

The World is Dead

Where the oil is going all the way down to the edge of the robe, that is where eternal life is, that is where our God commands a blessing.

Isaiah 24:4-6 — It talks about where the people of the earth dwell, or the place where the ~~dead~~ *dead* dwell — it is the same thing. Thus we can see more clearly that we have been delivered out of the world — the place of death — and into a place where there is life. There are two places on the earth — the *world* where there is a cessation of life, cut off from God, and then there is the place where His Spirit dwells. They are two contrasting places and therefore it should be a contrasting society where we are so separated from the world (though still *in* the world) that it can be the world's light (but not of the world).

It is a place where people of the world can come into a place of light.

All through the Bible you see these things about the world. We were saved from the world. The world is the place of death. There is no life in the world as far as humankind is concerned. There is no life in human beings except in the *place* where our Father's people are — where they are called sons of the living God (Rom 9:26). 1 Tim 2:8 talks about every *place*; in 1 Cor 1:2 it says, "in every *place*", and this comes from Dt 12:5 — in every *place* where He causes His name to dwell.

According to the use of the word *world*, the world is a place of the dead — *world* and *dead* is the same thing. Therefore, "God so loved the dead." (You could write a *Grateful* paper about this.) God loves the dead and He wants them to come *alive*. We were all dead. Also, many places in the scriptures, like Eph 2:1-5, talk about the *dead*. It actually says that we were all dead because we were part of the world and everyone in the world is dead to God, cut off from Him, separated, not knowing Him. They know *of* Him, but they don't know Him personally by the Spirit that He gives to the living. Once you know His Son you come to know Him and are led by Him to be His people and obey His word. Eph 2:1-5 says we were once *dead*.

Rom 10:8-17 speaks about salvation. In verse 9, when it says *confess*, it is what you own, it is what is yours, what you have, what is given to you, the faith you own. And also, you must believe in your heart because that is what confession is, that is what you own. You confess what has come to you — the faith that was a gift that is coming to you. If you believe from the heart you will be saved. Verse 11 — If you have ever been disappointed, it means you have not received the faith to confess that He is Sovereign, because no one can possibly be disappointed if he has truly put his faith and trust in the Son of God. This is the faith that you receive from Him and call out on (verse 13). Verse 14 — They cannot call on Him because you have to believe in your heart and faith comes by hearing from someone sent from a *place* where His name dwells. Verse 16 — You see they did not all *obey* the good news.

So we know how faith comes — through hearing. Faith has come to us initially and it is ours, we own it. We will always have faith; it has been given to us and it continues to come to us. So faith is something that comes to us by hearing. At one time we were without faith (Eph 2:12), but faith came to us. So faith comes to us — the word *come* means to arrive at a particular result or end. It is a progression of coming to us. It is out here and it is coming to you and it increases and increases more and more until you have it and it is yours — then you have faith. You believe in your heart that God raised Yahshua from the dead and then you cry out to Him with that faith and that transfers you out of the world where you and everyone else is dead and into the place where God lives (Col 1:13). You become alive with Him. At one time we were of the world but now we are no longer of the world. We are *in* the world but not *of* the world and that is salvation.

And faith continues to come to us all the time. By what? Hearing the word of Messiah. It came to us and it continues to come to us by hearing. That is why we have to continue to speak the word to one another. We *have* to. That is how we are going to continue to have faith. It must reach the end of the robe. You cannot just wait for someone to teach — or go to church on Sunday. That is not salvation. Salvation is the place where we live, where His name dwells, where life is separated from the world and a light to the

world, in order to enlighten the world of their death, unbelief, and lack of faith.

You can read in Eph 2:12. It is just one of the verses about the world. “At one time you were without Messiah, separate from Messiah and excluded from the common wealth of Israel, the citizenship, the community of Israel.” You cannot get out of “commonwealth” because that is what it is — it is the holy nation of spiritual Israel. So therefore it equates Messiah with His Body which is the community of Israel. At one time we were separated from Messiah, we didn't have salvation, we were strangers to the promises He gave His people. Now we have come into Messiah, into His promises. We were in the world — “without hope, without God, in the world.”

You can see that the world is a place of death. It is a place where people are dead. It is called death. It is the same word — *world = dead*. It is where you once dwelt — in death. The Israelites called it death — the place where the Gentiles, the *goyim*, the dogs were — those who were not accomplishing God's purpose. As far as the Israelites were concerned, those people were like dogs. But now God shows His love to the dogs (to the world) and we are turned into something God can use to accomplish His purpose.

God so loved the dead — the world — that He gave His Son, and whoever believes in Him will not die twice, he will not die a second death. The world is already experiencing a first death because they are separated from God. But through our Master they are brought out of the first death and they are given everlasting life so they never have to experience the second death. You can read about the second death in Mt 25:41; Rev 14:10-11; 19:2-3. It was never meant for man, but only for Satan and his angels, and also all those who follow Satan — those are the dead. But we have come out of that kingdom and we are following the Savior who saved us from Satan's eternal punishment. It is Satan's punishment because Satan deserves it. And everyone who goes there deserves it because they deliberately did wrong — even though they knew it was wrong, they deliberately went against their conscience.

I'm thankful we've been rescued out of Eph 2:1,2,5. We were following the ruler of the world, the evil one, and (Rev 20:10) he is thrown into the lake of fire forever and ever. Everyone who follows him and goes against the truth deserves the same punishment. That is justice, because they deliberately went against their conscience and did evil and would not listen to the truth and rejected the truth. Our Father is a good wonderful judge. He judges right.

Rev 14:9-11 — All the people in the world who are dead, they are going to take the mark of Satan because they are in tune with the spirit and power of the air (Eph 2:2). They were listening to what he said and take his identification mark and so they have to suffer the eternal consequences. Our Father so graciously wrote that to us (about the lake of fire) to deliver us from the eternal consequences. It was His love message to us so we would never have to experience death. Only an evil spirit thinks it is bad to talk about the lake of fire. But it is gracious love, it is mercy that our Father delivered us from that. Your great grandchildren will be speaking this word in Rev 14:9-11. That is the explicit and absolute truth. And if we exclude these things from the gospel, it means we are not preaching the gospel and it is another gospel. Because that is the consequence of man's rebellion against the Creator, the consequence of going against their conscience.

The final expression of that rebellion is that even though the 144,000 are out pleading, “Don't take the mark! Worship God!” and are calling people out of the harlot church, they still will not listen. The 144,000 are hot, burned by the sun, hungry. It is only through the graciousness of people who receive them that they have any food or any comfort whatsoever. That is why He says in Mt 25:34 that whoever does receive the 144,000, they will be blessed forever and ever. Our Father has a place in the eternal nations for those people. Our Father has these people picked out already. They are going to receive our children in order for their job to be complete. Your own offspring will be part of the 144,000, but only if you pass the life of Messiah on to your children. They have to be fathered.

There is a lot in us that rejects talking about the lake of fire because we think, “Well, Christianity talks about it, we've heard fire and brimstone preachers so much.” But that is only a *ploy*, a trick of the evil one to keep us from talking about that. And especially now we have to be talking about that because it is part of the gospel of salvation. How are they going to know what they are saved from if they don't know they are

delivered from exactly that description of the place prepared for Satan and his angels — the lake of fire. And it is in the word for our benefit so we can talk to people about it. And do not be ashamed to talk to people about it in the proper time, when the talk comes around to it. We *have* to speak to them about it and show it to them in the word because it is a fact — that is what is going to happen. You cannot erase that from the Bible. It is in Revelation. You better not take anything out of the book of Revelation. It is not the whole gospel unless we tell them what our Father was so gracious to save us from.

The most spiritual people who ever lived on the face of the earth will be talking about this — and they will really talk about it. It is part of the three messages that they are sent out to preach. Telling people to live by their conscience, worship the Creator God and woe to Babylon the great and telling them not to take the mark of the beast, which would seal their fate forever and ever. Once you reject the truth, you are sealed with that mark. It may not be the mark of the beast yet, but a mark in your heart and you cannot be forgiven.

Let us not leave that out of the gospel. The comprehensive gospel includes eternal life and eternal death. You have to show them the two extremes — life and death. When it penetrates their hearts they cry out for salvation because the fear of God comes to their heart and they want to be saved. We are saved from the fear of death (Heb 2:14). We are saved from fear of that death. If you are fearless of death you cannot be saved. We all had a fear of death. Regardless of what you might think, *your* spirit was fearful of death. But you were willing to do our Father's will.

We have to have wisdom when we talk about that. It is powerful. We have to use the word of God right. Paul talked about using the word of God rightly. We have to learn how to use it right.

Ben Naby: I understood more the difference between the world and the earth. The world has a ruler and is designed to deteriorate man's conscience, to get man to go against his conscience, to the point that the evil that works, through the prince of the world, in the hearts of men who are inclined to hear from him, is now destroying the earth with disease, death, trash, pollution, cancer, AIDS, ruining the ozone layer so their skin gets burned with cancer. And it makes men bitter at our Creator, not really seeing the one who's behind all of it. And the world is getting more and more like that as time goes on: TV, radio, everything about the world. But this week when we heard about it, I realized something about the sea of fire. The sea of fire is something I've never really talked to people about because the way I'd heard it before, it put an impression on you that God is against man. But what I saw was that it isn't that at all. Actually it was our God's kindness that he would destroy the accuser, the evil prince and all of his evil hosts. That's what it was created for and that was love — out of a good God's heart. He wants in His heart that man would never suffer in the sea of fire. He created it to put an end to the accuser. It puts a wholesome fear in you that man has fallen and is subject to listen to the prince of the world and that he could suffer the same fate as the accuser if he goes against his conscience. I'm thankful for the mercy our God has for man.

The instant Adam and Eve fell, the Creator put them immediately into a second covenant. He didn't wait. He loved men so much that He put that instinctive natural law in their hearts so they would never go to the lake of fire (Gen 3:16-19). He did not design the lake of fire for man. He designed conscience for man, that they would not go against their conscience, though surely they are going to fall sometimes.