

"As in Heaven..."

April 30, 2017

We live in a world in CRISIS:

Jesus said:

Luke 21:25- "There will be...dismay among the nations (*ethnos*), in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves (*people in turmoil*)."

Yet, the LORD is "*the Trust and Hope of all the earth*" Who can "*still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples.*" (Psalm 65:5-7).

There are 4 RESPONSES the Church can have to CRISIS:

1. **RETREAT** (*Fearfully withdrawn*)
2. **REVOLT** (*Angry confrontations—born out of fear*)
3. **REVIVAL** (*Renewal for the Church—that remains within the Church*)
4. **REFORMATION** (*Begins with revival—results in cultural restoration*)

CORE: Jesus calls us to PURSUE REFORMATION. He taught us to PRAY & DECLARE: "Your will be done *on earth—as it is in Heaven.*" (Matt. 6:10)

Heaven is not a place of *eternal inactivity*—rather, it is filled with the *glorious purposes of the vibrant Living God!* Here are some of Heaven's activities—elements Jesus desires to see on earth:

1. **Filled with INTIMACY.**

- John saw Heaven as a City shaped like a "giant cube" (Rev. 21:16)—the "Holy of Holies" in the temple; open access place, face-to-face w/ God
- We were created to live in His Presence.
 - Psalm 65:4 TPT- RE: PRIESTS—those who draw near to His presence: "*What inexpressible joys will be theirs! What feasts of mercy will fill them in Your heavenly sanctuary! How satisfied we will be just to be near You!*"
 - NOTE: The strongest LEADERS (i.e., those who influence others)—are WORSHIPERS: Jeremiah 30:21- The leaders who "arise from among them" are those The LORD "brings near"—who, in turn, purpose to "come close to (Him)." They "devote (themselves) to be close to (Him)." (*Lit.- "to braid, become entangled/intertwined with"*)

"A man who is intimate with God is not intimidated by men." Leonard Ravenhill

2. Fully INTEGRATED.

Jesus addressed racial divisions: Matthew 24:7-8- “Nation (*ethnos*) will rise against nation (*ethnos*).”

RACISM is one of the “spiritual forces that control evil in the heavenly world” (Eph. 6:12 GOD’s WORD Translation) [More than a social issue]

- But In Heaven: “Every tribe and tongue and nation (*ethnos*).” (Rev. 7:9)
 - Preference of others replaces self-focused pride.
 - Honor quenches labels and class systems.
 - Love casts out fear—releasing us to know & value others.

As this dimension of Heaven manifests on earth, we “see” people as He sees them. Ungodly judgments and criticisms will cease:

“And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear.” Isaiah 11:2-3

He also makes us “*a house of prayer for all nations (ethnos).*” Mark 11:17

3. Actively INTERCEEDING.

(NOTE: Heaven is far from a place of inactivity & oblivion)

- Jesus, at right hand of Father, intercedes for us (Romans 8:34)
- “The prayers of the saints” (Rev. 5:8); Rev. 6:10- martyrs in Heaven asking God to take specific action on earth
- Not “saint” fixation—Heaven is engaged with what is happening on earth!
- Hebrews 12:1- we are “surrounded by”—not merely “preceded by”—a “great cloud of witnesses.” Those who have gone before us are vitally interested in His Kingdom coming to earth—even cheering us on!
- Since Heaven is a joyful place—we too can have “joy in (His) house of prayer” (Isa. 56:7); praying from Heaven’s perspective on earth.

Prayer is what we are filled with & fueled by. (Lit.- “to purpose & pursue until fulfillment”) (i.e., Ephesians 3:14-21- “For this cause I kneel...until...”).

[In a world of “instant”— learn to persevere; stop quitting prematurely]

Bill Johnson- “We owe the world an encounter with God.” (vs. “This world is not my home...passing through”; “Soon and Very Soon”)