

## ***NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS***

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash Letter No. 94

Copyright March 15, 2007

email: [jimash3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimash3@sbcglobal.net)

Behold the former things have come to pass, and **new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.** (Isaiah 42:9)

### **A WARNING FROM GOD**

I have been writing these Spiritual *letters* since September 1997. Up to now my writing has been on the positive side of my walk with God. The writing/teaching part of my ministry thus far has been to the Church, which in many cases is a fertile mission field. Although I have been given corrective prophetic words for myself, for others, for a Church, a corrupted pastoral system and the Charismatic community, for example, those words were given neither to judge nor criticize but to point to a more excellent way. This letter is a departure from my usual *letter* format in order to be obedient to the Lord's instructions.

On August 3, 1999, the Lord spoke to me and said, "**Warn those who are not saved.**" When the Lord speaks is the time to act. When He gives a *warning* there is always a reason and a dual consequence possibility. The reason for the warning is that *time is short*. *We are living in the Rapture generation*. Many living today will not die.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, behold now is the appointed time, now is the day of salvation.<sup>2</sup> Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."<sup>3</sup> He was – He is – much, much more than the Muslim community<sup>4</sup> believes and teaches, for example. Not only was He God's prophet but He also was the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.<sup>5</sup> To accept Him from your heart as Savior and Lord of your life will save you and change you eternally.

Jesus and all other religious leaders died but Jesus was

---

<sup>1</sup>God has prophesied to me, not the day nor the hour, but a very close date for the Rapture. This does not conflict with scripture for the prophet Amos prophesied, "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets." (Amos.3:7). See also 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

<sup>2</sup>2 Corinthians 6:2 (b).

<sup>3</sup>John 14:6.

<sup>4</sup>The reason I singled out the Muslim community is because this religion spawned the terrorists who attacked this nation on 9/11. An additional reason is that the same Muslim terrorists have targeted both the United States and Israel for extinction as infidels and quoted the Koran for their authority. While the Muslims accept Jesus as a prophet, they neither accept Him as the Christ, the Savior of mankind, nor as the Yeshua Messiah of the Jews, while scriptures clearly point out that He is both.

<sup>5</sup>See John 1:29.

the only one who died to pay for your sins and mine, Who came forth from the grave, triumphant over death and Satan's grip on man, the heavens and the earth, that began with Adam's sin. There is more than ample empirical evidence<sup>6</sup> of His resurrection, and through the Holy Spirit I happen to know Him personally, as do countless millions over the earth. He is the antidote for all of life's ills.

After the Lord gave me the *warning*, I composed a two-sided "Eternity Ticket." A brief explanation of the Lord's words to me are on one side while on the other side are simple Bible instructions on how to be saved. A copy of the *Ticket* is enclosed with hard copies of this *letter* while a copy of both sides of the *Ticket* appear on page 5 of the *letter* sent electronically. The two-color *Ticket* is small (4-1/4" x 5-1/2") and might be left on a restaurant table, with the waiter, with a super market checker, on the counter at the Post Office or at countless other places. Should you be presented with the opportunity to lead someone to Christ and are unsure of how to proceed, the simple instructions on the *Ticket* may be read with confidence to the one to whom you minister. Or if you read this letter and have the desire to become a Christian, follow the instructions on the *Ticket* and speak the words from your heart and God will hear and save you. It's that simple. Let me know if you respond to God's call this way. It will bless both you and me.

Man's redemption or salvation has been the object of God's planning and direction since Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden. His prophecy of man's salvation first appears in the Genesis record when God said, "And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman [and her offspring] and between your seed (Satan's followers) and her seed. He (Christ – woman's seed) shall bruise your (Satan's) head and you (Satan) shall bruise His (Christ's) heel (at the cross)."<sup>7</sup>

Almost four thousand years after this first prophetic word concerning Satan's downfall, victory over Satan was sealed at the cross. The alternative to salvation through Christ Jesus is almost too terrible to consider, but that is the subject of this letter.

---

<sup>6</sup>See 1 Corinthians 15:5-8.

<sup>7</sup>Genesis 3:15. I have added the bracketed inserts for clearer understanding of the prophecy.

Hell is just as real as heaven.

Let's start at the beginning.

A key to understanding the creation of the universe is found in these words from the apostle John, "In the beginning was the Word and Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."<sup>8</sup> It is evident from these verses of scripture That God through Christ Jesus created the heavens, the earth and all earth-life including man. That includes hell located in the heart of the earth and I offer this as proof:

When Jesus died on the cross, He (His soul) descended into hell. The apostle Peter confirmed this on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus when he repeated these words of King David's prophecy, "He (David) seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither did His flesh see corruption."<sup>9</sup> Then as recorded by Matthew, Jesus said of Himself, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."<sup>10</sup> Paul, speaking of Jesus, wrote these words to the Church in Ephesus, "(Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)"<sup>11</sup>

It is obvious from these scripture verses that hell is located in the center or in the heart of the earth and that the soul of Jesus entered into the heart of hell while His body was in the tomb. While there, He took captivity captive or literally disarmed Satan of his authority Adam surrendered to him when he sinned. Although Satan still goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour,<sup>12</sup> his roar is harmless to mature believers who know who they are in Christ. Jesus Himself said, "Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."<sup>13</sup> We demonstrate this spiritual power and authority regularly as we minister healing and deliverance to those in need.

---

<sup>8</sup>John 1:1, 2, 3, 14.

<sup>9</sup>Acts 2:31.

<sup>10</sup>Matthew 12:40.

<sup>11</sup>Ephesians 4:9, 10.

<sup>12</sup>See 1 Peter 5:8.

<sup>13</sup>Luke 10:19.

Since God through Christ created the earth, it becomes obvious that He also created Hell at the center of the earth. Keep this in mind as we venture further into the destiny of those who are not saved; the reason for God's warning to me.

There are more than 162 references in the New Testament alone that warn of hell. More than 70 of these references were uttered by Jesus. From the book of Hebrews, we learn that "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after that the judgment."<sup>14</sup> That means death seals the destiny of a soul. There is no reprieve, no purgatory, no second chance. Once death occurs, one's destiny is sealed. The following words of Jesus recorded in Luke chapter 16 describe the immediate destiny of a saved and an unsaved soul. Although this is a parable, it is descriptive of reality. It is important enough to reproduce the complete parable here. Listen carefully. See if you can hear what Jesus said.

<sup>19</sup>"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, <sup>21</sup>desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup>Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, 'Son remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup>Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' <sup>30</sup>And he said, 'No father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup>But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Observe the following points Jesus taught in this parable:

1. Lazarus died and was immediately carried by the

---

<sup>14</sup>See Hebrews 9:27.

angels to Abraham's bosom.

2. The rich man (no name given) died and was buried.
3. After his death, the rich man was immediately in torments in Hades and saw Abraham.
4. The rich man in torments
  - a) recognized Lazarus,
  - b) knew that Lazarus was in Abraham's bosom,
  - c) recognized Abraham,
  - d) knew that Abraham was in authority
  - e) without being told. Think that over!
5. The rich man asked Abraham for mercy and requested that Lazarus dip the tip of his finger in water to cool his tongue because he was tormented in the flame.
6. Abraham then compared the earthly life of the rich man to that of Lazarus.
7. Hades was once comprised of two compartments, one for souls of the saved, the other for souls of the lost, separated by a great gulf. Those in one compartment could see, hear, recognize and communicate with those in the other compartment.
8. More than 1800 years after his death, Abraham was fully aware of the lives of both Lazarus and the rich man, which portends the marvelous after-death faculties of the saved soul and of Abraham's importance to God.
9. A great gulf divides Hades into:
  - a) souls of the departed saved.
  - b) souls of the lost in hell.
10. The rich man asked Abraham to warn his five brothers lest they also come to this place of torment.
11. Abraham's reply was that the five brothers have Moses and the prophets: hear them.
12. The rich man reasoned that if Abraham would send Lazarus from the dead to warn his five brothers, they would repent.
13. In mentioning *repentance*, the rich man acknowledges that he and his five brothers were living in sin and were engaged in activities/conduct contrary to Moses and the prophets.
14. Abraham said that if they ignored Moses and the prophets, they would also ignore one sent from the dead.
15. Abraham is acknowledged as being in charge of the place of the departed souls of the saved, called Abraham's bosom or Paradise, one compartment of the Hadean world prior to the cross.
16. When Jesus was in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights, I believe He moved Paradise (Abraham's bosom) to the third heaven, its present location. I offer these three scripture references as proof:
  - a) This from the Revelation of John: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree

of life, which is in the midst of *the Paradise of God*."<sup>15</sup>

b) From Luke's Gospel record these precious words from Jesus to the thief on the cross: "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

c) And now these words from the pen of the apostle Paul: "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."<sup>16</sup>

We learn from Luke 16:26 (page 2 column 2) and Item #7 (page 3, column 1) that the two compartments of Hades (souls of the departed saved and souls of the departed lost) were once separated by a great gulf. However, from the three above scripture references it becomes obvious that Abraham's bosom, (Paradise or the Paradise of God) is now a part of the third heaven wherein lies the throne room of God. I have therefore concluded that Paradise was moved to the third heaven by Jesus when He descended into "the lower parts of the earth" and then ascended far above the heavens (to the third heaven) as referenced in this letter on page 2, column 1, footnote #11, Ephesians 4:9, 10.

This conclusion portends the strong possibility that Hell was originally created for Satan and his angels after Satan's fall and after the sudden destruction of the pre-Adamic earth, but needed to be enlarged after the fall of man. Let me remind you again of what I have previously written: neither Lucifer nor Adam were created to fail.

17. Abraham was the beginning of God's call to man to establish a peculiar people (a bloodline) into which Messiah would be born. That people (the nation of Israel) would need to be sufficient in spiritual strength and number to receive the Messiah's New Beginning for Israel and for mankind through Israel. Abraham in one sense is to God's new beginning on the earth as Mary, the mother of Jesus, is to the Church and its new beginning on the earth. They both are unique in the history of God's reconciliation of man to Himself which began with Adam's sin.

18. Jesus called Abraham's bosom Paradise, meaning a place of supernatural abundance as was the garden of Eden prior to Adam's sin – a place where God provides all of man's wants, needs and desires without limit.

19. The moment we die, our soul experiences all five

---

<sup>15</sup>Revelation 2:7.

<sup>16</sup>2 Corinthians 12:2-4.

senses in either heaven or hell.

20. The deceit of riches.

21. When Abraham told the rich man that his five brothers would not repent if Lazarus was raised from the dead and sent to them, he (Abraham) was prophesying salvation through both Moses and the prophets **AND** through Jesus Christ *who was raised from the dead*, of whom God the Father said, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”<sup>17</sup>

Jesus taught a similar point about death of the just as He was crucified between the two thieves. These words were recorded by Luke:

“Then he (the thief on the cross) said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”<sup>18</sup>

In the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter of his Gospel, Dr. Luke records the teaching of Jesus concerning certain characteristics of the righteous destined for heaven and the unrighteous destined for hell. In stating the destiny of the righteous and pronouncing judgment on the unrighteous, Jesus said, “And the King will answer and say to them (the righteous), ‘Assuredly, I say to you inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”<sup>19</sup>

From these words of Jesus we learn that hell was originally created for Satan and his angels but apparently may have been enlarged to include unrighteous man. For this reason, I believe hell may have been created after Satan’s fall when the pre-Adamic earth, over which Lucifer ruled, was destroyed instantly in God’s fierce anger. The first chapter of Genesis *verse one* describes the perfect earth over which Lucifer ruled. Everything God does is perfect. *Verse two* describes the sudden destruction of the pre-Adamic earth and the first flood (Noah’s flood was the second one). *Verse three* describes the beginning of God’s restoration of the earth after its destruction. Since I have previously written about this in detail in my letter No. 16 dated January 10, 1999, entitled EARTH 101, I will not elaborate further on it here.

The fact that Jesus takes hell seriously is recorded in the ninth chapter of Mark. Here is a part of that teaching paraphrased: Jesus said that if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to

enter the kingdom of God physically maimed than to be cast into hell fire *where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.*<sup>20</sup> In the natural, worms enter a decomposing putrefied body to clean up the mess. In hell worms enter the body and bones and do not die – are not affected by the fire. Think that one through. It’s real. Consider cutting off your own hand, foot or plucking out your own eye. Jesus is saying the pain thusly endured will be nothing like that endured in hell forever. Think that one over. Believe it.

The physical body of one who is deceased may be in the ground, cremated or disposed of some other way, for as scripture reveals, it returns to the dust of the ground<sup>21</sup> from which it was created. However *the soul has a spiritual body configured exactly like the physical body.* It is that body that the worms enter and thrive in the flames *while the individual is fully cognizant of their presence.* That’s what Jesus taught. Believe it.

The whole purpose of this *letter* is for me to be obedient to the Lord’s instructions. There is much, much more that could be included in God’s admonition to me, “**Warn those who are not saved.**” I trust that the facts presented in this letter sourced from the words of Jesus, the writing of Moses, Dr. Luke, the apostles Peter, Mark, John and Paul are sufficient to emphasize the reality of hell. As I previously stated in this letter, hell is just as real as heaven.

And lastly, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”<sup>22</sup> And His Spirit is readily accessible to those who have called on His Name, for Jesus Himself said, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”<sup>23</sup>

I pray that God’s richest blessings will overtake you.

---

<sup>17</sup>Matthew 17:5 (b).

<sup>18</sup>Luke 23:42, 43.

<sup>19</sup>Luke 25:40, 41.

---

<sup>20</sup>Paraphrased from Mark 9:43-48

<sup>21</sup>Genesis 2:7 reveals that God formed Adam from the dust of the ground.

<sup>22</sup>1 Corinthians 2:9, 10.

<sup>23</sup>Luke 11:13.