

Sunday May 6th
After the Resurrection – Part Four
Above the Earth – Part Two

1). Mt 16:21 ¶ *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

a). We have seen in past weeks the significance of the course of action that Jesus began to show His disciples in relation to the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes for His Son in respect of the rulership of the earth.

b). In Genesis 3:15 God promised a Redeemer who would redeem back that which Adam had forfeited - Ge 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

c). Jesus is of course the promised seed of the woman, whose heel was bruised at Calvary.

d). But along with the bruising of the heel was the promise of the bruising/crushing of Satan's head – a fatal blow as it were to his position as the ruler of this world.

e). Although the complete fulfillment of this still awaits a time yet future when the crown will be forcibly removed from his head the resurrection of Christ, as the Son of Man, having paid redemption's price as the Son of God is the fatal blow to the head of the ruler of this world. Just as God had said.

2). We will remember from the first message of this series that Jesus conducted His post resurrection ministry in the same human body He had died in - Lu 24:39 *"Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."* 40 *When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.*

a). Only this was now a body animated by the Spirit instead of blood
1Pe 3:18 ¶ *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,*

b). Jesus, raised on the Feast of First Fruits, is the first born from the dead, making possible the raising of many other firstborn sons, with bodies just like His - 1Jo 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

c). Bodies that would be redeemed at the adoption - Ro 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

d). And thereby receive the covering of glory necessary for those who will reign with Christ. This is all part of that fatal blow to Satan's head.

3). Also, on the earth, following His resurrection He opened the eyes of His disciples to understand the scriptures - Lu 24:44 *Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written*

in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

a). This would of necessity include how to study scripture from its beginning, building on the foundations laid in Genesis and seeing the types and antitypes.

b). This content within scripture concerning the Christ as Prophet, Priest and King had always been there, but it was at this time, after His resurrection that it began to be revealed - Eph 3:9 *and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;*

c). Ro 16:25 ¶ *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began*

d). The hidden mystery had been kept secret until this time for a specific purpose – that which we see in - 1Co 2:7 *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

e). Christ's death and resurrection brought His Church into being. And it is His Church who would receive the revelation of the mystery – who would understand from this exactly what God was offering and what it would take to receive this offer.

f). And human beings, through faithful obedience, following the example of their Master, would by their very actions and determinations declare with abundant volume all that God had set in place for His Son and His creation

g). Eph 3:9...*to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,*

4). And not only this, but we will remember that Christ in His resurrection body appeared beneath the earth before the fallen angels and their progeny who had sort to corrupt the human race, preventing the Seed of the Woman from coming, by cohabiting with the daughters of men, in the days before the flood of Noah - 1Pe 3:19 *by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,*

a). His message to them could only be that which His presence there in a resurrected body would testify. The very same thing that beyond this encounter would be declared by the Church – the manifold wisdom of God in respect of His Son. The bruising of Satan's head.

5). And then last week we saw the Lord's ascension, above the earth, into heaven, from where, just as He had promised His disciples, He sent the Spirit of truth who would be the helper of all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, to guide them into all truth – Joh 16:13 *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

a). Just as in the type of Abraham's oldest servant the Holy Spirit would reveal to the prospective bride within the family, what could be her inheritance if she would choose to follow the leading of the Spirit –

Joh 16:15 *"All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

b). And this declaration of what is Christ's to the prospective Bride, by the Holy Spirit – which is one and the same as the hidden mystery – is our guarantee of the very inheritance He reveals to us - 2Co 5:5 *Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*

6). Also, His work having been completed in eternity past and now manifest within the boundaries of time, He sat down at the right hand of God.

a). Ps 110:1 ¶ <<A Psalm of David.>> *The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*

b). And again we will note the specific time frame – He will sit – ‘Till’

c). Christ could not have taken His seat unless He ascended and He could not have ascended without He was resurrected – so with these events having taken place all that would remain is for the allotted time to expire and for Christ to return according to the types of Joseph and Moses.

7). This is something also spoken of in - Ac 3:20.....*"that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

a). Again the time frame – ‘whom heaven must receive until...’ – And the restoration of all things must of necessity include the material creation. The material creation is under a curse because of the deception of the present ruler. When the system of rulership changes, so will the material creation – an event that creation longs for - Ro 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

b). It is so interesting to note that the creation was subjected to futility because of Him who subjected it in hope – the hope for creation is the same as the hope for us summed up in the phrase, ‘the revealing of the sons of God’.

c). This of course is a direct reference to the outcome of the events at the Judgment Seat when those found worthy will be adopted as firstborn sons. The prelude to the change of the present system of rulership and the guarantee of the deliverance from corruption for the material creation.

d). And if we follow the typological picture associated with the adoption of firstborn sons, we would realize that those adopted as firstborn sons are also identified as the Bride of Christ.

e). And it is only as a result of the Bride being identified at the Judgment Seat that the inheritance, the material creation, is then redeemed. In the type of the man purchasing the field in which the treasure is hidden.

f). The inheritance, as we saw with Isaac and Rebekah, is for the bride. And without the Bride there would be no need for the inheritance to be redeemed.

8). But once she is identified, and her very presence making known her desire for the inheritance to be redeemed, the One worthy to redeem it begins the task.

a). It is following the events recorded in Revelation 2 + 3 – showing the judgment given to the seven churches and following chapter 4 when the Elders give up their crowns that the process of the redemption of the inheritance – which is one and the same as the great tribulation – begins

b). *Re 5:1 ¶ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

9). What we have just read is the fulfillment of that which was pictured for us in Ruth Chapter 4, where Boaz meets with the nearer kinsman at the gate of the city, in the presence of the elders for the purpose of redeeming the inheritance for Ruth.

10). And this will bring us nicely to what is perhaps the most significant aspect of the period of time the Lord is above the earth – His function as our High Priest –

a). If we go back to our foundation in God's dealings with the first generation of Israel coming out of Egypt, we will remember that the priesthood was not established until after that generation had been completely, eternally redeemed.

b). The function of the priest subsequent to redemption was to mediate between God and man in respect of sin in relation to God's purpose for bringing them out of Egypt – that they may receive their inheritance in the land of promise.

c). In exactly the same way, the Lord's present ministry as High Priest is not on behalf of the eternally lost – it is His finished work on the cross that has to do with them – but on behalf of the eternally saved comprising the Church, in respect of their receiving their inheritance in the land promised them – which is of course a heavenly land.

d). *Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

e). Notice in our scripture here in Hebrews that it is the word of God that makes the division between our soul and our spirit and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of our hearts.

f). In other words it is the word of God that shows us whether our actions are motivated by faithful obedience, following the leading of the Spirit, or whether they are done in rebellion to God's word, following the flesh.

g). To put it even more simply – the word of God reveals the sin in our lives.

h). There is nothing that we do that is hidden from His sight, and we have the choice to deal with the sin in our lives now, going to Christ as our High Priest – or that same sin will be dealt with at the Judgment seat by Christ, who will no longer be High Priest, but Judge.

i). And particularly note the good news – our High Priest can sympathize with our weaknesses – He has compassion for us as He has experienced temptation as we do, but without sin.

j). And because of that the writer of Hebrews, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, encourages us to go to the throne of grace to find mercy when we recognize our sinful actions.

k). And again, please note – it is to find mercy from One who has compassion for our weaknesses – not condemnation and rejection.

l). I hope this is not seen as an approval of sin, as it clearly is not, but rather as an encouragement to keep nothing back from Him.

11). This is the very thing we have seen in the instruction given to Ruth in preparation for her meeting with Boaz on the threshing floor –

Ru 3:3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor;

a). That which we also find within the same context in –

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.....32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

12). And as we have seen in the past it is the subject of the teaching that the Lord gives to His disciples on the night of the last supper – knowing what awaited Him – death,

resurrection, ascension – He wanted them to see that His role was about to change from Prophet to Priest - *Joh 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."*

a). Jesus was teaching an object lesson that at the time He gave it the disciples did not understand.

b). Nor could they – as it is following His resurrection that He opened their minds to understand scripture and this object lesson He taught was drawing from the type of the

Levitical priesthood as well as from Ruth and back to the foundation of the Woman being taken from the Man's side.

c). They would need to understand all of these references in His actions to appreciate what He was teaching them.

13). Ruth we know – so let us spend a moment reviewing the Levitical priests - Ex 29:4 *"And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water.*

a). This is the instruction given to Moses in respect of Aaron and his sons on the day they were to become priests.

b). It involved a complete washing from head to toe that provided a ceremonial cleansing that only had to take place one time.

c). But now note this in respect of their day to day activity –

Ex 30:17 ¶ *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, 19 "for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. 20 "When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. 21 "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them-to him and his descendants throughout their generations."*

d). In our scripture here we see a continual process of washing the hands and the feet that has to take place after the complete washing.

e). The priests ministering between the bronze laver in the outer-court and the Holy Place of the tabernacle became defiled during the course of their ministry. They still lived in the world where sin and death were present and they still possessed their old sin nature, the man of flesh. Ministering under these conditions, this defilement was demonstrated in their hands and feet becoming dirty, and thereby in need of cleansing.

f). And if they did not deal with their defilement before entering the Holy Place the scripture says they would die – they would be cut off from their role of priest and cut off from the Theocratic Kingdom – not from God.

14). Now according to the scriptures we have a heavenly calling that incorporates the role of priest - 1Pe 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

a). We have already received a complete cleansing at our new birth in preparation for this ministry, but on a day to day basis we need we need to be cleansed from our sin, symbolized through the washing of the hands and the feet.

b). If we do not do this the same end awaits us when we enter the heavenly tabernacle as awaited the Levitical priests – we will die – be cut of from our inheritance.

c). And when will we find ourselves in the heavenly tabernacle? At the Judgment Seat - Re 1:10 *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to*

Laodicea." 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

15). This very thing is referenced by the Apostle John, who was present at the Last Supper foot washing, who had his eyes opened to comprehend the scriptures - 1Jo 1:6 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

a). It is of absolute necessity following our eternal redemption that we continually come to Christ as our High Priest to receive cleansing for our sin, so that our fallen nature will not cause us to lose our inheritance, so that the Amalekite within will not take our crown.

b). And of course we cannot help but note that Christ's present high Priestly ministry is the means by which God is fashioning a Bride for His Son in the antitype of the woman taken from the Man's side - Joh 19:34 *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

c). It is Christ's ascension into heaven, taking Him above the earth that makes this possible.

d). How marvelous is the goodness and the mercy of God – 2Pe 3:9 ¶ *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

16). In conclusion then we can clearly see that the events following the Lord's resurrection – on the earth, under the earth and above the earth – have set in place within the boundaries of time, all that is necessary to complete God's eternal purpose. The day is soon coming when this will be heard –

Re 11:15 *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*