

LIFE BEYOND THE RESURRECTION – ELM 87

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Why are we here on earth? What is the purpose of human life? What are we doing here? Why is our physical life here so short? There has to be a reason for our lives, otherwise it is pointless, but what is it? So many ask this question.

Actually the reason is glorious beyond our imagination, hard to appreciate fully, and totally incredible. Salvation is not a religious term, it is a real and practical word, humans are to be salvaged from this physical existence for an eternity of spiritual life.

When we review the responsibilities that God has, his actions, His lifestyle, His Power and Authority they have, why would they want to share it with mere mortals? Well, they do, and the position we will have staggers the mind, the majesty and the glory that await us is mind-boggling.

Evangelists by the thousand preach ‘Christ’, quoting from scriptures, they tell us that if we accept Christ as our personal Saviour, then we can look forward to going to heaven and are destined to be there with God for eternity. None make specific statements about what we will actually be doing up there. The years of our lives pass by so very quickly, then death ends it, so what then? Some suggest that we shall be on ‘cloud 9’ endlessly strumming on a harp. Is that it?

In order to accept Christ, they will tell you that it will mean we have to follow their instructions. They will tell you that you can't do this or that, you will have to give up many things of your lifestyle, and some will insist that unless you give them 10% of your income (10% on the gross of course!) Christ will not accept you! As a result of the changes you make, you might lose your spouse, or other members of your family might no longer associate with you, and they will tell you that is scriptural. (Which what it does say about that is not meant in the way they misuse scripture.)

If you go out to a store to buy a ‘fridge, you look at it, and you know what you are going to get when it is delivered. You know how much it will cost

you, and the store knows how much they will have to pay the manufacturer. Everybody knows the deal and what you will get for your money.

What evangelists and ministers are not very good at is telling you what you get when you decide to ‘accept’ Christ. (Which idea is also an unfortunate incorrect twist on what the Bible actually teaches about the process of being ‘in Christ’!) So what do we get when we are ‘saved’?

Another question that people rarely ask is that since the Bible says we will be resurrected to eternal life, what will we be doing in a hundred, a thousand, a million, a billion years from now?

Right at the very beginning of the Bible, the book of Genesis mentions something that does not apply to any other part of Creation, not even to angels or archangels.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The word ‘God’ in the original manuscripts written in the Hebrew language is ‘Elohim’, which is a plural collective noun. The word ‘army’ is a collective noun. It can be grammatical to say either the ‘army is’, or the ‘army are’ depending whether one is referring to army in a singular or plural sense.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:

Here the word God is being used in the plural. So God is ‘they’, a single family, consisting of the Father, and the Word saying “Let us...”

Genesis 1:26b and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man, and gave him dominion over the whole of the rest of the Created things on this earth. This word dominion very is important, as it only applies to man, and not to any other creature. The word ‘dominion’ is also an important key which gives us insight concerning the purpose of our existence here.

We have dominion over this earth, and frankly we are not doing a very good job of ‘dressing and keeping’ our domain. This is a learning experience, not a very happy one, considering the way mankind is treating this amazing earth and all on it. Especially when we understand that we

humans are destined in the future to have dominion not only over the earth, but over the universe and all that is in it.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

We know nothing of the female side of God and the Word, except that the book of Proverbs gives a lot of information about God and their relationship with Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom all of which are feminine words in the original Hebrew. Wisdom is personified as female, and we are encouraged to seek to know 'her' better.

Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

God made male and female and called their (plural) name Adam, that is God called Adam and Eve – Adam. This is another indication of unity in plurality. So Adam and Eve were 'one'.

All life is male and female, even inanimate things in nature like rock are made of atoms which have polarity, positive and negative charge in their component parts.

We are physical, God is made of Spirit, but we have God in us in the form of life which is of the Spirit. There is a gift of human spirit put in humans at conception that enlivens us, gives us consciousness, and returns to God when we die. We cannot control how long we have the spirit, or power when we die.

Ecclesiastes 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

When we do die, the spirit which contains a complete record of that person returns to God. That record, much like a tape or video has no life or consciousness without a body, and is in that sense inanimate.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

This 'spirit' is filed by God until it is used by God who inserts the spirit of the person into a new body for that individual at the resurrection whether to

temporary human life or to eternal spiritual life depending upon circumstances at the time.

The Bible tells us a lot about God, He has a face, hair, sits, has hands and feet, although He is Spirit, His body is tangible not like some type of fog. After Christ had been resurrected and returned to the Father He was Spirit, but when he appeared to the disciples He was in a terrestrial body, otherwise His Glory would have killed everyone who saw Him.

Jesus Christ was the express image of the Father, so we know what the Father looks like, He looks like Christ looked when He was on earth. Christ by whom the Father made the worlds.

Hebrews 1:2 (God) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

God's Spirit is everywhere, it is the manifestation of His Power, but is definitely NOT a personality or a being, it is the extension of God's creative and sustaining power. A radio 'speaks' when operated by the power of electricity, but nobody would suggest that the radio or the electricity is a person.

There was a first Adam and there is a second 'Adam' which is Christ.

1 Corinthians 15 is called the 'resurrection chapter' in the Bible because it gives so much information about our future life as a spirit being.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died (was dead in the tomb three days and nights) for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

It is absolutely incredible that the Word who was with God, and was God, completely gave up that power and position, became a man. The Individual who previously was God with all that power, died and ceased to be alive for three days and three nights trusting the Father to restore Him to His original Glory which of course He did.

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Jesus Christ gave abundant evidence of His resurrection, it was not done in a corner, hundreds saw Christ alive after His death.

1 Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me (Paul) also, as of one born out of due time.

Paul was ordered to appear before the King Agrippa, who Paul confronted and told Festus who accused Paul of being mad that the King knew about the resurrection of Christ.

Acts 26:23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles. 24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. 25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness. 26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. 28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man (Adam) came death, by man (Christ) came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Note: In the resurrection we shall be raised up from the grave or from earth, not down from heaven! The dead are not in heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order (or in the time appointed): Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Death is an enemy, and when death is destroyed, when ‘all is in all’ there will be only Life.

1 Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

Please do not think that what we are saying here is ‘religious’ talk. This is the Creator of the Universe, Jesus Christ, telling us what is going to happen to us, that is to you reading this, and to me writing it!

If Christ is calling you now and opening your mind now to His truth, and you respond with the belief and faith He is offering to give you, and you are ‘in Christ’ then you will be resurrected to eternal life if you are dead when He returns, or if you are still alive you will be changed from mortal to immortal in the twinkling of any eye. Yes you will.

However if you are not being called now and you die, then the next thing you will be conscious and aware of is the moment when you are resurrected to human life. Is this a second chance? No assuredly not. If you have not been called personally in this lifetime, then you will certainly be called when you are restored to human life, and this then will be your chance to respond to Him.

1 Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

Resurrected humans will instantly become Spirit beings and will differ one from another in glory and power.

1 Corinthians 15: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written,

The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

So we are ‘sown’ in corruption, and raised in incorruption, sown in dishonour, raised in Glory. We need to understand this word ‘Glory’.

In some denominations, the congregation respond with excitement to the flow of the meeting saying “Glory, glory , glory”, but clearly these religious folk do not have any idea what “Glory” means when Christ talks about it through Paul in 1 Corinthians 15.

So what will we look like when we are resurrected to Glory? This description in the book of Revelation will give you an idea.

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. 17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Like Moses when God was willing to be seen by him, YHWH had to cover Moses face in the cleft of a rock, and only see His back as he passed by or the power YHWH gave off would have killed him.

So Christ in His Glory looks like the sun in its strength at midday, and so shall we! He has a face with a mouth, hands, feet, hair, a torso, all resplendent with iridescent light, and when we are in our new glorious body, so will we have a body like Christ has now? Yes we will. Will we be able to adopt a terrestrial body which looks just like a human being, and even pass through solid walls like Christ did? Yes we will.

It is strange that in some sci-fi movies, the actors appear to be able to do this. One might wonder where the directors and producers get these ideas from. No doubt they are inspired by the god of this world who is a spirit being himself and knows all about these things.

Christ was dead in the grave, but He was resurrected to be a quickening Spirit. We have had the image of the earthly, but we will become the image

of the heavenly and put on incorruption, never to die again. We shall have a new form and shape, and we shall also have Godly Character morally, ethically, psychologically, and in every way like Christ.

1 John 3: 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

This is Christ speaking through John, the first cousin of Christ, assuring us that we will indeed be like Christ when we are changed.

2 Peter 1: 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Again, please do not read these words as ‘religious’ talk. These are the words of the Risen Christ giving you the substance of His exceeding great and precious promises, by which we will be partakers of the divine nature, in Glory. These are plain words of truth, and they are reality, in fact they are more real than we are. Just the night before Christ was crucified He was praying to the Father for us:

John 17:17 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Christ was asking the Father to Glorify Him, and that He would give eternal life, and therefore Glory, to all humans that were ‘in Him’.

John 17:10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Christ is praying that as He is One with the Father, so shall all humans who are ‘in Him’ will also be One with Christ and therefore One with the Father. Amazing stuff! Believe it, have faith, and you can have this, and you will be there!!

In all my life, now in my 8th decade, having attended many churches from my youth, these truths were never made plain to me. I knew about 1st Corinthians being the resurrection chapter, but this was religious talk, and it never came across to me that it referred personally to me and to every other human being on the earth who had ever been, or ever would be born human.

Now at last it is a reality to me, and I hope and trust to you also. This is a gift from God, it has nothing to do with anything I have done, all I and anyone has to do is to respond to the gift and even that ability to respond is a gift! Christ through Paul reiterates this wonderful truth.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation (Gk. Citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

We shall have a new body which will be just like Christ’s glorious body. Look in the mirror a moment, you are a plain old human like me at the moment, but that is going to change! We are called to become like Him.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

2 Thessalonians 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is so sad that words like ‘gospel’, and ‘glory’ have become synonymous with the mistaken and unlearned religious way of talking of many people, and which seem to have lost their power and their relevance. The awesome, gigantic reality and truth that these words contain is visible to so very few. If they really understood that they mean and what they imply, they would be experiencing joy unbounded in their minds. But are they? Perhaps? Hopefully!

The Apostles who were with Christ on the mount of transfiguration knew about Glory. If we understand what Glory really is, it will really expand our minds. In Exodus 33 Moses was talking to YHWH, who of course was Christ, or an angel with the Power of Attorney to use Christ's name. Moses was expressing his hope that God would not desert him while he was working with the recalcitrant Israelites.

Exodus 33:11 And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

What an experience that must have been for Moses.

Exodus 33:12 And Moses said unto the Lord, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. 13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Moses needed evidence, he was unsure that YHWH, Christ would be with them all the way, despite all the evidence of the plagues in Egypt and the Israelites deliverance through the sea dry shod. So God gives Moses the reassurance he asks for.

Exodus 33:14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

God says I will give you rest, and I will do the work for you. Moses is still not satisfied! He asks YHWH yet again.

Exodus 33:15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? Is it not in that thou goest with us? So shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

Moses already knew that God was not with other nations, but he also knew full well that the stiff-necked disobedient Israelites were constantly trying God's patience.

Exodus 33:17 And the Lord said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

Moses is STILL not satisfied. We get a glimpse here of the amazing patience God has with us. The Moses asks to see God's Glory, he wanted to know more about what he knew would be his eventual future.

Exodus 33:18 And he (Moses) said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.
19 And he (God, actually an angel) said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. 20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. 21 And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: 22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: 23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

God, Christ was protecting Moses from the Power of His Agent's countenance which would have killed Moses had he seen God's face which is like the sun in full strength. When the Tabernacle was set up in Sinai, a cloud appeared above it by day, and at night by bright light.

We should in no way take the word 'Glory' flippantly, and better not ignorantly either. We need to have profound respect for the word which describes the power and majesty of the state we are all going to inherit.

Romans 5: 1Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Where did Paul get this word 'glory' from? He quoted it from the scripture where Moses asked for it.

Romans 8: 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

We are the children of God, now in type, awaiting the full adoption of the resurrection to the quality of life age-lasting that we will enjoy with Christ as our King and Elder Brother, and God as our Father.

Romans 8: 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

God talked to Moses as a friend, we who are ‘in Christ’ can talk to God as “Dad”. How awesome is that?

Romans 8: 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Heirs inherit according to a will, we inherit according to the Will of God. We are joint-heirs with Christ and will be glorified together with Him. Many people might have read these scriptures, but has the reality of what they mean really sunk in? Hard to know, but it certainly does not seem to have, otherwise people would be clamouring to become Christians. The glory we will inherit absolutely cannot compare with any trials we go through in this life.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8: 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature (creation - us) was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

The phrase ‘glorious liberty’ is here in the KJV, but it is “the liberty of Glory” in the Greek.

Romans 8: 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

That is the patience of the saints. We groan at the state of this world and what humans are doing to wreck it, and our having to deal with this present

evil world. But we hope in patience for that which we have faith in although we do not see it.

Romans 8: 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself (not himself!) maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Power of God, the Holy Spirit helps all those with whom it dwells.

Romans 8: 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

However much evidence we think we see to the contrary, this scripture cannot be broken just as no promises of God can.

Romans 8: 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

This step by step process for each of us began before the foundation of the world, our Glory was planned before we were created.

Colossians 1:26 Even the **mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Please do not just read over this or any other verse that has reference to the mystery or our future. Pause, consider, thank and meditate on the incredible statement this is: Christ in you, the hope of Glory. Selah!

Glorious can describe a lovely sight like a sunset, or a magnificent view, but when it is in reference to our future, our Salvation, and the Glory which we will have, that is a different matter.

Hebrews 2:5 For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? 7 Thou madest him a little lower (or for a little while)than the

angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

So mankind was put over this earth now, but when resurrected the entirety of the heavens also, all things will be under Christ's feet and ours also. All humans will be glorified in the end, even Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, and the most wicked that have ever lived as it is God's will that **all** will come to repentance of their own accord.

1Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal (not just eternal – an age-lasting quality of life) glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while (in this earthly life), make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Our suffering is part of the training we are receiving in the mortal life which is a necessary prelude and basis to our future when we are given age-lasting spiritual life.

2 Peter 1: 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

This is another verse to ponder on and not read over. We are given exceeding great and precious promises by God the Father and Jesus Christ that we will be called to Glory, and we will be partakers of the Divine Nature. We human beings, God's children, are to be deified. Selah! Thank God that Peter was not a religious person, just a plain, down to earth fisherman!

John 10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. 26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Christ said plainly to the Jews, I will give my sheep eternal (quality age-lasting) life.

John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one.

Once again Christ says that He and the Father are One. Plurality in unity, or unity in plurality.

John 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; 36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? 37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. 39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,

They just could not take the truth. They could not deny the scriptures, so they just refused to accept that this 'scoundrel' was the Messiah they had waited for for so long and would have killed Him.

We are gods. Outstandingly ridiculous? Yes, but true.

Here we are making fools of ourselves on this earth, and on other places in the universe for seventy years or so, because we ignore the Maker's Instruction Manual written as a guide to happiness by our very Creator, Christ. There is nothing in the Bible to indicate that there is life anywhere else in the Universe. This does not stop men from spending millions on SETI looking, while they spoil and ruin our wonderful home here on earth.

This is where God is nurturing His children, nowhere else as far as we can tell.

All the references to God, the Word, to Christ are masculine, and that is to do with authority and government. All authority goes through the Father, as He is in total charge of all things. Yet God made us male and female in His likeness. We know that the Family of God is One consisting of two Persons, but since God created human beings in their Image, male and female, we can get a glimpse of the feminine side of God.

Wisdom is personified as a woman, as a female influence. Knowledge and Understanding and Love are also feminine by derivation. The first nine chapters of the book of Proverbs extol the role that Wisdom should play in our lives. It seems that Wisdom played a part in the foundation of the earth, and by understanding God established the heavens, so a feminine influence existed before the earth was made, and was a factor in the Creative force.

Proverbs 3:19

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

Proverbs 7:4

Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

Proverbs 8:1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

When God created humans in His image, male and female created He them. God has fingers, face, eyes, ears, hair and looks like us, or rather we look like Him.

Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you”, in heaven. So there are places for us in heaven where we shall spend some of our time after the resurrection, but the earth is going to become God’s HQ remember. But what are we going to be doing?

What does God do? He plans, designs, creates, orders it, establishes sustains, and works on the Universe which is expanding all the time.

We are learning these skills, or have the opportunity to do so on earth in a very limited way, and only a very short time to practice, mostly getting it

wrong! But these abilities are part of our human training and experience which will prepare us in some small way for spiritual rulership in the future.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

We are not going to sit on cloud 9 strumming a harp, or continually casting our crowns before Him. We are going to be given God-plane work to do. We will be planning, designing, creating, ordering, establishing and helping to sustain the work of the Universe under God and Christ. There are six billion humans on earth at the moment, and there are a hundred billion galaxies, not stars, galaxies now. There is enough space, and enough work to go around!!

The first verb, the very first action word in the Bible is 'created'. Being creative is work. Jesus said,

John 5:16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. 17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

So what will we be doing? We shall be working on the Universe under the direction of the Father and Jesus Christ. There will be plenty to do!

God loves privacy, and like Him, humans have a part of us that enjoys privacy too. So we shall not always be with others, we will have down time.

Even through the extended time ahead, there will always be evil through which good will come, but as part of the God Family we will be able to control it and live above it.