

I believe that all of our students were with GOD before He ever created this earth. Our friends have eyes that do see and ears that do hear because they know everything. But the trouble with our students is that they don't remember. In fact, our students are just starting to realize that deep within their own SPIRITS are the answers to life's perplexing problems. We all knew each other at least 6000 years ago. We all agreed to the script that we are walking out right now.

IT IS WRITTEN OF ME

The book of Hebrews says a strange thing, "I come (in the VOLUME OF THE BOOK it is written of me) to do thy will, O GOD" (Heb. 10:7). Scholars universally agree that the quote belongs to our Savior JESUS CHRIST.

WHAT BOOK? WHEN?

This quote in Hebrews came from Psalm 40:7. It says the very same thing. So we conclude that the VOLUME OF THE BOOK was written before Psalms. The first five books of the Bible were written before any others. In the earliest of the books of the Bible we find, "and if not, blot me out of THY BOOK which thou hast written." (Exodus 32:32).

Here is reference to a book written by GOD Himself which was older than Genesis or Exodus.

THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK

GOD wrote about JESUS (and us) before the Bible was; written.

The quote indicates that the job that JESUS was sent to do on earth was fully recorded in THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK a long long time before JESUS ever started to walk out His script.

I am going to try to show you why I have come to believe that each of our students has a job to do which was fully recorded in THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK a long, long time ago. I am going to try to show you that your life isn't so bad when you see the big picture. I'm going to try to get your mind off the trees and on to the forest.

PREDESTINATION

That sounds like predestination. And that is a never-ending question and argument. I believe that all of our students were predestined to walk out a script written by GOD for His purposes - not ours! "For whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29).

BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, Paul wrote about YOU when he said, "According as he hath chosen us in him BEFORE the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4).

BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

You are the object of, - "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to HIS own PURPOSE and grace, which was given us in CHRIST JESUS <u>BEFORE</u> the world began" (II Tim. 1:9).

Are we puppets on a string? In a way. But not everyone. Some are. Some aren't. You don't have to be. You may want to be.

TAKE OUT A PEOPLE

"GOD at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out a people for his name" (Acts 15:14). It is strange that GOD chose to "take out a people" rather than to save them all. You, my dear students, are in that select group. GOD must have had a reason to take you out.

SOME CAN NOT HEAR

"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Matt. 3:15). Some people are not supposed to see or hear.

Some people have good PHYSICAL EARS and bad SPIRITUAL EARS.

I believe JESUS is saying to you - "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear" (Matt. 13:16).

SPIRIT SOUL BODY

Obviously, you were not there in your physical body when, "There was a day when the sons of GOD came to present themselves before the Lord" (Job 1:6, 2:1). And yet you were there - in SPIRIT. You are a son of GOD, you know (I John 3:2). You do remember everything that ever happened in heaven and on the earth in your SPIRIT, but you were NOT there in your SOUL, so your MIND doesn't remember. Your trouble is that you are trying to remember with your MIND, HEAD, SOUL and it will never work. The memory of those events lies locked up in your SPIRIT. Your jailer is your own SOUL.

If you die, your BODY and SOUL go to the destroyer, but your SPIRIT returns to GOD. I said RETURNS. That means that you were there with GOD in the first place. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was (BODY): and the SPIRIT shall RE-TURN unto GOD who gave it" (Ecc. 12:7). This adds light as to how you can have a natural father (of your PHYSICAL BODY) and also have a supernatural GOD FATHER (of your SPIRIT). "Be in subjection to the FATHER of SPIRITS and LIVE" (Heb. 12:9). "Our FATHER, which art in HEAVEN." (Matthew 6:9). Aren't you glad that you have read the book <u>1,2,3</u> THIRD SALVATION so that you can easily understand the difference between SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY? Most Evangelicals, Fundamentals, Pentecostals and Charisimatics can not - you know!

YOUR EMBRYO IN THE BOOK

You should identify with David as he said, "Thine eyes did see my substance (embryo), yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 39:16). GOD wrote a plan for your BODY in his BOOK. Tall, short, fast, slow, dark or light hair, blue or brown eyes; they all were listed before you were born and I believe before the foundation of the world.

Before there was a physical embryc of Jeremiah there was a SPIRIT of Jeremiah that GOD knew. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb and sanctified thee" (Jeremiah 1:5). I believe that the same thing is true about every one of our students. You have a great past and a marvelous future.

PREEXISTANCE OF SPIRIT

You came from GOD (Ecc 12:7). You were with GOD in SPIRIT when the morning stars shouted for joy. You were in line when the sons of GOD presented themselves before the Lord. Your SPIRIT was there not SOUL (MIND) - and not BODY. That's why you can't remember it. But sometimes you know things that you have no way of knowing. Most of our students testify to having experiences wherein they knew what someone was going to say or do before they did it. At that time the eternal knowing from within (the SPIRIT) gets the signal past our dull minds and we know we know. That is a SPIRITUAL knowing without any mental input.

Speaking of knowing, you really should read Job 38:21 in some of the modern translations. For instance, in the NEW AMERICAN BIBLE it reads, "You know, because you were born before them, and the number of your years is great"; but the translators of the KJV could not believe what the Hebrew was saying so they rendered the passage, "Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?" In other words, the KJV translators just did not have the comprehension or the guts to render it the way it is. Praise GOD for modern scholarship and versions. (Thanks to Carl Armstrong for this addition to the puzzle.)

SOUL TROUBLE

It is a normal reaction for a Christian to feel bad when he discovers that his trouble is in his SOUL, MIND, INTELLECT or WILL.

You might take comfort in the fact that JESUS had SOUL TROUBLE, too! Many theologians would like to cut this out of the Bible - but I receive comfort from it, so I would like to leave it in. "NOW IS MY SOUL TROUBLED" (John 12:27). Even GOD incarnate in flesh had SOUL TROUBLE. JESUS obviously did not want to walk out the end of His script. He did not want to leave His friends and go to the cross. At the Garden of Gethsemane He said, "My SOUL IS EXCEEDING SORROWFUL, EVEN UNTO DEATH." (Matt. 26:38).

LET THIS PASS

To me, the most moving passage in the whole Bible follows. "O my Father, if it be possible, LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME." (Matt. 26:39).

Jesus remembered His script: He knew what He had to do. And He didn't like it. In fact, He asked GOD TO CHANGE THE SCRIPT.

CHANGE THE SCRIPT

Most every Christian has had to deal with that thought at one time or another. Most everyone wants changes in their lives which would result in a more comfortable, more pleasant walk. JESUS had just left the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. The scriptures say that He loved them. He did not want to leave them. This submarine sailor knows a little bit of what it is like to have to follow a higher order, ignore your own needs, and leave your loved ones. But, at least this sailor thought that he had a chance to come back. JESUS knew that it would be thousands of years before He could return to his loved ones. No wonder His SOUL TROUBLED Him. We know our loved ones in the SOUL realm. I really believe that JESUS wanted GOD to rewrite His script. "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD falling to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

JESUS' WILL (OUR WILL)

The will of JESUS was to remain alive and stay with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. But that was not in the PLANS and PURPOSES of GOD. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love GOD, to them who are the called according to HIS PURPOSE" (Romans 8:28).

When we are responding to our SOUL input of what we can SEE, HEAR, SMELL, TASTE and FEEL - then OUR OWN PURPOSE becomes paramount. When we can get out of our SOUL and into the SPIRIT, - then we are willing to operate in HIS (GOD'S) PURPOSE. In other words - we are NOT HERE FOR OUR DAM PURPOSE. We are on the earth FOR HIS PURPOSE.

GOD'S WILL

Sure it takes blood sweat and tears to get out of our own WILL and PURPOSE. But our goal is not to get OUT. It is to get INTO GOD'S WILL and PURPOSE. Then we can say,

"But for this CAUSE came I unto this hour" (John 12:27). Then we can identify with JESUS in saying, "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as THOU WILT - THY WILL BE DONE" (Matt 26:39-42).

I disagree with most theologians who try to explain away the plain meaning of these passages. I believe that the WILL of JESUS and the WILL of GOD were absolutely different at this time - and after blood sweat and tears, JESUS CHANGED HIS WILL.

WHY DID JESUS CHANGE?

"For the JOY that was set before him (he) endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2), JESUS changed HIS WILL to GOD'S WILL for the JOY SET BEFORE HIM. JESUS read the next page of His script. He knew how the act would end - so he walked out the painful part in order to get to the JOYFUL part, Concerning this, the main difference between JESUS and our students is that JESUS could remember how His script ends; we can't.

WHAT IF I REFUSE?

For the past two years our GOD has allowed me to teach these lessons to thousands of Christians all over the U.S. Our cassette tape lesson VOLUME OF THE BOOK was made on location (before a live audience). But later on in time a question was asked (and answer given) that I now wish was on the teaching tape. Here it is. Dave, I follow what you are saying and I think I believe it. But you don't know how bad of a tragedy I am having to walk through. Dave, I want to throw in the towel and call it quits. After hearing you I now wonder what will happen to me if I refuse to walk out my script. And how will GOD accomplish His PURPOSE if I do refuse?

Dear student - do not ever think that GOD depends on you for the completion of His purpose. If you refuse your script you will go the way of all flesh. You will have to go to heaven. You will be overcome by the last enemy.

As for GOD, and His PURPOSE, Esther asked Mordecai the same question. His answer to her is my answer to you. "If thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time (if you change your script) then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews FROM ANOTHER PLACE, but thou shall be destroyed" (Esther 4:14).

Listen, if you think that your script is too hard - go ahead and die.

Our GOD has a stand-in already waiting in the wings of the stage. Your stand-in has studied your part, knows the lines and is waiting for the chance to "do his stuff." He will arise from another place. He, not you, will bring enlargement and deliverance.

Our GOD will have HIS WILL and HIS PUR-POSE in this earth - with you or without you.

Your question should NOT be,"What if I refuse?"

Your question should be, "What is the JOY that is set before me? I need the motivation to walk out my script!" "Saviours shall come up on Mount Zion, ... and the kingdom shall be the Lord's" (Obadiah 21).

A LONG TIME AGO

I believe that we all sat (IN SPIRIT) at the "great round table in the sky" over 6000 years ago. Our scripts were handed to us and we read and memorized them (IN SPIRIT). Then I looked over your shoulder and pointed to a section and laughed and said, "Look what you are going to have to do," and we all laughed with you when you said, "I can do it!" But, then you looked back at my script and said, "And look at what you are going to do!"