

HOPE FOR VIRUS-INFECTED BODIES

032920P

INTRODUCTION

1. The threat of pandemic: death.
2. Focus: the impact of the fall on our physical bodies.

1st: Relationship Between Our Bodies & This Earth: Established in Creation

1. Genesis 2:7-9 Adam: red earth - lives in relation to earth.
 - i. God formed man directly from the earth
 - ii. *God breathed - the breath of life - image of God* Genesis 1:27.
 - iii. *Man became a living being - shares life w/ other living beings* [v19].
2. Adam innately knew how imitate God: be like God & live w/ God. As God gave order to chaos [Genesis 1:2], Adam to give order to world. v15: *to cultivate & keep* = OT vocabulary used re: kings & priests.
3. God communicated to Adam w/ words. Steward of God's words. Dominion: as it goes w/ Adam, so it goes w/ creation.
4. Pandemic: Adam's physicality. Adam cannot be Adam apart from earth.

2nd: Relationship Between Our Bodies & This Earth: Affected By The Fall

1. By his sin, Adam brought death into the world. Death = separation of created unions. Not annihilation, but collapse into chaos.
2. In death, man continues to be a creature, but separated from connections constituted in creation. Disconnection in relation to earth. Genesis 3:17-19
3. Genesis 3 was not Final Judgment. God salvaged creation & commenced program of redemption. Genesis 3:15 announces One who will destroy Satan.
4. We live in good but fallen, creation [Matthew 5:45; 2 Corinthians 4:16].
5. Greatest tragedy of death: separated from God. *Salvation is of the Lord* [Jonah 2:9]. Only God can save us from death & give us life.

3rd: The Resurrection of Jesus & Implications for Our Bodies and This Earth

1. Jesus: the incarnation of 2nd person of Trinity: John 1:14. *Came to destroy the works of the devil* [1John 3:8]. Sinless life; fulfill OT prophecies.
2. Sacrificial death: atonement for sin. Vindicated by resurrection: the central message of the gospel.

3. Implications of Jesus' bodily resurrection for pandemic. Resurrected into the life of the age to come. Jesus gave evidence of resurrection [Acts 1:3].
4. For Adam to be Adam, he must be materially joined to earth. As it goes w/ Adam, so it goes w/ earth. Jesus is *the last Adam* – 1 Corinthians 15:45
 - i. Quotes Genesis 2:7 - Adam: *living soul* [original created life].
 - ii. Resurrected Jesus is *the last Adam* [v21ff compares Adam & Jesus].
 - iii. By resurrection, Jesus became *life-giving spirit* - life of age to come, resurrection life, life after death.
 - iv. Consider 1st Adam at point of creation, before the fall & death.
 - v. Consider the 2nd Adam - resurrected body! John says *we beheld his glory* - when? Transfiguration - *His face shone like the sun* [Matthew 17:2]. Matthew 13:43 [Daniel 12:2-3]. *We will shine forth as the sun*
5. W/ resurrection of sons of God comes deliverance of earth [Romans 8:18ff]. 1] Philippians 3:20-21. 2] Revelation 21:1-5.

Application #1: Jesus' Resurrection is the Essence of the Good News of Gospel

1. Is there good news in a world plagued w/ covid-19 pandemic?
2. Words - from God announcing & interpreting the resurrection of Jesus. Forgiveness - hope - love - life.

Application #2: Jesus' Bodily Resurrection Guarantees That We & Our Planet Will be Glorified.

1. Jesus at funeral: *I am the resurrection & the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies & everyone who lives & believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?* [John 11:25-26].
2. As it goes w/ Adam so it goes w/ earth. The *last Adam* is risen. Earth must share in His triumph over death.
3. A Christian infuses this life with the life of the age to come. Ours is a flesh & blood, water & mud, salvation - good news for us & our planet. *Do you believe this?*