

John 70 – Light and Dark Revealed by Resurrection

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John 20:1-18

Biblical Assumptions

- These assumptions guide my hermeneutics & teachings
 - Bible inerrant in *originals*; yet, God preserved His word in multiplicity of available copies: whole or partials
 - God's word is the only source of *absolute truth* (2Ti 3:16-17)
 - Fourth Law of Logic – Reasonable Inferences based on the other three Laws of Logic: Identity, Excluded Middle and Non-Contradiction

Ancient View of Afterlife

- Ancients saw death as permanent shadow-type existence, a vapor (*hebel*) or shadow, of fleshly self
 - Grecians in Athens scoffed at the idea of a resurrection; once rid of this life, who wants to come back? (Ac 17:16-34)
 - Dead could talk to the living if given blood sacrifice to drink (Homer's *Odyssey*) (Jesus' drink my blood) (Jo 6:53-59)
- Yet, in one sense the Ancients were correct: Dark self

Introspection of Matzah

- Writer doubts God's faithfulness seeing the wicked prosper; until he meditates in God's Temple (Ps 73:18-22)
- God has set the wicked on *smooth paths*; without *peirasmoi* they do not grasp their need for God (Ps 1:18-25)
- At their death true reality greets them in eternal terror
- Lord despises them since they are (οἴα) darkness
- Souls against God are not men, just ignorant cattle

God Made Man in His Image

- Image (οἴα): What is God's image? Father of Lights (Qs 1:16-18)
- God made Adam (People) to reflect His Light (Qs 1:26-27)
- Adam sinned and his image turned dark (Qs 6:22-25)
- We begin as beasts, willfully ignorant of God - Lost
- Lost retain certain aspects of God's image but twisted (Ps 55:20-21)
- At salvation Holy Spirit shines Christ's light in us (Qs 1:4-5, 9, 12-13)

Daniel Taught Resurrection

- Daniel is taught the bodily resurrection of the Jews; by logical inference this applies to all peoples (Dn 12:2-3)
- The saved will rise with Christ's righteous light forever
- The lost will rise to eternal shame (darkness)
- All sinners are darkness wandering in ignorance sunk to the level of animals unless God shines His Light in them, born from above, making them in His (οἴα)

Why Christ Difficult to Recognize

- Christ came in the form of sinful flesh to redeem those born in the flesh (Jn 2:14-18)
 - His visage reflected the marring of sin: Deformity? (Jn 5:1-3)
- His new body reflected God's image not marred by sin (1Co 15:35-49)
 - His deformity removed though underlying features same
 - Thus, He would not be immediately recognized

Order of Events

- Sunday, after Pesach, Matzah's high holy day and usual Sabbath the women came to anoint Christ's body (Mk 16:1)
 - Displayed ignorance of Christ's anointing and wrapping by Joseph and Nicodemus
 - Displayed unbelief in a bodily resurrection as He taught
- Women saw the stone rolled away, no guard and angels telling them to tell the Apostles He is risen (Lk 24:1-9)

Peter and John Come

- The women tell a different message showing that they still do not grasp that Jesus had an immediate bodily resurrection
 - Apostles are told that Jesus' body had been taken
 - Peter and John run to the tomb, John hesitates probably due to seven-day uncleanness by entering tomb of dead
 - Peter rushes into the tomb confirming His body is gone

Difference Between Peter and John

- Peter filled with guilt and remorse
 - Peter vehemently denied Christ less than 48 hours ago
 - Peter was not at the stauros during Christ's ordeal
- John was at the stauros with Mary, agreeing to provide for Jesus' mother for life
 - John had a clear conscience, peace with Christ

Both See the Same Evidence

- After Peter confirmed Jesus' body was gone, John enters the tomb
 - Both saw the linen wrappings lying in one place, presumably with the spices still present
 - Both saw the face covering *folded* and in a different spot
- Peter does not grasp the fact of Jesus' resurrection; however, John did when he saw the folded face cloth

Mary Magdalene Weeps

- After the men had left Mary Magdalene, presumably she came back with Peter and John, remained at the tomb
 - When she looks inside the tomb two angels ask her why she is weeping
 - She still does not believe when she replies that men have taken Jesus' body to where she knows not

Jesus Reveals Himself to Mary

- When Mary exits the tomb she sees a man she does not recognize but supposed him the overseer of the grove
 - He asks her why she is weeping and whom does she seek
 - Her reply: If you have taken Jesus' body tell her so she can take possession of it - rebury Him
 - It is when Jesus speaks her name that she recognizes Him, calling Him Teacher in Hebrew (רַבִּי)

Look But Do Not Touch

- Mary probably jumps up to touch Jesus, but He cannot allow this just yet
 - Jesus tells her that He must ascend to the Father and tell the Apostles He is ascending to His, and their, God
 - Jesus must present Himself in Heaven at the true Mercy Seat (Throne) and be approved by the Father as the true Pesach Lamb
 - After this occurs, He allows others to touch Him

Mary is the First Eye Witness

- Mary Magdalene: First eye witness of Jesus' resurrection
 - Interesting to note that the angels did not appear to the men but to the women
 - Jesus appeared to Mary first but not to Peter or John
- Since Lucifer appeared first to Woman, deceiving her, Jesus appeared first to a woman reassuring her the deed was accomplished (Ge 3:15; 2Co 11:3; 1Ti 2:13-14)

Higher Bar for Men

- Since Man was created first, received teaching direct from Christ and given authority over family, there was a higher standard imposed on man
 - Man was not deceived but sinned knowingly
 - Christ taught the Apostles directly for three years
 - There were expected to exercise a greater degree of faith
 - Yet, only John believed without seeing Christ directly

Light of Christ

Resurrection *proved* the truth of prophecy for those of Christ's disciples and Apostles

Who Receives a New Body?

- Christ received a *new* body and those who are His will receive new bodies; but, do the lost receive new bodies?
 - Lake of Fire prepared for Devil and demons (Mt 25:41)
 - Jesus taught of the lost entering Lake of Fire where the worm does not die, image of Satan (spiritual) (Mt 9:43-48; Jo 8:44)
 - Seraphim, who guard God's righteousness, are spiritual beings also (Is 1:7)
 - Lost, who souls are darkness, do not receive new bodies

Dreams of the Ancients

- The Ancients spoke truth of dead souls being *hebel*
 - Their imaginations were darkened without the fullness and light of God's truth
 - They could only imagine *hebel*, darkened souls without bodies; it described their end and preserved in myths
 - Though denying eternal fire, search for righteousness, this is God's truth that will confront all immediately at death, confirmed at White Throne judgment (Re 20:11-15)

Reality of Resurrection

- Christ's resurrection confirmed the truth of scripture: Old Testament first and later the New Testament
 - With Christ's resurrection, Satan was thrown to earth bringing his wrath with him knowing his time is fixed (Re 12:7-12)
 - We live in a world of various societies and governments ordered by Lucifer who speaks words of oil but intends violence and death on the *lights* of God

Grasping Resurrection Today

- Many Christians pay *lip service* to the resurrection and their *coming* resurrection; however, they do not live like it is a reality that will come upon them in a moment
 - There is intellectual knowledge devoid of personal faith that an accounting awaits all Christians (2Co 5:10)
 - So little true study, but a chasing of myths to confirm what one already believes; this will bring tears when one must give an account of one's words and deeds in life (1Ti 6:11-15; 2Ti 1:1-5; 4:3-8)