

NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL THINGS

an historical account of one man's walk with God

Jim Ash letter No. 182

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Boldly declaring the new things of Isaiah 42:9 and the greater works of John 14:12 in this rapture generation

THE CITY IS READY

God has confirmed to me that Earth One, under the rulership of Lucifer and his staff of angels, functioned perfectly for several thousand years. In the absence of sin, and in the presence of Jehovah God, who was its light, God Incarnate man functioned perfectly in a perfect environment – until Lucifer failed.

When Lucifer failed, God was presented with an unexpected dilemma. As Lucifer's failure engulfed the whole of mankind on Earth One, God's only choice was the total destruction of Earth One, about which I have previously written.

Consider for a moment, the dilemma with which God was presented. He had never experienced failure before. The ruling authorities and the inhabitants of God's model Earth One, all failed and turned against Him.

In addition, God, who lives to give, is unfulfilled without God Incarnate mankind on whom to relish Himself, who then becomes His body – His cherished wife. And that is what fallen Lucifer stole from Him. So God had to start all over again, after several thousand years¹ of planning, for His new beginning.

The first thing God did in His reconstruction project of Earth Two was to create light – *which He had never done before*. Here is why created light was the first thing that had to be done.

In God's planning, He knew that since through man, the fall of Earth One occurred, *through fallen man* his restoration – his salvation – would need to come. Fallen Lucifer did not believe that God could do such a miraculous feat, which was behind Lucifer's take-over of Earth One.

In order to restore mankind to his original estate, God's plan was to bring forth that Man, from

¹The term, "several thousand years" appears twice here, concerning the existence of Earth One prior to its destruction, and the time God took to plan for the reconstruction of Earth Two beginning with Genesis 1:3. These are terms God has approved my using, since this was before the solar system was created, and there was therefore no way to measure time accurately, as we understand it today.

fallen man, to become the Savior of mankind. The "fallen man" part of the beginning of Jesus of Nazareth was Mary, who was born under the Adamic sin curse and sin nature.

Since God's light is available only in a sinless world, the first step to create what God foreknew would be a fallen world, was to create light as recorded in these words in Genesis chapter one:

3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

The light that was created was artificial light – temporary light – until a fallen Lucifer could be dealt with finally.

After God created light, He created a light container called the sun, and a lesser light called the moon, to establish time and seasons of the year. Time was created on Earth Two so that man (whom God knew would fall) could age, grow old and die, since sin is the cause of death. Death was never in God's original plan for man.

That artificial light and its light container to govern the day and the lesser light to rule the night, will continue to serve God's purpose until after the Great White Throne Judgment when death, hell, the beast and the false prophet, Satan and his angels and all whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of Life, are cast into the lake of fire.²

Then, after the Great White Throne Judgment, here is what the apostle Peter prophesied will occur, as recorded in 2 Peter chapter 3:

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

5 For this they willfully forget: that by the

²See Revelation 20:10-15.

word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water, **6** by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.³

7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and the hastening of the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat.

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

In verse six, notice that Peter mentions the flood destruction of the earth survived by Noah and his family. After that flood, God then made a covenant with Noah and with mankind, that He would never again destroy the earth by water. The very words of that covenant (Genesis 9:8-17) portend another destruction of the earth, else why would God make such a covenant? The reason for the last and final destruction of the earth is because it is irretrievably polluted by sin.

Then, in verse seven and in verses ten through thirteen, Peter writes about the next destruction of, not only the earth, but of the elements and the heavens above the earth that will all be dissolved and will melt with fervent heat.

The destruction of the elements, the heavens and the earth that will melt with fervent heat, sounds like the destruction of **EVERYTHING** God created in His reconstruction of Earth Two. That includes the solar system, inclusive of our earth, the sun and the moon and seven other planets, and the stars, all of

³The flood mentioned here is the second flood survived only by Noah and his family. See Genesis 1:2 for a description of the first world-wide flood.

which were created for Earth Two in order to establish time and seasons of the year (see Genesis 1:14-18).

Please remember that there will be no solar system in our final destination, the New Jerusalem, because Jehovah God will be its illumination and the Lamb will be its light.

Remember also that there was no solar system for Earth One because God was its light. The earth, the sun, the moon, our solar system and the stars, therefore, were all created **because of sin**. And since all sin will be destroyed in the Great White Throne Judgment, **there will be no need for anything or for everything God created because of sin.**

While this sounds too catastrophic to be possible, reread Peter's prophecy and remember that sin (the failure of Lucifer) caused the whole Earth Two reconstruction program that began with Genesis 1:3.

The very immenseness of these supernatural destructive forces will very likely include the earth, the sun and the moon (which includes our solar system), because these two "lights" were created to establish time in which sinful man may age, grow old and die.

The reason for the destruction of our solar system, is to prepare for the New Jerusalem – the eternal city – where there will be no need for sun or moon because Jehovah God will be its illumination and the Lamb will be its light.⁴

This leaves us with the question: what will happen to those of us who are alive on the earth prior to the time of its cleansing by fire and the destruction of our solar system? I have no answer except that those faithful saints will be evacuated to the New Jerusalem. If God can evacuate people (the church) en mass from the earth once by the Rapture, why can't He do it again?

In the above nine verses of scripture from 2 Peter, chapter three, Peter prophesies the destruction of the earth. The apostle John also prophesies the destruction of the earth, but John gives the reason for its destruction in Revelation, chapter twenty-one, with these words:

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from

⁴See Revelation 21:22, 23.

God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Notice in John's description of the New Jerusalem (the new earth?), there will be no sea.⁵ What, then, you might ask, will be the water supply in the New Jerusalem? Again, John gives us the answer from Revelation, chapter twenty-two:

1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the middle of its street, and on both sides of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Confirmation of the existence of the "pure river of water of life" and of the fruit trees and their delicious fruit, was experienced by Jesse Duplantis when he was taken to the third heaven by an angel. When Jesse was hungry, he was given a piece of fruit from the tree to eat.⁶ He also heard someone say, "There is no depression here. Just eat of the Tree of Life, smell the leaves for healing and let your spirit grow."

Jesse's first stop in heaven was Paradise or Abraham's bosom. There he was given a drink from that river by Abraham, who dipped a golden goblet into

⁵Although we have no biblical evidence of it, I believe there was no sea on Earth One, because Earth One was God's perfect model (like the New Jerusalem) that was created to last eternally, until Lucifer failed. The reason that seven-eighths of the present earth's surface is water is because of sin. There had to be a complete realignment of the earth in what might be called a "self-sustaining" alignment to provide for proper cleansing of the air and for growth of the food-chain with rainfall, for example. There was no need for such on Earth One and there will be no need for such on the new earth on which the New Jerusalem will be situated because God will be its complete source. If you will look at a Mercator Projection map of the world, you can see how God could have broken up the earth to form the oceans. For example, if you move Greenland down, or south, it will fit into the east coast of the North American continent. Then move both the North and South American continents east, and you can see how those two continents and Greenland could fit into Africa and Europe to form one land mass at one time.

⁶See pages 76, 85 and 105 of, "HEAVEN – Close Encounters of the God Kind," written by Jesse Duplantis, Harrison House, Tulsa, Oklahoma, publisher.

the river and brought it to Jesse to drink.⁷

One of the things Jesus did during the three days and nights His body was in the tomb was to transfer Paradise or Abraham's bosom from the heart of the earth,⁸ to the third heaven where it remains today. When Jesse Duplantis was talking to Abraham, he (Abraham) said, "This (Paradise) is my place."⁹ The scriptures cited in footnote number eight below are additional evidence that everyone will have ample opportunity to follow the Lord in order to escape the lake of fire. I realize that we do not need experiential proof for the word of God, but it is a comforting blessing to me to have someone "who has been there" to see and to experience, that which is described or prophesied in the word of God.

Another scripture that seems to indicate at least the cleansing of, or the abandonment of the earth we live on, are these words written by John from Revelation, chapter twenty-one:

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, *descending out of heaven from God,*

11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Here, John writes of being carried away in the Spirit, in a similar way experienced by the apostle Paul, Mary Kathryn Baxter, Choo Nam Thomas and Jesse Duplantis,¹⁰ although Jesse, like Paul, said he was

⁷ibid, pages 77 and 78.

⁸Abraham's bosom, or Paradise, was originally in the heart of the earth (See Luke 16:19-31 and Matthew 12:40). While His body was in the tomb, Jesus descended into the heart of the earth and preached to the spirits in prison (1 Peter 3:18-20), after which He moved Abraham's, bosom or Paradise, to the third heaven where it is today.

⁹"HEAVEN – Close Encounters of the God Kind, page 78.

¹⁰There are many other saints of God who have had "out of body" experiences in both heaven and hell and have written books of their experience. I am also fully persuaded that there were many people who had spiritual experiences during "bible times," for example, that are not written in the bible. One reason we know of more of these supernatural events today is because we live in the age of knowledge and in the era of instant electronic communication where much additional information is available on the web with the click of a mouse.

unsure whether his was an “in the body” or an “out of the body” experience. In John’s case, being carried away in the Spirit must mean being carried to another planet, because the light in “the city” to which he was carried was illumined by Jehovah God where there is no shadow of turning (because there is no solar system).

Jehovah God was the light on Earth One for several thousand years before the failure of Lucifer. In God’s light there is no shadow of turning as confirmed in chapter one of the book of James:

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

In this verse of scripture, James teaches two things:

(1) God created the sun, the moon and the stars, all of which cast shadows, while

(2) the light of God, the Father, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning, casts no shadow.

As confirmed in his book, “HEAVEN – Close Encounters of the God Kind,” Jesse Duplantis was escorted by an angel to the City of God. On the way to the City, Jesse remarked to the angel that he (Jesse) did not cast a shadow. The reply of the angel was,

“In this place there is no darkness. God is light in whom there is no darkness, no shadow of turning.”¹¹

Jesse then tried without success to make a shadow. He then looked at the mountains – the streams – everywhere he could see, but no where did he find a shadow. The angel then replied to Jesse a second time with additional insight into God’s light with these words:

“I told you there is no darkness in this place. This is a place of light – all light. God encompasseth all.”¹²

That is a most remarkable statement and

¹¹HEAVEN – Close Encounters of the God Kind,” page 80.

¹²ibid, page 81.

explains why God’s light casts no shadow. In reading this one statement by the angel, for the first time, I more clearly understood the fact that God is omnipresent or is present everywhere simultaneously. And that is the reason why God’s light casts no shadow. In the absence of sin, God’s omnipresent light surrounds everything (an individual, for example); hence there is no shadow. The only way for a shadow to be cast is for light to be directional. Since God’s light is non-directional, but is all-encompassing or all-surrounding, no shadow is cast.

I am reminded of the term, “surround sound,” which some audio systems provide, which means speakers surround the listener. In a similar manner, God, who is omnipresent, is simultaneously present everywhere in all of his creation. This means He is “surround light” which casts no shadow, but only in the absence of sin.

The apostle John gives us another interesting revelation about the New Jerusalem with these additional words from Revelation chapter twenty-one:

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

In the new city, notice that “the tabernacle of God is with men.” Contrast that with the wilderness tabernacle and the Jerusalem Temple, both of which were erected on a sin-polluted earth where God met sinful man (the High Priest) once a year to atone for the sins of fallen man for only one year at a time.

But these examples were only types and figures that portend the time when Jehovah God, Himself, will tabernacle with man, that is, He will live within, or will literally indwell mankind in the fullness of Himself bodily, **to become God Incarnate again**. This is descriptive of what the apostle Paul wrote of Jesus during His visible ministry, as recorded in Colossians, chapter two:

9 For in Him (*Jesus*) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

These words describe Jesus, who was God Incarnate during His visible ministry (*because the flesh precedes the spirit*), while only after His resurrection did He become the second Person of the Godhead, about which I have written previously.

Remember that the God Incarnate Jesus portended the ministry of thirteen new God Incarnate apostles, in order to fulfill these words of Jesus in the fourteenth chapter of John:

12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these will he do, because I go My Father.

You may have heard it said that this prophecy of Jesus has been fulfilled because there have been numerous miracles experienced by faithful Spirit filled servants of God who have successfully prayed by faith for God in Jesus' name to heal, restore blind eyes and resurrect a dead body, for example. While I understand that, and have seen a miracle or two myself, **NO ONE** has come forth to fulfill John 14:12. Recall that Jesus did not pray and ask the Father to do a miracle. He just spoke into existence that which occurred when those who believed in Him came to Him for ministry. That has not yet occurred on the earth since Jesus ascended to the third heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

In order to do greater works than Jesus did, one must have a greater anointing than Jesus had. It's just that simple in principle. The thirteen new apostles will have a greater anointing than Jesus had because they will be filled with the fullness of the Godhead bodily, which is greater today because the Godhead today is greater than it was during the personal ministry of Jesus.

In the visible ministry of Jesus, the fullness of the Godhead bodily was the Father, the Word and the Spirit. After the resurrection, the fullness of the Godhead bodily became the Father, the Son (inclusive of the eternal Word) and the Spirit. Since the Godhead bodily today is inclusive of the resurrected Jesus, the anointing of the new thirteen God Incarnate apostles will be greater than was the anointing of Jesus during His visible ministry. In addition, each of these new

apostles will be able to minister unrestrictedly, whereas Jesus was very restricted in what He could do in order to remain as "bait" for the enemy.

God started His model Earth One with God Incarnate man, and that is where He is going with man again, but this time, eternally. This means that **EVERYTHING** God has done since He destroyed Earth One in His fierce anger¹³ has been done to once again establish His Throne on a pure, sinless earth, where God, Himself, will be its illumination and the Lamb its light, and where all mankind will be God Incarnate as God's family and wife for eternity.

That's where God is going. That is His still unfinished agenda that will be accomplished.

Another necessary thing that the new God Incarnate apostles will accomplish is to restore **EVERYTHING** that Eve and Adam lost personally through their transgression. That will be done through God's New First Family (the first two of the thirteen God Incarnate apostles to be released) before the soon coming Rapture.

The apostle wrote the following words of Jesus as recorded in John 14:

1 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

While Jesse Duplantis was in the third heaven, he saw the row of mansions where the prophets now live and Jesse was also shown his own mansion about which he said, "It was the prettiest place I had ever laid eyes on."¹⁴

The words of Jesus are Truth – and Truth is eternal. The *mansions* He speaks of in verse two above are real.

When Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you," those words were truth. I have the same confidence in quoting from the writing of Jesse Duplantis, Mary Kathryn Baxter and Choo Nam

¹³See Jeremiah 4:23-27.

¹⁴"HEAVEN – Close Encounters of the God Kind," page 102.

Thomas as I do in quoting from the writing of the apostle Paul. Those three Spirit-filled servants of God were chosen by God just the same as was the apostle Paul, for example.

Here is another aspect of the ministry of Jesus. I do not believe that finite mind may comprehend what Jesus has done since His crucifixion. We owe so much to Him – for His willingness to go to the cross for us – yes. But what He has done since His death on the cross beginning with the three days and nights His body was in the tomb, I believe is unfathomable with finite mind. I believe that only as we stand before Him, when we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is,¹⁵ will we be able to comprehend only a small part of what He has done for God, the Father, and for everyone who is His servant.

We owe it ALL to Him! In reality, He is our everything – our Savior, our Lord, our Redeemer, our life. What a debt we owe. What a debt He paid! What an honor to serve Him!

In chapters twenty-one and twenty-two, John closes the Revelation given to him on Patmos Island (prison) by writing about the New Jerusalem. **Those words describe an actual event in time that will occur as the climax of everything God has been planning since the failure of Lucifer and Earth One.** And believe this teacher, Jehovah God, Himself, awaits with joy, the arrival of the “City.” Only then may Jehovah God once more begin to fully be “Himself.” Since the failure of both Lucifer and Earth One, realize that **God has been in a constant state of warfare, both in the heavenly realm and on the earth.**

THE CITY IS READY! Jesse Duplantis and other servants of God have been there. I believe that the “City,” the New Jerusalem, is in a state of “readiness” and is maintained in that state of preparation by God who has awaited the day of its arrival for a longer period of time than one may imagine.

Of course, we have a long wait before we live in that “City.” The few remaining years prior to the Rapture, the seven-year Tribulation, the Second Coming, the Millennial reign and the Great White Throne Judgment, all must occur before we see the New Jerusalem. **But, believe this teacher. During that “wait,” dedicated servants of God will have periods of interest and excitement beyond one’s imagination.**

I know that is true because God has given me some

¹⁵See 1 John 3:2.

revelation about each of those events. Nothing, absolutely nothing, compares with serving our Lord today, especially when you learn to listen to His voice 24/7. Only then does He become more real than one may imagine otherwise.

By now you may have arrived at the conclusion of this letter. But if not, please realize that what we call the third heaven is the New Jerusalem in waiting – in preparation to do as John wrote in Revelation, chapter twenty-one:

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down **out of heaven** from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

To connect the dots, God’s Throne is now in the third heaven, but His Throne is also in the New Jerusalem. There is no directional sunlight now in the third heaven because God is its illumination, and the Lamb is its light, which is also descriptive of the New Jerusalem. The mansions Jesus spoke of in John 14:2 and the wall around the New Jerusalem, the “City,” as described by John in Revelation 21:14-21, have been seen by Jesse Duplantis (and I believe many others) in the third heaven, and remember – they both are also in the New Jerusalem.

Saints of God, the New Jerusalem has been in preparation long before Jesus died on the cross. Initial preparation of that “City” began in the mind of God, many thousands of years before God said, as recorded in Genesis 1:3, “Let there be light.”

After the Great White Throne Judgment, the third heaven will become the New Jerusalem, as described in Revelation, chapter twenty.

In that celestial “City,” in the absence of sin, everyone will be God Incarnate, and will become the body of and the physical wife of God for eternity, as it was initially on His model Earth One before Lucifer failed.

Believers, get ready for these events. They are coming as described in the word of God as surely as I conclude this letter No. 182. Amen.