

The Father of Lights Part-4

This part 4 of the series called “The Father of Lights” is meant to take us deeper into the understanding of who our Heavenly Father truly is, and how we can relate to Him in His kingdom. Many people know about Him as “Heavenly Father”, but do we really know Him deep down inside our souls?

Psalm 80:1 HCSB “Listen, **Shepherd of Israel**, who guides Joseph like a flock; You who sit enthroned on the cherubim, rise up (or **TPT**: “Shine forth from your throne of dazzling light.).” **TPT note**: “Joseph, as a metaphor, becomes a picture of the saga of God’s people once imprisoned and now set free to rule and reign.”

Selwyn Hughes writes these words in “Our Primary View of Him”:

“Why did David choose to think of God as His Shepherd? The picture of God we carry deep in our hearts is the one we relate to whenever we find ourselves surrounded by trouble or difficulties. But perhaps what is more important is this – we will interpret every event of our lives in accordance with the inner picture that we have of Him.

“When I have asked people during counseling to describe to me their **primary** view of God, I have been surprised that so often they see Him not as a loving Shepherd, but as an austere and stern Judge. God **is** a Judge, of course – as David discovered when he committed adultery with Bathsheba – but that is not His **primary** relationship to His children. Someone has pointed out that the two most beautiful illustrations of God’s relationship to His people given in Scripture are those of a Father and a Shepherd. It is interesting also that the 2 best-known passages in the whole of God’s Word – the Lord’s Prayer and Psalm 23 – use these analogies.

“What kind of picture of God, I wonder, do you carry deep in your heart? If your **primary** view of God is as a Judge, then you will tend to interpret your problems as God’s judgment upon you, rather than an opportunity to experience in your troubles His tender love and care. Make no mistake about it – the image of God that you carry deep in your heart is the one that you will relate to in a moment of crisis.” **Prayer:** So ask the Father right now to help you develop a true image of Him in your heart: a picture that is exposed, not by your own feelings and ideas about Him, but from the principles that lie hidden in His precious Word. He will reveal Himself just for the asking in faith!

Let’s Talk About the Rule of David’s Son & His Body

Acts 13:12-23 Here we find the Apostle Paul standing up in a synagogue at Antioch in Turkey to encourage the people.

The **SFLB** says that “Most of the sermons in Acts contain 4 elements:

(1) A proclamation that the age of the Messiah has finally come;
(2) quotations from the OT to prove that Jesus is the Messiah; (3) a review of the life and ministry of Jesus, especially His resurrection; & (4) a call to hear the message, repent & believe.”

13:21-23 TPT *“The people craved for a king, so God gave them one from the tribe of Benjamin: Saul, the son of Kish, who ruled for forty years. 22. After removing him, God raised up David to be king, for God said of him, ‘**I have found in David, son of Jesse, a man who always pursues My heart & will accomplish all that I have destined him to do.**’ This verse refers to the Messiah!*

23. *From David’s lineage God brought Israel a Savior, just as He promised. 24. So before Jesus appeared, John preached the message of a baptism of repentance (Aram. is “the baptism of grace”) to prepare all of Israel.”*

Get Ready, Get Ready, Get Ready

What was the baptism of repentance (or grace) to prepare all of Israel for? It was to get the people ready to turn from the Law to Grace; from the rule of Judaism, legalism & works righteousness in the O.T. to the age of grace, the coming of the Kingdom of God and His Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. It was repentance from sin to prepare the heart of man to become the residence of God by His Holy Spirit. John the Baptist prophesied about it.

God Searches for Men & Women to Perfect (i.e. David)

God doesn't look for perfect people, but for people to perfect! The Lord looked for a faithful man in Genesis & found Abraham. Then He needed to find a king who would be a forerunner for His Son Jesus & He found a shepherd boy, David to whom He gave great & precious promises, some of which are found in Psalm 89.

SFLB note: "This is a messianic psalm reaffirming the Davidic covenant in which his Seed will reign. It shows that God is able to rescue His promise from the depths of the grave, if necessary, to fulfill it." In Christ, we, too, have been rescued from the depths of the grave of sin by God's grace and are seated in heavenly places!

In Acts 13:22-23 Paul refers to **Psa. 89:20**'s Messianic hope, & in **Psa. 89:19-29 TPT** we discover references to Jesus Christ's Kingdom – "*a dynasty that will release the days of heaven on earth.*"

*"You spoke to your prophets in visions, saying, **"I have found a mighty hero for my people. I have chosen David as My loving servant and exalted him. I have anointed him as king with the oil of My holiness. 21. I will be strength to Him, and I will give him My grace to sustain him no matter what comes. 22. None of his enemies will be the best of him, now will the wicked one overpower him. 23. For I will crush his every adversary and od***

away with all who hate him. **24.** Because I love him and treasure him, My faithfulness will always protect him. I will place my great favor, and I will cause his power and fame to increase. **25.** I will set his hand over the sea and his right hand over the rivers. **26.** And he will come before Me, saying, ‘You truly are my Father, my only God, and my strong deliverer!’

SFLB note: “**My Father** were words constantly on Jesus’ lips (Matt. 11:27). David’s relationship with God was characterized by intimacy.”

The Authority of the Firstborn - Christ Jesus

The next verse 27 is applied to Christ, who was the **firstborn** from the dead by the Resurrection (Col. 1:15-18).

27. “I am setting him apart, favoring him as My **firstborn** son. I will make him the most-high king in all the earth! **28.** I will love him forever and always show him My kindness. My covenant with him will never be broken. **29.** For I have decreed that he will always have an heir – a dynasty that will release the days of heaven on earth.” **Jesus has the dynasty that releases heaven!**

V. 29 AMPC “His Offspring also will I make to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven.” This is why Jesus taught His disciples to pray in **Matt. 6:9-10 NKJV**, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. **10.** Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” **Days of heaven on earth, where the sun never sets in the spirit realm!**

Gal. 2:20 is the summation of the transformation process – the crucifixion of the self-life for the emancipation of the Christ-life to be released within us and out through us.

V. 20 TPT “My old identity has been co-crucified with Christ and no longer lives. And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives His life through me – we live in union as one! My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of

God who loves me so much that He gave Himself for me, dispensing His life into mine!”

TPT note: “We are one with Him, and He lives in us.” **John 14:20**

TPT “*So when the day comes [v. 19: “Soon I will leave this world...], you will know that I am living in the Father and that **you are one with Me, for I will be living in you.**”*

“Days of Heaven on Earth” by Nancy Dufresne (Deut. 11:18-21)

“How we treat the Word, giving the Word its rightful place in our lives and in our homes, and being doers of the Word, is how we experience “*days of heaven upon the earth.*” The more we renew our minds with Gods Word, taking on His way of thinking, speaking, and acting, the more we move into heaven’s flow – we move into how heaven operates. As we give the Word first place in our lives, life becomes sweeter and sweeter.”

Let’s identify fully with our Lord & break through self-limitations.