

In the Image of God

June 2013

Eternal Life

Almost all religions offer their believers several visions of eternal life: reincarnation, heaven with those virgins, heaven as well as hell and purgatory. These all offer life upon death of the believer. Who's right? What does God say?

1John 3:8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
1John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Seed: anything springs [forth]; Heb--to sow; figuratively, to disseminate, plant, fructify.

His seed — the living word of God, made by the Holy Spirit the seed in us of a new life and the continual mean[s] of sanctification. JFB

1John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

The light God created was not only physical light with all its complexities but also the spiritual light coming from God's Words: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." These very words begin the spiritual light. Who believes that God is One and there is no other Person but the Creator. Most believe what scientist contend that the Big Bang, who knows how that happened, began the creation. Other religions contend that there is more than one individual is the Creator: "Let us make man in our image..." They ignore the consistence of God's being One stated over one thousand times in the Word and will not understand that those in high positions of authority usually speak in the plural to refer to themselves as the queen saying let us say or do that.

Gen. 1:4 God saw that the light was good;

The point is that the demon, pretending to be of the light, has deceived almost all to do things not of the word, or taking scripture out of context as it did when it tempted Jesus.

2Cor. 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan [itself] masquerades as an angel of light.

Here the demon began the fairytale of life myths as mentioned above.

Gen. 3:4 “No! You will not die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

However, God destroys the darkness by His Word, not by some masquerader.

*Job 12:22 “He reveals mysteries from the darkness
And brings the deep darkness into light.*

1Cor. 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.

God gives the believers the call to bring a blessing to others. He tells them to proclaim a blessing to all.

Matt 10:27 “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops; so that may be given the light to walk in the Way.

Job 26:10 “He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters At the boundary of light and darkness.

*Job 29:3 When His lamp shone over my head,
And by His light I walked through darkness;*

Believers need to rise up from the lethargy of the day-to-day darkness and come alive in word and deed and proclaim the Words of God, the True Light.

Eph. 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. 14 For this reason it says,

*“Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”*

While we did not create the physical and spiritual light, we can reflect the light within and shine out and cry out about the light of life.

*Job 38:19 ¶“Where is the way to the dwelling of light?
And darkness, where is its place,*

*Psa. 18:28 For You light my lamp;
The LORD my God illumines my darkness.*

Jesus, adopted of God, presented God's Word in a way that lights up the World, by his refusing to sin, dying for other's sins and, thus, give all who have faith the light of life.

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

God named Israel as His chosen people in that day, but they eventually moved on. However, God now chose those who trusted Him, and they returned His love by walking in His will and way. God opened the way for them to become His rulers in love and ministers in grace.

Believers also are part of the same priesthood like Melchizedek who was also the king under God. Believers are part of the Kingdom of God, the holy nation of God, for they are His Sons and Daughters. Historically, some children of kings do not act like princes and princesses, which brought shame to that house, but most took their training seriously and learned to be a ruler; hopefully an honest and just ruler like his father.

Jesus went through that training from his education at the synagogue at age five until he became a rabbi at age thirty. He then received his first testing as the demon tempted him to give up his historic right, as God just adopted him ("my beloved son"). However, Jesus remained as the newly and holy adopted son of the Father.

God who called Jesus into the light out of the darkness as an unique person who would shine as one living according to God's treasured way and give an example to others who would follow him as the ones also adopted of the Father.

We are chosen and must understand our great responsibility and position given to us. Let nothing deter or detain us.

1Pet. 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

While our physical bodies decline, the eternal life arises within until our bodies will reflect the eternal life God gave Jesus at the resurrection.

1Pet. 2:5 you also, like living stones [to be alive, to live a life; in the NT this can also refer to the resurrection life, Jesus Christ is then "the Living One], are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We live now as the ones promised to be in the Kingdom of God; we rule over our ways according to God's Way and bless all who come in contact with us by lighting up their

lives by our words and deeds. God gave us the same positions as Jesus under him, of course, to be priests under the rule and priesthood of Melchisedec. We represent the holy nation while located apart from it. God considers His own as special treasures above all others; their works give glory and praise to Our Father in heaven, never descending to selfishness, lust and pridefulness. His goodness reigns in His People.

Rev. 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

“Contrast in the privileges and destinies of believers. Compare the similar contrast with the preceding context. **chosen** — “elect” of God, even as Christ your Lord is. **generation** — implying the unity of spiritual origin and kindred of believers as a class distinct from the world. **royal** — kingly. Believers, like Christ, the antitypical Melchisedec, are at once *kings* and *priests*. Israel, in a spiritual sense, was designed to be the same among the nations of the earth. The full realization on earth of this, both to the literal and the spiritual Israel, is as yet future. **holy nation** — antitypical to Israel. **peculiar people** — literally, “a people *for an acquisition*,” that is, whom God chose to be *peculiarly His*: Acts 20:28, “purchased,” literally, “acquired.” God’s “*peculiar treasure*” above others. **show forth** — *publish abroad*. Not *their own* praises but *His*. They have no reason to magnify themselves above others for once they had been in the same darkness, and only through God’s grace had been brought to the light which they must henceforth *show forth* to others. **praises** — *Greek*, “virtues,” “excellencies”: His glory, *mercy* (1 Peter 2:10), *goodness*.” *JFB*

We must never forget the price paid for our adoption and never lose sight of this particular gift, no, of our highest relation and position as God’s adopted.

Acts 20:28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Greek, 1 Peter 2:3; Numbers 14:17, 18; Isaiah 63:7 [I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.)]. The same term is applied to believers,]

Being adopted by God means more than just nice words. This adoption is more like being begotten in that we have received something greater than being a son in name only. It means we have become someone greater than we were; our heredity is no longer from our earthly family but from our Godly Father. We became a new creature, creation, not subject to the old ways. We look the same, we talk the same, we walk the same, and we appear in every way the same. However, our hearts and minds are no longer the same no matter how much we try to revert to the times before baptism and our being reborn coming out of the watery grave; therefore, we received God’s mind and character when

He willed His Spirit into our minds. We now have God's mind and character; we need to practice using these as ours and keep from straying back into the evil past.

2Pet. 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Nothing must deter His Sons and Daughters from behaving as Our Father's Children as they practice and live the life of moral excellence.

2Pet. 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,

2Pet. 1:6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,

2Pet. 1:7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

2Pet. 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Pet. 1:9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

2Pet. 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

Our Father called His Own out of the darkness of paganism and the lingering ways of the past covenant into the spiritual light from God that destroys the darkness of sin, sickness and death. Only the blind stumble doing what the demon demands.

2 Peter 1:5. **of him who hath called you** — (2 Peter 1:3). **out of darkness** — of heathen and even Jewish ignorance, sin, and misery, and so out of the dominion of the prince of darkness. **marvellous** — Peter still has in mind Psalms 118:23. **light** — It is called "His," that is, God's. Only the (spiritual) *light* is created by God, not *darkness*. In Isaiah 45:7, it is physical darkness and evil, not moral, that God is said to *create*, the punishment of sin, not sin itself. Peter, with characteristic boldness, brands as *darkness* what all the world calls *light*; reason, without the Holy Spirit, in spite of its vaunted power, is spiritual darkness. "It cannot apprehend what faith is: there it is stark blind; it gropes as one that is without eyesight, stumbling from one thing to another, and knows not what it does" [LUTHER].

Our Father blesses His Children with the knowledge of Him, with peace and grace and with life eternal by being born again because of Jesus' resurrection.

1Pet. 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Our Father shapes His Own Children by promises, love, instruction and training.

Heb 12: 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

Light brings life both physically and especially spiritually. Sadly, those who dwell in darkness miss the opportunity, for now, of the wonder and love of eternal light.

*Psa. 112:4 Light arises in the darkness for the upright;
He is gracious and compassionate and righteous.*

*Is. 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;
Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*

*Is. 9:2 The people who walk in darkness
Will see a great light;
Those who live in a dark land,
The light will shine on them.*

They just do not know and will not understand the light of life.

*Is. 42:16 "I will lead the blind by a way they do not know,
In paths they do not know I will guide them.
I will make darkness into light before them
And rugged places into plains.
These are the things I will do,
And I will not leave them undone."*

*Is. 45:7 The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating calamity;
I am the LORD who does all these. All can find a way to help the needy by
works better than all else.*

*Is. 58:10 And if you give yourself to the hungry
And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
Then your light will rise in darkness
And your gloom will become like midday.*

Let Our Father's entire Children stand in the light shouting from the tops of the high places praising God in word and deed.