

Kelley Lorencin (the author of the Fundamental Focus magazine) is coming to the McDonald Road SDA Church. She will be doing vespers on Sabbath, Dec 15, 2012, starting at 4:30pm. This would be a wonderful opportunity for your members to come and invite their friends to enjoy some good music and some good news about God.

Growing in Christ Lesson 12, 4Q 2012

Last Things: Jesus and the Saved

Read memory text, Acts 3:19-21: “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that the time of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”

Thoughts?

From where will our sins be blotted out? Recorded history or our characters/hearts/minds?

And what is being refreshed? Is there a connection between blotting out our sin and refreshing? Is refreshing another way of saying renewal, recreation, regeneration? And from where does this refreshing come? The presence of Jesus – Jesus is the source of our renewal.

And when does this refreshing come, this renewal of heart, this healing of character, before or after the second coming?

And what imagery does the Bible use to teach God’s plan to regenerate mankind back into his original ideal and then bring us back into perfect fellowship with him? The sanctuary.

SUNDAY & MONDAY

The Heavenly Sanctuary

What is the heavenly sanctuary? We talk about this a lot, but we make assumptions that are not in evidence, so let's take a minute and examine the evidence for the heavenly sanctuary.

The whole point of what we are saying is that we have such a High Priest, who sits at the right of the throne of the Divine Majesty **in heaven**. ²He serves as High Priest **in the Most Holy Place, that is, in the real tent which was put up by the Lord, not by human hands**.

³ Every High Priest is appointed to present offerings and animal sacrifices to God, and so our High Priest must also have something to offer. ⁴If he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer the gifts required by the Jewish Law. The work they do as priests is really **only a copy and a shadow** of what is in heaven. It is the same as it was with Moses. When he was about to build the Sacred Tent, God said to him, "Be sure to make everything **according to the pattern** you were shown on the mountain." Heb 8:1-5
GNT

What does this text tell us, that there is a sanctuary in heaven, and what Moses built was a shadow of it, built after what Moses saw, and what did Moses see? Did Moses see the sanctuary in heaven?

Moses saw a "pattern" of the sanctuary in heaven. When you see a pattern for a dress, are you seeing the dress? When you see blueprints, are you seeing the building?

So, should we conclude, that in heaven we have a giant tent made out of goatskins, acacia wood, gold, and silver?

No, this would be a false conclusion – all the old symbolism was merely to teach us a greater reality.

First, there is a sanctuary in heaven, it is greater and grander than anything on earth, and *what we see on earth is not a miniature duplicate of what is in heaven, but a symbolic representation of what is in heaven.*

Next question, according to Scripture, out of what is the sanctuary in heaven built?

- 1Cor3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, **God's building.**
- 1Cor 3:16 Don't you know that **you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?** 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and **you are that temple.**
- 2Cor 6:16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? **For we are the temple of the living God.** As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."
- EPH 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the **whole building** is joined together and rises **to become a holy temple** in the Lord. 22 And in him you **too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**
- 1PE 2:4-7 As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- **you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood**, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:
 "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be

put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, "

- Heb 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And **we are his house**, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

What do these text tell us about the sanctuary? Does it give us any indication from what the heavenly sanctuary is constructed?

So we believe there is a sanctuary in heaven, we have two options regarding what type of temple this is, one made of inanimate material, gold, pearls, wood, stone, etc. or one made of intelligent living beings.

So far, which do you think is most likely?

Let's look at other scripture and ask, does this scripture make more sense if the heavenly sanctuary is made out of intelligent beings, or inanimate material:

Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will **branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD**.¹³ It is he who will **build the temple** of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.' Zech 6:12,13

Intelligent beings or inanimate material? If the temple is a building built out of inanimate material, why would Christ have to leave heaven in order to build it? What does this mean? If the heavenly sanctuary is constructed from intelligent beings, including humans, then does it make sense he had to leave heaven in order to build it?

2CO 5:1 Now we know that if the **earthly tent** we live in is destroyed, we have **a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.** ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our **heavenly dwelling,** ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. (2Cor 5:1-4)

More consistent with an inanimate building or living being?
And which type of sanctuary can a human being build? Which type is only built by God without human hands?

HEB 8:10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

What temple is the law being put into in the new covenant, an inanimate building or living being?

- Heb 9:9 This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to **clear the conscience of the worshiper.**
- Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our consciences** from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
- Heb 10:2 “If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For **the worshipers would have been cleansed** once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.”

- Heb 10:22 sprinkled to **cleanse us from a guilty conscience** and having our bodies washed with pure water.

What type of sanctuary, inanimate, living being?

Daniel 8:14 – 2300 days and the sanctuary will be cleansed?
Inanimate building or living being?

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, **so that he sets himself up in God's temple**, proclaiming himself to be God. 2Thes 2:1-4

Mal 3:1-3 The Lord will come to his **temple**; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? **For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.** Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness...

What type of temple? Inanimate or living being?

REV 21:9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, **"Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."** **10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a**

mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with **the glory of God**, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a **jasper**, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with **twelve gates**, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.** 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 **The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

To what is this referring? What does the city represent? The Bride of Christ, which is what? The Church, which is made out of what? People, living beings. This is symbolic, describing the people of God. The city is built upon the Apostles with Christ the chief cornerstone. The gates are the 12 tribes, symbolizing it is build out of the people of God.

- The church is the bride of Christ, and her members are to yoke up with their Leader. God warns us not to defile our garments (Letter 123 1/2, 1898). {7BC 986.2}
- God calls the church His body. The church is the bride, the Lamb's wife. God is the Father of the family, the Shepherd of the flock. But a mere outward connection with any church will not save a man. It is personal faith in a personal Saviour which brings the soul into spiritual union with Christ. This truth Christ plainly teaches in the sixth chapter of John.-- Ms 121, 1899, p. 17. {16MR 277.1}
- I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to Christ to present you as a pure bride to her one husband. 2Cor 11:2 RSV

The city is measured and is in the shape of a cube, and the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary is, in the shape of a cube – any clue to what it means?

- The New Jerusalem is made of gold, the Most Holy Place is lined with gold, and Malachi 3 says Christ comes to the Temple to purify the priesthood of believers like gold

and silver, and Christ said to the church of Laodecia to buy from Him gold tried in the fire.

- The city has the names of the 12 tribes on the gates and the 144,000 are from the 12 tribes
- The foundation of the New Jerusalem is the 12 Apostles and the Lamb, and the foundation of the church is the 12 Apostles and the Lamb
- The wall of the city is made of Jasper and Christ in Rev 4:3 appears as Jasper, thus the city is “covered” or dressed in Christlikeness
- The city shines with the glory of God, and what is that glory? Who is to “give glory to God”?

The city comes down to where? A great mountain!

In the last days the **mountain** of the LORD's **temple** will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. (Isa 2:2, Mic 4:1)

What is the temple? From what is it constructed? Upon what is it built? A great mountain, then what is the mountain?

ISA 30:29 And you will sing as on the night you celebrate a holy festival: your hearts will rejoice as when people go up with flutes to the **mountain** of the LORD, to the **Rock** of Israel.

Who is the Rock of Israel? Jesus is the mountain that the temple is built on – the temple is the church of which Christ is the chief cornerstone!!!

Daniel 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the **rock** that struck the statue became a huge **mountain** and filled the whole earth.

From what is the temple constructed?

Rev 3:12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the **temple** of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will **write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem**, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

Why will we never leave the temple? Because the temple is constructed out of living beings, we are the temple!

Comparison of the Old to the New:

- In the old – blood ministered throughout; in the new – blood to be ingested by believer (Jn 6)
- In the old – priests ate the meat of the sacrificial animal – in the new the priesthood of believers are to eat ingest Christ's flesh (Jn 6)
- In the old the law was written on stone and kept in the most holy place – in the new the law is written on the heart and mind and kept in the holy place of the heart
- In the old the MH place covered in gold, in the new the believer is to buy gold from Christ
- In the old the Priests wore robes of white, in the new the priesthood of believers are to be arrayed in the perfections of Christ's character
- In the old the Priests took the blood from point to point, in the new the priesthood of believers takes the truth from person to person
- In the old the priests washed in the water from the laver before they ministered the blood, in the new the priesthood of believer is washed by the Holy Spirit before they minister the truth about God
- In the old the priests, and only the priests, met every Sabbath in the Holy Place and ate the showbread, in the

new the priesthood of believers meet every Sabbath in the church and eat the word of God.

God's law could not be kept/deposited/written in a building either in heaven or on earth because God's Law is the Law of Love and Liberty. It is a living Law; a Law that cannot be contained on stone, a Law that cannot be understood by words merely, a Law that in order to be seen and understood could only be kept/deposited/written in a living being – ADAM.

Adam was created to be the temple of God to be the repository of God's living Law of Love and Liberty. Adam was created to be the living showcase of God's character. Mankind is God's temple – the very creation designed by God to be the repository of His great Law of Love and Liberty.

But this temple has been defiled by lawlessness, by replacing God's Law of Love and Liberty with the Law of sin and death. God is working to cleanse the temple of humanity and restore His Law of Love and Liberty in us so that we can once again take our place in God's order, as the living Temple of God, the place where the Law of Love and Liberty is written and revealed.

But the Temple (mind) was defiled, God's Law displaced. So Christ came to rebuild the temple. "But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His TEMPLE. God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul." DA 161. Christ is working to cleanse our hearts and minds. To cleanse the temple of our minds! Not some building in heaven!

A few quotes from one of the founders of our church:

In the building of the sanctuary as a dwelling place for God, Moses was directed to make all things **according to**

the pattern of things in the heavens. God called him into the mount, and revealed to him **the heavenly things**, and in their similitude the tabernacle, with all that pertained to it, was fashioned. {Ed 35.2}

So to Israel, whom He desired **to make His dwelling place, He revealed His glorious ideal of character. The pattern was shown them in the mount when the law was given from Sinai** and when God passed by before Moses and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." Exodus 34:6. {Ed 35.3}

But this ideal they were, in themselves, powerless to attain. The revelation at Sinai could only impress them with their need and helplessness. **Another lesson** the tabernacle, through its service of sacrifice, was to teach--the lesson of pardon of sin, and power through the Saviour for obedience unto life. {Ed 36.1}

Through Christ was to be fulfilled the purpose of which the tabernacle was a symbol--that glorious building, its walls of glistening gold reflecting in rainbow hues the curtains inwrought with cherubim, the fragrance of ever-burning incense pervading all, the priests robed in spotless white, and in the deep mystery of the inner place, above the mercy seat, between the figures of the bowed, worshiping angels, the glory of the Holiest. **In all, God desired His people to read His purpose for the human soul.** It was the same purpose long afterward set forth by the apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit: {Ed 36.2}

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. {Ed 36.3}

We are God's great building. Every stroke, every stone put into the building is only a part of the whole. Every worker is himself to become just what God designs he should be in building his own life with pure, noble,

upright deeds, **that at the end he may be a symmetrical structure, a fair temple, honored by God** and man... Each is to stand upon his watchtower and listen attentively to that which the Spirit has to say to him, for every word and act leaves an impress not only on our characters, but upon the characters of others engaged in the work. The Lord would have you stand forth as Daniel, every phase of your character under His own ministrations, that day by day you may **grow into a structure** that will stand forth, **not as a perfect whole in itself, but connected with the work of other chosen workmen, as a beautiful temple for the Lord, a living witness** to the value, stability, and nobility of the man who keeps his eye single to the glory of God.

Your faculties are separate and distinct, yet each is dependent for its success upon the other. **So each day God works with His building, stroke upon stroke, to perfect the structure, which thus grows into a holy temple for the Lord.** One stone mislaid affects the whole building. **This figure represents human character, which is to be wrought upon, point by point. There is not to be a flaw in it, for it is the Lord's building.** Every stone must be perfectly laid, that it may endure the pressure placed upon it. God warns you and every worker to take heed how you build, **so that your building may bear the test of storm and tempest because it is riveted to the eternal Rock.** Take heed how you build. Every hour may be spent in placing the stone on the sure foundation, ready for the day of test and revelation, when we shall be seen just as we are. This warning God presents to me as essential in your case. He loves you with a love that is immeasurable. He loves your brethren in the faith, and He works with them to the same end that He works with you. **His church upon the earth is to assume divine proportions before the world, as a temple composed of living stones, every stone emitting light. This building is to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill, which cannot**

be hid. It is composed of stones laid close together, stone fitting to stone, making a solid building. All the stones are not of the same form or shape. Some are large, some are small, but each has its own crevice to fill. And the value of each stone is determined by the light it reflects to the world. This is God's plan, and He would have all who profess to believe His word fill their respective places in the great, grand work for this time.

We are, dear and much-beloved brother, living amid the perils of the last days. Every mental and physical power is to be cultivated, **for all the powers are essential to make the church a building which will represent the wisdom and character of the great Designer.** We are to cultivate the talents given us by God. They are His gifts, and are to be used in their right relation to each other, so as to make a perfect whole. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; man makes the character. The mind is the Lord's garden, and man must cultivate it earnestly in order to form a character after the divine similitude. The Lord has wrought with you, my much-respected brother, enabling you to act your part as His workman; but there are other workmen who must act their part as God's agents, His members, who help to compose the whole body. Bear in mind, all are to be united as parts of a great machine. **The Lord's church is composed of His living, working agencies who derive their power to act from the Author and Finisher of their faith. The great work resting upon God's individual workers is to be carried forward in symmetrical harmony.** *Manuscript Releases, Volume 2 [Nos. 97-161, 1958-1964]. 1993; 2002 (339). Ellen G. White Estate.*

The first tabernacle, built according to God's directions, was indeed blessed of Him. The people thus were preparing themselves to worship in the temple not made with hands--a temple in the heavens. The stones of the Temple built by Solomon were all prepared at the quarry and then brought to the Temple site. They came together

without the sound of ax or hammer. The timbers were also fitted in the forest. The furniture was likewise brought to this house all prepared for use. {3MR 231.3}

Even so, the mighty cleaver of truth has **taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple.** We want the cleaver of truth to do its work for us. **We are taken from the quarry of the world. The material must not be a dead substance but living souls, and these souls must be brought out of the quarry of the world, where the hand of God can fit them for the temple in heaven.** We are here as probationers, and we must pass under the hand of God. All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed and **we must be stones fitted for the building.** We are brought into church capacity with defects of character, but we must not retain them. **We must be fitted and squared for the building. We must be "laborers together with God," for we are "God's husbandry," we are "God's building."** In view of this we must see that our temple is not defiled with sin. We should be lively stones, not dead ones, but live ones that will reflect the image of Christ. We must be worshipers in spirit and in truth. {3MR 231.4}

So, when we speak of the heavenly sanctuary what are we speaking about?

Does this impact how we interpret the meaning of the symbolism? Do you have any questions about the symbolism?

What is Christ doing in heaven? He is directing his agencies for the healing of his people on earth!

TUESDAY

Read the third paragraph, "The second coming..." thoughts?

Satan will seek to deceive people before Christ's return – any thoughts on how he will do this?

What would Satan do that would cause people to believe he is Jesus?

What if people believed that Jesus/God imposes law, and even though he is patient, and kind, and loving, eventually, as a just ruler, he must punish rebellion? If people believe this about God, is it not a setup to be deceived by Satan?

When Satan comes pretending to be Christ and he speaks melodious words, he heals disease and appears to raise the dead, then he speaks about the need to come into unity. He states rebellion must be done away with. He reminds everyone of all he has done, including dying for their sins, but if people refuse to come to him, he will sadly be forced to execute, but before he does he will discipline with limitations on buying and selling, sanctions, imprisonment, and then, only the most obstinate will be sentenced to a just execution by a "holy" god.

How many will be duped by this?

How can you tell if it is Satan or Christ?

- By his feet? If the feet don't touch?
- By every eye seeing him? What does it mean? Every eye sees him at once, or wherever he goes he heals blindness so every eye sees him?
- What about the brightness of his coming, if he had some of his angels come in brightness, could you tell they weren't quite as bright as God's angels? "They are only 60 watts we are waiting for the 100 watt angels?"
- By the Sabbath? (Then why weren't the Jews 2000 years ago able to recognize Jesus? They had the Sabbath!)

The only way to tell is to know God, his law of love, his character, His methods, to understand how God actually works, to reject Satan's idea of who God is and how God

works. Those who promote the idea that God, in justice, must use his power to inflict punishment are setting the world up to accept Satan's counterfeit.

I like this description of why the wicked are not in heaven and God's attitude toward them:

Those who have chosen Satan as their leader and have been controlled by his power **are not prepared** to enter the presence of God. Pride, deception, licentiousness, cruelty, have become **fixed in their characters**. Can they enter heaven to dwell forever with those whom they despised and hated on earth? Truth will never be agreeable to a liar; meekness will not satisfy self-esteem and pride; purity is not acceptable to the corrupt; disinterested love does not appear attractive to the selfish. What source of enjoyment could heaven offer to those who are wholly absorbed in earthly and selfish interests? {GC 542.1}

Could those whose lives have been spent in rebellion against God be suddenly transported to heaven and witness the high, the holy state of perfection that ever exists there,-- every soul filled with love, every countenance beaming with joy, enrapturing music in melodious strains rising in honor of God and the Lamb, and ceaseless streams of light flowing upon the redeemed from the face of Him who sitteth upon the throne,--could those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God, of truth and holiness, mingle with the heavenly throng and join their songs of praise? Could they endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, no; years of probation were granted them, that they might form characters for heaven; but they have never trained the mind to love purity; they have never learned the language of heaven, and now it is too late. **A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven.** Its purity, holiness, and peace would be torture to them; the glory of God would be a consuming fire. They would long to flee from that holy place. **They would welcome destruction,** that they

might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. **The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice. Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves**, and just and merciful on the part of God.
{GC 542.2}

Like the waters of the Flood the fires of the great day declare God's verdict that **the wicked are incurable**. They have no disposition to submit to divine authority. Their will has been exercised in revolt; and when life is ended, **it is too late to turn the current of their thoughts in the opposite direction, too late to turn from transgression to obedience, from hatred to love**.
{GC 543.1}

THURSDAY

Do we go to heaven when we die? If the dead are not in heaven, where are they?

Death and Resurrection – read 1Thes 4:13-18

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him**. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, **will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep**. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Who does the Lord bring with him when he returns? Those who have “fallen asleep” in Jesus, then where were they? Were they in heaven with Jesus?

Then what about:

the dust returns to the ground it came from,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Ecc 12:7

Thoughts?

When God formed Adam’s body out of the dirt of the earth, the body wasn’t alive until God breathed into Adam the “breath” of life and Adam *became* a living being. (Gen 2:7) The “breath” breathed into Adam is the Hebrew *neshamah*, the same “breath” of life the animals receive. (Gen. 7:21, 22; Eccl. 3:19) And, when a person dies there is “no breath [*neshamah*, life] left in him” (1 Kings 17:17). But, interestingly, even though this “breath” is no longer in the dead body, the Scripture uses a different word to describe what returns to God at death.

Ecclesiastes tells us that, at death, the *ruach* returns to God who gave it. (12:7) *Ruach* occurs 377 times in the Old Testament and is translated “breath” of the body 33 times as in Eze 37:5. So, on the surface, one could argue that God gave the “breath” of life and at death it returns to God. Yet, *ruach* is also translated as “spirit” or vitality 76 times (Jdg 15:19), “courage” (Jos 2:11), “temper” (Jdg 8:3), the seat of emotions 3 times (1Sam 1:15), moral character 16 times (Eze 11:19), and the “mind” 9 times (Eze 11:5). What this suggests is that the “breath” given to Adam became personalized and what returns to God is more than just life energy, it is the individuality of the sentient being.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:28 don’t fear the one who destroy the body, but the one who can destroy both body and soul.

The Greek for soul is $\psi\upsilon\chi\acute{\eta}$ *psuche*, from where we get “psyche,”

which is the root for words like psychiatry and psychology, and it means the individuality or consciousness of the person.

Do these text give us insight into what Paul is talking about when he says Christ brings with him those who have fallen asleep?

I have electronic medical records in my office. I use a laptop connected via a wireless connection to a server in another room. Everything I record on my laptop is automatically backed up on the server in the other room. If someone were to destroy my laptop, smash it, melt it, we could say that my laptop is “dead.” But if I get a new piece of hardware (a new laptop) and connect it to my server and download all the stored information I have just “resurrected” by laptop.

I believe this is what the Jesus and the Bible are teaching. During our life everything we do, all the choices we make are forming our characters, our individualities. And everything going on in the mind is recorded (backed up) perfectly in the “Lamb’s book of life,” God’s heavenly “server.” If someone kills us, “destroys the body” they cannot touch the “*psuche*” our individuality which is stored perfectly safe in heaven. When we die, the spirit (*ruach*), our unique individuality, returns to God, safely stored awaiting download into a new body. Then when Christ returns he brings with him the stored individualities of all the saints and downloads them into perfect bodies created by Christ and thus they are resurrected to live eternally, joining those who are alive and transformed in a twinkling of an eye. We will discuss the end of the wicked in a later chapter.

Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. **The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved.** In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the

breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him. {Hvn 40.1}

Thoughts?

WEDNESDAY

Awaiting the advent – how should we utilize our time and resources while we await the advent?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1-3