorify God, into those hands He was commending His spirit.
- 2) Another amazing wonder is that “God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7) therefore, He does not want anything begrudgingly given to Him. In entering death the Son was being the final and supreme burnt offering. Paraphrasing, He said, Father, this is the fullness of my love for you, to have you glorified. He did it cheerfully. I think of the hymn He sang the night of His betrayal, “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psa. 118:24).
- 3) “He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost” (Jn. 19:30). The first observation is the order. When a person dies the muscles no longer function, so if sitting or upright the individual will die and the head will drop. However, in the case of the Lord, He bowed His head and in control gave up His spirit. That which prefaced the bowing of His head in Mark 15:37; 39 was “a loud voice” and “He cried out”. Furthermore, note must be taken of that which was loudly shouted, “Father, into Thy hands I commend my Spirit” (Lk. 23:46). This was not the voice of a pathetic wakened individual whimpering due to injustice done to him, it was the cry of victory and triumph.
- 4) This was not a suicide death, or that of a self deceived individual, or due to a breaking heart, or the beatings by the soldiers, or the loss of blood, or the wounds in His body. Our Lord said, “No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father” (Jn. 10:18). It is of note that the only wound of our Lord that would naturally cause death, it was done after He was dead and so did not cause it. As one enters one room into another, so the Lord exited the door of the physical world and entered the spirit world, a truth far beyond natural understanding, but results in worship.

HOW RICH SPIRITUALLY ANY OF US WOULD BE IF THIS WAS APPRECIATED JUST A LITTLE MORE

. . . Rowan Jennings

www.scripturaltruths.org

e-mail: scripturaltruths1@shaw.ca

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