

Topic: Experiencing the Life of the Holy Spirit II - The Atmosphere of Holy Peer Pressure

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### **Recap from Experiencing the Life of the Holy Spirit I**

Last week, we examined Genesis 2:8 through the lens of the entire scriptures. Genesis is a prophetic book written by divine inspiration as the author was born generations after the event unfolded. We also mentioned that Psalms to Malachi is like a dictionary to understand a lot of the prophetic symbols used.

### **Soul In Heaven**

*And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed  
Genesis 2:8 KJV*

*Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all Jeremiah 31:12 KJV*

Through a series of scripture, as the ones above, we have established that “Garden in Eden” translated to “Soul in Heaven.” What does it mean for the soul (that is, the mind, will, thoughts, desires and emotions) to be in heaven?

### **Jesus - The Proper Adamic Template**

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? [11] Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. [12] If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? [13] And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven John 3:10-13 KJV*

Many scriptures, like John 3:12; 5:19; 8:38, show Jesus connected and present in heaven while on earth, His soul in heaven. This is the proper Adamic template God designed and what Adam

experienced before the fall. Although there is some theological debate on the concept of Jesus being in heaven while on earth, cryptic as it sounds, this is the reality of Jesus. Paul would say we are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph 2:6). This is where we begin to speak of holy peer pressure, where our testimonies, words, and insights are in tune with that of heaven regardless of earthly realities.

Last week, we discussed the testimony of heaven about John. Heaven through Gabriel delivered the testimony of heaven that John will be born unto Zacharias, which was a complete disregard of the earthly reality of the old age of Elizabeth. Zacharias doubted, therefore resisting the holy peer pressure. As a result, he was bullied into faith so it would be on earth as it is in heaven. From the marital context, Zacharias had to be aligned with the plan because he had the seed, and heaven could not allow his unbelief to spoil the plan.

By reason of being in tune with heaven, Isaiah would say, "Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid" (Isaiah 8:12). Charging us that we ought not to be moved by the happenings on earth but that of heaven. If your soul is truly in heaven your thoughts, mind, will, and emotions cannot be contrary to the input of heaven. And if you are important in the plan and your soul is not in heaven, you will need to be bullied into faith (like Zacharias) and alignment of your soul to heaven.

### **How Can One's Soul be in Heaven?**

One's soul can be in heaven by simply keeping your mind, thoughts, desires and emotions on God. Isaiah 26:3-4 says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength."

This peace is not just a mental peace, but an experiential testimony. There is peace you have when things are tumultuous and peace when things are good as well. For a person to experience the victory of such peace, his mind needs to stay on the LORD, on His goodness, promises, mercies, and Words to us. Staying your mind on the Lord implies you are in heaven. There are times we expect an intervention from the Lord yet our minds dwell on negative realities. The book of James tells us a double mind cannot receive anything from the LORD (James 1:6-8). We will have perfect peace, however, when we commit our minds to stay steadfastly on the LORD.

Another example of one whose mind stayed on God through Jesus was Peter. As a result, he did the seemingly impossible and walked on the water (Matt 14:22-32). As long as Peter looked (kept his mind) on Jesus, was as long as he walked on water. The moment Peter shifted his gaze off Jesus, considered the boisterous wind and became afraid, he began to sink.

There are some countries and nations on earth that provide enormous benefits to its citizens. Paul says our citizenship is in heaven (Eph 2:18). For us to experience the benefits of being a heavenly citizen, we need to keep our minds on him. When our mind wavers, it is hard to focus on Christ. When God tried Abraham, asking him to offer up his son, Abraham would not bring himself to believe anything other than God's word to him that Isaac was the son of promise. As a result, Abraham reckoned that, if he killed Isaac, God would raise him from the dead (Hebrews 11: 17-19). Brethren, what we think reflects in our actions. It is possible to be a citizen of heaven and not reap the full benefits because you are not committed to staying on the Lord. In the language of heaven, our experiential location is to the level with which we receive streams from heaven, alone.

### **The Four Rivers in Eden - Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel, and Euphrates**

Let's consider the four streams in Eden. Where do these rivers come from? They proceed out of heaven, the throne of God. Revelation 22:1 says, "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." From Isaiah 66:1, we know that heaven is the throne of the LORD.

There are four rivers: Pison, Gihon, Hiddikel and Euphrates. The river flows from the east and splits into the four heads. We have established these are rivers of life that flow out of a believer. Jesus says, out of the belly of him that believes comes forth a river of living water (John 7:38). While naming the animals, Adam received the intake of the rivers to aptly perform the task. So, when God says "Lion" Adam hears and says "lion" or as Jesus said "As I hear, I do" (John 5:30). These rivers then are the summary of four resources from heaven.

There are several inferences of the four rivers, such as; the four gospels, four horns of the altar, four living creatures with four faces and four wings of the cherubim, four gates in the heavenly Jerusalem, etc. For the sake of this message, we will focus on the four faces or four heads of the cherubim in Revelations 4 and Ezekiel 1.

### **Four Heads of the Cherubim**

*And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. [8] And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. [9] And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; [10] And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. Revelation 5:7-10 KJV*

The four living creatures (Cherubim in Revelation) are said to be redeemed by the blood of the lamb. Meaning both the four living creatures and the 24 elders cannot be spirit angels, since only humans were redeemed by the blood of the lamb. In essence, cherubim are symbolic of you and me - humans.

*Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; [20] Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec Hebrews 6:19-20 KJV*

This verse says that Jesus is a forerunner of that which is within the veil. That which is within the veil is the ark.

In the ark, you have the ten commandments, Aaron's rod and a pot of manna. Moses drew this inspiration from a vision received at the top of the mountain (Exodus 25:40). The vision Moses saw is basically the vision John saw in the book of Revelation. The difference was they had two different assignments.

Moses was to depict, and John was to describe. So, John saw the throne and saw Cherubim and then around the throne 24 elders. Moses to depict what he saw, showed the cherubim and a crown around the ark which was the mercy seat. All this was to describe all that was within the veil. Such that the covenant will be written within you. So Aaron's rod that budded showed something that was dead bring life just as Romans 1:4 shows the experience of a resurrection experience out of death to life. The commandments show the law written in your heart and also the pot of manna can be understood when Jesus said "Moses gave you manna, but the manna of God is that which comes down from heaven" (John 6:49).

The story of the ark was that it began with shittim wood, which speaks of carnality overladen with thorns, and it journeyed to the point where it is overladen with gold -- so that what you see when looking in and out of the ark is Gold and cherubim in front of it.

The story, therefore, speaks of redemption where man is taken from carnality and all manner of thorns (sinful man) to righteous and Divine nature (gold) manifest as cherubim or an elder. So those who will reign as Kings and priests are redeemed. Recall last week, we said, a cherub means an imaginary creature. You can use this word for the sons of God in divinity and also for angels. When they were driven out from the garden, flaming cherubim were placed. So, the veil leading to the holiest of all was also a cherub.

Now that we appreciate that God is making us into cherubim, we can now see that the holiest place is the chamber of cherubim. Why did we come to this conclusion? We see that coals of fires are in their midst. Ezekiel 1 even said that there was a firmament above them, on which is the throne of God. There is this reality within them that is displayed to their environment as four faces. But we also see rivers.

How do the faces connect to rivers? In Revelations 12:13-15, we see that out of the face of the dragon brought forth water. Water speaks of doctrines and words. Faces speak of an appearance. So each face has an utterance, which is manifested as a river. The reality that God has forged within you are

manifested to those around you in four heads. So, one of the ways to understand the four rivers is by understanding the four faces from which they proceed.

The moral lesson is to remember the template Jesus laid. Jesus, walking upon the earth was a Cherubim. Another way of looking at this is that Ezekiel said that the cherubim had six wings. If such a creature raised up his wings, three on each side, you have the picture of the seven arms of the candlestick. So, it said Jesus in Revelation 5:6 had seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God. These same spirits in Isaiah 11:1-3 are a candle stick. The point is that these things are realities of a heavenly citizen.

Oftentimes, what you think is what you believe. The fight of faith then is a fight of casting down imaginations. We need to be careful what we feed our mind on. To participate in the provisions of heaven and all that God has for you, you need to keep your mind stayed on him.