

The Restoration of all Things

Divine Community Church, Dudley

Sunday 27th April 2014.

St John's Church, Stourbridge

Sunday 4th May 2014.

The Easter Story.

The significance of Easter.

The Easter event is like a two sided coin - heads and tails. The Church has majored on the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. However, as American Sociologist Tony Campolo says:

"It is Friday, but Monday is coming."

One side of the coin is the death of Jesus Christ. The other side of the coin is the resurrection of Jesus Christ

"The last and greatest Prophet of the Old Testament came out of the wilderness and the gospel age came into being. Jesus said of John the Baptist that "Elijah does not come and restore all things." (Mark 9:12). The context of this is the transfiguration of Jesus Christ on the mountain when God spoke these words:

"This is my beloved Son, hear Him."

Jesus told his disciples not to mention this event until he had been raised from the dead. Then Jesus Christ spoke these words:

"Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things."

There is a process taking place in the world where by there is a "restoration" and "all things" are being restored. What does this mean? Peter said in a great sermon:

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken through the mouth of the holy Prophets since the world began." For Moses truly said to the fathers, The Lord your God will raise up a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.....Yes, and all the Prophets from Samuel and those who follow, as many have spoken, have also foretold these days." (Acts 3: 19 - 24)

To explain this phrase, "the restoration of all things," we need to be carried to four scenes in history.

- 1 The Garden - The Fall
 - 2 The Hillside - The Crucifixion
 - 3 The Cave - The Resurrection
 - 4 The City - The Promise
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1. The Garden - The Fall

Genesis 1 - the Creation

Genesis 2 - Life in God's Garden

Genesis 3 - The Curse

The curse on the serpent (Genesis 3: 14 - 15)

The curse on the woman (Genesis 3: 16 - 17)

The curse on the man (Genesis 3: 17 - 19)

Man was sent out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground where he was taken. Access to the Tree of Life was barred.

2. The Hillside - The Crucifixion

Matthew 27: 45 - 56

"The graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many." (Matthew 27: 51 - 53)

This prompted the Centurion to say "Surely this was the Son of God."

Mark 15: 33 - 41

Luke 23: 44 - 49

John 19: 28 - 30.

3. The Cave - The Resurrection

Matthew 28: 1 - 8

Luke 24: 1 - 12

John 20: 1 - 10

Jesus explanation of the Resurrection. This took place in his debate with the Sadducees.

Matthew 22: 23 - 28

Mark 12: 18 - 27

Luke 20: 27 - 40

Jesus's words:

You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God. For in the resurrection they will neither marry or be given in marriage, but are like angels of God from heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken of you by God saying, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not God of the dead but of the living." (Matthew 22: 29 - 32).

Jesus quoted from the Pentateuch - the first five books of the Bible - Exodus 3:6, 15. I have seen your oppression and I will deliver you"

God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the land of Canaan.

Genesis 13: 14 - 17;

Genesis 15: 7 - 21

Genesis 17:8

Genesis 26: 2 - 5

Genesis 28: 13 - 15

Deuteronomy 30: 1 - 15

These men did not receive the promise in their lifetimes. They must be resurrected to receive that which was promised to them.

God is called "the God of the living" shows there is a spirit world over which God is in control and is being revealed.

4. The City - The Promise

Revelation 21: 9 - 27

Revelation 22: 1 - 5

The Promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob fulfilled.

Access to the Tree of Life restored (verse 2)

