

2017-01-14

Relationship between heaven and earth #1

Hi all,

The last 3 weeks I've been sharing 'quantum physics' things, and today I'm starting on a tangent from that - talking about the relationship between heaven and earth, and related things I've seen in heaven.

But first, some basics

Hebrews 12:1 says "Therefore, seeing that we are surrounded with such a large cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race set before us."

He isn't bringing up the cloud of witnesses to make a doctrinal statement, but rather to encourage us that they have gone ahead, and it is worth it. In the previous chapter he had described the faith of many men and women, even alluding to Isaiah's death of being sawn in two. These all and more are included in the cloud of witnesses, so therefore go forth with confidence - it is worth it and heaven is real!

Verses supporting this...

In Luke 24:44 the risen Lord says to His disciples, "Don't you remember when I was with you I told you these things?", clearly though now resurrected He kept His memory of His life on earth intact. You remember everything, nothing is lost. Remember in The Revelation 7:17 and 21:4 it says the Father will wipe away our tears - clearly a reference to memories from this life still fresh, but one day all pain will be gone.

Remember Moses and Elijah appeared to a glorified Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, as Luke 9:31 says, "and spoke to Him of His death which would happen at Jerusalem." Moses and Elijah had long since departed, but here they were talking from the Mosaic **Law** (Moses) about the type and shadows Jesus would fulfill by His death and resurrection, and the **Prophets** (Elijah) sharing the prophecies about the same. They had been long gone, yet they knew exactly what was going on.

In The Revelation, 6:10 the apostle John who was 'in the Spirit' taken to heaven and shown future events, describes a multitude of saints before the Father's throne asking "How long oh Lord holy and true until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge us?" Those people remembered their lives on earth, clearly.

That doesn't mean...

That doesn't mean your long gone great great grandmother is watching you use the bathroom, lol. But it does mean they are aware of what is happening on earth.

During my 'tour' of heaven my angel and I walked past a group of people that included about a dozen adults and 2 young children, a boy and a girl. The girl seemed to be maybe 5 or 6, and the boy was less than 2 years old. They were all gathered around a tree and the adults were talking amongst themselves, and the girl was sitting cross legged with her back against the tree, her little brother crawling all over her and around. The adults were clearly engaged with the little children, and the feeling in the air around them was like a family reunion, with several conversations going on at once in the group.

As we walked by I asked what I was seeing, and the angel explained they were all aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents of those children, going back several generations. But there was clearly a generation not present - the parents of the children. So I asked, "Where are their parents?"

He said, "These 2 were killed in a car accident in (US State), but their parents survived. In heaven when possible, children are raised by their relatives." I was once again astonished, and said, "I need chapter and verse on that!" He didn't hesitate: "You've read what Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:14 and 15, 'For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the

whole family in heaven and earth is named.' There is only one family, (he paused to let me take that in) so when a child comes here they are raised when possible by relatives."

Sharing something personal

My mother died in 2006, but she was first in the Lord in our family, having sought Him after dad left our family. She loved the Lord, but was rather limited in her knowledge due to the constraints of her denomination, and I shared with her many of my experiences with the Lord through the years.

Her body was cremated and we had a small service at the church, her ashes being buried in a small church yard and garden provided for such things. Once back at my sister's house we were playing in the in-ground pool, relaxing, reflecting, and for me, floating. Suddenly standing at the edge of the pool I saw my angel, with my mother on his right side, plain as day. Next to her was someone obscured in the light of heaven and whose face was thus obscured.

I was amazed, and just stared. My eyes were wide open and I looked over at my sister on her lounge chair, then to my brother playing in the pool, and then back. Mom looked to be about 35, not the 72 year old world-worn woman she was when she died. In fact later that week we were going through a box of old photographs and found a Church Directory picture of us all in about 1968, when mom was about 34, and she looked almost identical in her hair and face.

But I was just stunned to see my angel and mom standing side by side on the edge of the pool. I've seen my angel more times than I can count, but I didn't expect this! She didn't hesitate: "John! Everything you said about heaven is true! But you didn't tell the half of it! I'm having the time of my life, seeing old friends and relatives, and even meeting some who knew me as a child but I never knew. John! Live your life! Live your life!" and they suddenly disappeared and I have't seen her since.

Barb and I wonder if that third person was the miscarried brother or sister that was between me and my next younger brother. I don't know.

I've run out of room for today - more next week - seeing that we are surrounded with such a cloud, let us run the race with godliness...until then, blessings,
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2017-01-21

Relationship between heaven & earth #2

Hi all,

I'm sharing about the relationship between heaven and earth that you may be encouraged.

I love hearing the Father's perspective and the Lord's, because the reality of renewing our minds is actually the process in which we start to think like Him and living by His perspective on things. That means when we learn of heaven's point of view we adjust our thinking accordingly, so that when something catches us by surprise here on earth we can call to remembrance once again, heaven's point of view.

The Holy Spirit is an eye witness

On the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2:25-32, Peter said King David saw the resurrection of Jesus some 1000 years future: "...David said about Him...seeing this before, spoke of the resurrection of Christ..." and in 5:32: "...and we are witnesses of these things, so is the Holy Spirit..."

This is how heaven operates - the Holy Spirit is the link between heaven and earth and He knows what is happening in both realms. The way He showed David the resurrection of Jesus 1000 years future is the same way He shows you something about your future. He is an eyewitness both to events here on earth, and to events in the heart of the Father even if those events are 1000 years in the future!

Jesus said in John 16:13 of the Holy Spirit: "When He comes, the Holy Spirit of truth, He will guide you into all truth for He won't speak of Himself, but only what He hears. And He will show you things to come."

This is why there are no prayers to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament (and to do otherwise is unscriptural no matter what any preacher says or writes, Jesus was very clear here) for He only repeats what He hears from the Father and Son. As Jesus had said just before this statement about the way the Holy Spirit functions: "I have many other things to say to you, but you cannot grasp them now. However when He the Spirit of truth comes He will guide you into all truth, for He doesn't speak of His own, but only speaks what He hears..." The Father is the granter of prayers, the Holy Spirit is just the Messenger between Him and us on earth.

Any experience anyone has on this earth, from being born of the Spirit to seeing Jesus or even carried away 'in the Spirit' as the apostle John described it in The Revelation 1:10 and 4:2, is via the Holy Spirit. He is the enabler by which all things in heaven are made known here on earth.

An analogy would be what I've used many times before: A father is going to wash a car, so he tells the son to wash it. The son uses water to wash the car. The father planned it, the son did it, the water was the agent used to actually do the cleaning. The Father planned it, the Son did it, the Holy Spirit is the agent used to actually do the 'cleaning'. All things here on earth that are of God, are done by the Holy Spirit, from revelation that Jesus is the Christ, to the new birth, to communication from earth to heaven and heaven to earth.

Knowing what I said last week of Paul's statement that there is one family in heaven and earth, we must therefore understand it is the Holy Spirit who is in both places uniting this one family in two realms.

Furthermore, Paul elaborated on Jesus' statement of John 16:13 that the Holy Spirit only repeats what He hears in I Corinthians 2:9-16. As He expanded that teaching he starts by saying a person's eyes, ears, and mind cannot discern or know what the Father has prepared for us (they are foolishness to natural man). But the Spirit knows what has been prepared because "He searches all things, yea, the deep things of (Father) God." and "We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit of God, so that we might know all things He has provided for us."

The Holy Spirit is right now searching the Father God to know what He has prepared for you - this moment, this hour, this day, this week, this year, and beyond.

The Holy Spirit is a true and faithful witness to the heart of the Father, and of the Lord Jesus, the Head of the body. David in about 1000 BC saw the resurrection of Jesus, and Peter stated the Holy Spirit was also a witness 'of these things'. When you have a peace about a decision you make that peace comes to your spirit because the Holy Spirit is bearing witness that what you decided is in fact what the Father has provided for you. This is why Jesus called Him the 'Spirit of Truth' in John 16:13. He won't lie about what He heard in heaven. He won't change anything about what He heard in heaven.

He changes nothing from what He hears to what He then puts in your spirit - peace, comfort, joy, excitement that your mind doesn't know why you have, because He has searched the Father for His provision, found it, and tells you by that peace that your decision is exactly what the Father has prepared for you. Amazing grace!

Heaven's perspective on this

Barb and I had been worshipping for about an hour and then she went off to bed, but I lingered. Suddenly, Jesus was there in the living room and He said "I want to teach you about prayer." During that teaching I learned that most prayer actually begins in the heart of the Father God, who wants to bring His will into people's lives. That should not be a surprise for we've all prayed the 'Lord's Prayer', that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven, but in this visitation I suddenly realized He does so person by person bringing His kingdom into their hearts and outward to their lives. Up to that moment I had thought of the Lord's prayer as a sort of 'come and set up your kingdom all over the earth' rather than 'come and set up your kingdom in my heart and then outward into my life.'

I saw the Father looking for someone to be sensitive to a desire He had for His will in someone's life, but He needed legal access into that person's life. An example would be of those of us who pray for a patient in an ambulance as it drives past us lights and siren blaring. The person they are transporting or on their way too get may not have anyone who is praying for them, and our prayer is actually granting legal access for the Father to enter earth and in particular their situation. He is such a gentleman and free will being what it is, He may have been shut out of that person's life for decades - until that moment when because of His great love for that person, He ordered your steps to be at that place at that time so that you could ask Him to become involved in their life.

I've had two times in two separate visitations where the Lord has said, "The Father and I will not be blamed on that last day. For the day will reveal we were fair and just in all things, and no one will place blame at our feet on that day."

The first time He said that was following this statement: "When a person vows a vow to Me or the Father, we take it seriously for most of the times those vows come from the heart, not just the emotion (flesh)." I asked what He meant and He said, "There are many times a person will say 'I will go anywhere for you Lord. I will do anything you ask of me Lord', and things like that. Heaven takes that seriously because it is from their spirit, but then so often sin and distractions enter in and they go off in another direction for their life."

"When they vowed that vow, according to the Spirit of Truth, heaven made preparation for their lives according to their vow. Then, when they go in another direction and face hardship and sometimes great loss, even over decades of going their own way, they sometimes blame me or the Father for allowing those things to happen. But the Father and I will not be blamed on that last day. For the day will reveal we were fair and just in all things, and no one will place blame at our feet on that day. They will see then if not first in this life, the errors of their ways." Interestingly to me, Jesus expressed no condemnation for the person with this statement, it was just fact, just that His grace is so much bigger than our failures that He died for us anyway, and in the end He wants the goodness of the Father to be revealed to all.

You see, the Spirit of Truth as a witness works both ways - not only of searching the Father for His provision and even showing us things provided in our future, but also the other direction, according to promises we make here and now, which causes heavenly preparation to be made, the Spirit searching the depths of our heart and how we have prepared for God in our lives.

The good news is we cannot out maneuver, out guess, or surprise the Father. He knew from before the foundation of the world all our broken promises, all our detours from His will - yet He will be shown to have been faithful to plan according to our spirit man's vows, and thus when He reveals our error and sin, we will along with all mankind, fall on our faces and give glory to the Father for His great grace and mercy for we will all see He does all things well, and He will (finally) be shown to all beings to be the Only Good and Just Father above all.

Continuing next week...until then, blessings,
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2017-01-28

Relationship between heaven & earth #3

Hi all,

I've been sharing heaven's perspective these last 2 weeks, first about being 1 family no matter if that family is in heaven or still on earth, then how the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, present both in heaven and earth, and faithfully communicating what the Father and Lord have for us, and us to them. Today:

If God is in charge then why does He allow such horrible things to happen?

What does the Bible actually say? This week and next are three areas He rarely becomes involved in, unless asked by individuals.

Nature

We know that God is the Creator, and retains control over His creation. We are told in Hebrews 11:3 that the Person of the Living Word - the invisible Word - created the visible realm. Romans 1:20-21 says that He is Creator and even the invisible things about Him can be discerned by studying His creation. Jesus demonstrated His Lordship over creation in at least 3 areas: He commanded wind & waves and they obeyed Him, He walked on water, and multiplied loaves of bread (plants) and fish (animals). These 3 acts demonstrate His continued Lordship over the earthly elements and plants and animals. (We could add turning water into wine)

Jesus' demonstrations for the purpose of showing who He is in those moments does not mean He intervenes nor interferes with nature as a rule. The balance is Romans 8:19-23 which reveals creation has been subjected to sin and groans and travails (birth contractions) as it waits for the 'manifestation of the sons of God'. That means the establishment of Jesus' Kingdom on the earth and the lifting of the curse that accompanies that Kingdom - the reign of the righteous over earth. We might say Jesus' demonstrations of His Lordship over creation was given as a preview of what earth will be like with the curse lifted, but nothing more than a preview.

This means there is a tug of war going on between God's creation which wants to obey God and His people according to how it was originally designed, and the sin under which it has been placed. The elements of nature chafe against the burden of sin on the planet and as such groans and travails awaiting deliverance. This is why there are tragic earthquakes, volcanic events, tornadoes and hurricanes in which God does not intervene as a rule.

Even The Revelation (8:7-13) highlights 2 main natural events that come upon the earth in the last 7 years of the age - a double asteroid hit, one on land and one in an ocean. And yet still, man as a whole doesn't repent. (I have a CD/MP3 series entitled 'The Natural Disasters of The Revelation' if interested in learning more)

The question as to why God allows natural disasters is found in the short paragraphs above - the earth was not subjected to sin without hope, but like us, has been promised a time of release from sin. God does not step in to interfere with this process for what has been set, has been set from long ago and must take its course.

Families

God invented the family, making Adam and Eve, assigning stewardship over the physical planet, meaning my point above flows directly into families. Adam and Eve first and then to others and eventually to us, were to share about the Creator and stewardship of creation - Families are God's delegated authority in the earth by which a mom and dad share responsibility for passing on stewardship over God's creation, and to walk with Him and know Him as they walk through life.

When the Lord and 2 angels had a meal with Abraham in Genesis 18, after they ate the angels went to Sodom to rescue Lot and his family, but the Lord lingered behind saying to Himself: "Shall I hide from Abraham that which I'm about to do, for I know him, and that he will become a great and mighty nation and raise up his children and his household in the ways of the Lord..." The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was by a natural event - the place blew up, most think now the gathered methane and bitumen and other explosive elements around the Dead Sea were set off (in natural terms) by an asteroid hit or some other 'spark'. But again, we see the Lord wanting to reveal facts about a soon coming natural event to a man. (He would have saved any righteous people if He could have. Lot and family)

Notice that the Lord based His reasoning on sharing with Abraham what His plans were (and what natural event would happen) because of Abraham's family walking with Him. The reverse would also therefore be true: He would not reveal His plan to (Abraham and family) if the family wasn't walking in the ways of the Lord.

Let me ask this - how many families who are not walking with God do you know have God speak to them about what He is doing in the earth, their community, and their own lives? How much did you know of God's will before you were born again? If that mom and dad don't want Him, then He

doesn't get involved. To whom does He reveal His ways and plans? Family members who walk with Him. If you are in Him, you have revelation. If you aren't in Him, you have no revelation.

Warning: The following 3 paragraphs will kill religious thinking and might cause you to rearrange your priorities

The family and its members remain the primary way His will is done on earth - not apostles, not prophets, not buildings called church, not pastors. That is auditorium thinking brought about by man in the 300's AD that you've been infected with. God invented mom and dad and children long before He made apostles and prophets - in fact Adam and Eve, and therefore moms and dads ARE apostles and prophets, pastors and teachers, and evangelists to their children. The greatest use of 'the 5-fold' started with Adam and Eve, and is today a mom and dad living for God and teaching their children by example and word, how to walk through life with Him. In our New Testament times that flow of mom and dad 5-fold extend outward to the larger family of God 5-fold that meets in homes in a network of relationships. As a result, any charismatic gifts, any ministry gifts (like 5-fold), any energy/motivational gifts present in a gathering of believers flows from healthy and balanced believing families who first live in these things.

My mom was an evangelist to me. She was my first teacher, pastor, certainly prophet, and for sure apostle in that she started the work of God in my heart - followed very quickly by a high school friend, Janny, who remains a close friend to this day with Barb and me, who was all those things to us as well. Reset your understanding of 'the 5-fold' and the gifts of the Spirit. They are first found in families, for that is what God established first, and all else flows from family.

Over the years I've seen men and women, husbands and fathers, wives and mothers, chasing this convention and that conference praying for God's will to be done, praying for revival including revival in their families - all while they have spent thousands of their family's dollars and left their family's for several days to pray for their salvation, instead of walking in God's highest and best and original call, to be husband and wife, mom and dad, and being the 5-fold to their children.

And each person I talked to in detail about their priorities in life expressed frustration with God because He didn't seem to be moving in their family. My advice remains consistent through the years - the primary way God moves is through families, so go and be a family and leave your religious face at the door - and just be there, living God's ways and fellowship quietly. God only labels the manifestations of what He does for our benefit, but being meek and lowly in heart, He doesn't think in terms of labels and titles, He just does what He does - and that can mean giving a mom or dad words of wisdom or knowledge, a miracle for their child, special faith, and certainly they are pastors and teachers and the rest - BE that person with meekness and humility within your family.

I've run out of space this week, but will start next week by asking and then answering the question: Where is God when children become victims?

Until then, nest week! Blessings,
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2017-02-04

Relationships between heaven and earth #4

Hi all,

I've been talking about how heaven looks at earth, and began last week sharing 2 of the 3 authority structures He established and to what degree if any He involves Himself with. The first 2 were Creation and Families. I will start with final comments about families as God's main authority structure in the earth, asking:

Where is God when children become victims?

Starting with creation which is in a fallen state, and flowing to families born into a world that is fallen and flawed, we realize we are all born into a fallen world. That means things go wrong from DNA and chromosomal abnormalities in the human body, to injuries or disease that happen to babies

and children. In this fallen world the innocent suffer, and at times God seems far away and uncaring. These babies who enter a fallen and flawed world are born into families who take care of them, wrenching the hearts of the parents and causing them to ask, 'Why me? Why us? Why our child? Where are you God?'

The worst feelings we've ever felt as parents has been watching our oldest son who is handicapped, go through numerous surgeries and a stroke, and being absolutely powerless to help in any way at each of these events, not to mention powerless to heal his original brain damage from lack of oxygen in labor. He suffered brain damage in labor because the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck in a slip knot - and he wasn't taken by C-section in time. What could or can we do? We are powerless. That's when parents turn to God to ask for help - and more often than not, there seems to be no response.

Many of us were raised in the sliver of the faith that makes God out to be the Absolute Answer in all things - we hear messages that say He will heal, He will bless financially, He will save your family, He will save and heal and protect - but that isn't always fact, as seen both in the Word and in real life.

The reality is that in Hebrews 11 which is the much exalted 'hall of faith', the author says in the middle and at the end of the chapter, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises" and "but saw them far off, and were persuaded by them and embraced them and confessed they were strangers and pilgrims in the earth." My experience has been that especially parents of sick or handicapped children are the ones to see the promises far off - but they don't get to see them a reality in life. We must gird our minds with the very real possibility that unlike those around us with 'normal' children, we and our child may die in faith not having received the promises. That makes us 'abnormal' and different from friends and extended family alike - and we often wonder what is the purpose, what is the plan.

We have received the greatest promise of course, Jesus Christ, but we may end up like those in Hebrews 11; they died not having received their own promises from Him. They received them in heaven, not on earth. When children are born and something goes terribly wrong and God seems so distant, we must know He will even things out in the end, and will walk with us and our child through the valley of the shadow of death. He won't take us out of the valley, He walks with us. That is faith.

Families without God

Because the concept of family is a delegated thing, it means families can leave God completely out of their lives if they wish, and He must legally respect that - to the suffering of all, but especially the children - if they wish. All things were made by Him and for Him, but when someone abuses His intent, hardship and tragedies occur.

Let us say a young girl or boy is molested when they are young. We might ask 'Where was God? Why didn't He protect them?' and the answer is above - He created the family to be the source of God's wisdom and ways in the earth, but parents don't always walk in what God intended. That means things happen in families where God is locked out; He is not a factor nor involved in those families.

This means when that child cries out in anguish and hurt, though He sees their suffering and hears their cries, He often has to wait until a child is older and coming out from under the authority of the unsaved mom and/or dad before He can legally enter their lives directly. Having said that, I've talked to numerous adults who have told me when that abuse happened they called out to God and He gave them peace, or they had an awareness that somehow it would all be okay, but then years went by before they could actually know Him and walk with Him. Often this happens in high school or college, as a child who had been abused years earlier, is finally out from under the unsaved family's authority and the Father can legally become a large part of their lives.

Governments

In Acts 17:26-27 Paul tells us God established the tribes and families and nations (Greek; ethnos) in the earth, and determined beforehand the times of their rise and fall, and even their boundaries. He says God did that in the hopes that each 'ethnos' would seek after Him and find Him. This means

the Father's hope is that in their diversity each ethnic group would find elements of Him so that across the planet when viewed as a whole, mankind would see a composite sketch of the personality of the Lord - that these differences in ethnoses would compliment each other rather than be points of contention.

Proverbs 29:2, I Timothy 2:1-5 and other scriptures we are all familiar with tell us to pray for leaders that we may live in peace, and that when the righteous rule the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule the people groan. Why doesn't God intervene when His people are oppressed by wicked governments? Again, it goes back to authority in the earth. He established governments to walk with Him to bring His ways into the earth, and when they do at least some measure of that there is peace and prosperity. When they don't, people suffer and He can only work with individuals who walk with Him within the control of the (wicked) governments.

Do you see the common thread in these 3 authority structures where God DOES intervene or become involved? That answer is: Individuals.

He created earth, established a man and woman in the earth, gave them a home, told them to be good stewards over that planet, and walked with them in the Garden. He has always reserved the right therefore as our Creator because that is the first foundation, to enter the lives of individuals according to the degree each individual wants Him involved in their life. But these individuals may be under the authority of a family or government that doesn't let God in, so God can work in the individual's life, but He cannot directly intervene in the government or family.

History of Roman Empire

When we examine the history of the Roman Empire and how Christianity came to be legalized in the 300's AD, some 300 years after the cross, we see it was from the common people up, a groundswell of so many individuals walking with God that eventually the wicked government had to respond. When you study the fall of the USSR it is a similar story, the groundswell of individuals, (many have written of 'revival' within the USSR as the primary catalyst) rising up to the point in numbers and voice the government had to respond.

In nations where leaders are elected, people can post things in social media like 'God's will was done' and other things, boldly ignorant supposing God's will wasn't done in a previous administration, not realizing God moves through individuals to change families, and thence to change governments, and thence to change a culture and social norms. God isn't directly involved in an ungodly administration, but He is involved in individuals who walk with Him who move to change their government.

In the Great Commission Jesus never said to get people 'born again', that phrase comes from John 3 during a 1 on 1 conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus, at night, in private, and was never part of any teaching He did. He did say however to teach by letting others observe (in our lives) all things He told us to do and obey. That is the changing of individuals, who are part of families, which make up governments. As Jesus said to me in February, 2001 during a visitation: "As it was in the beginning, so it must be now. I'm moving in relationships." Amen. New subject next week, until then, blessings,

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