

MSB220

# MORE Seed and Bread

*BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM*

## THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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# GOD HAS SET THE EON IN THEIR HEART

by M. B. Hammond

Ecclesiastes 3: 11 contains a simple, almost hidden truth that has been obscure to men for 2000 years. The passage says: **He hath made everything beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work of God from the beginning to the end (KJV).**

This passage has suffered much in translation. Its meaning needs to be expounded, because it directly reflects on God's plan for the future blessing of all men, not just Israel. The New American Standard Version (NAS) gives an improved translation: He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, without which man cannot find out the work which God has done from the beginning to the end. This is clearer, but may still be obscure if we have no understanding of God's past work and future plans as shown in Scripture. Therefore, let us examine the works of God that have led to the future Kingdom God, as planned for men.

### **First, why do men ignore God?**

God has done many wonderful things for His creation. Yet not many people understand or even know their God. Many people desire "God's rest" (Hebrews 3 and 4), and see this as the ultimate triumph of good over evil. They say they desire to be with Jesus and that in death they will go to heaven, which is supposed to be an idyllic situation representing "God's rest." Some men are so proud of their own works that they aren't interested in God, and being so self-involved, they don't see the awesomeness of God. In Jeremiah 9:23, 24 the Lord says: **Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich**

**man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises loving kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; For I delight in these things.**

All men have been given an in-born knowledge that there is a Supreme Being. However, worshipping Him requires studying the Bible with humility to know what Scripture says about Him. This intuitive knowledge of the Great Spirit has been known by ancient civilizations, aboriginal peoples and even modern advanced civilizations. However, the fact remains that men have set up their own worship of the Supreme Being. Only Israel was provided with a God-given religion, which was monotheistic and contained not only the order of worship, but also a priesthood, sacrifices and a Law to impress God's Word upon the Jews. Other men have been jealous, and the Jews, themselves, have been rebels against what God did for them. By way of contrast, most of men's religions were polytheistic and idolatrous, because men wanted to worship a god they could see. All men's religions were based on man's ideas about how God should be worshipped, designed to give men control. Thus religion became the main way that man could control God and honor himself in that worship. Even certain prayers were men's attempts to control God (see Colossians 2).

However, in God's plan, He called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees and made a covenant with him, confirming it with his progeny, Isaac, Jacob and later Moses who led the people out of slavery in Egypt. The covenant made with Abraham contained God's promise: **Indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore, and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies, and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth shall be blessed because you have obeyed My voice** (Gen. 22:17,18).

Paul gives further explanation of this in Galatians 3:16: **Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed.** He does not say, "and to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, saying, "and to your seed," that is Christ. God chose the Hebrews to be His people. Under Moses, He gave them His covenant and their unique religion for the worship of God. God also made Moses to prophetically predict the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Moses, in Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, says: **The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to Him . . . I will raise up a prophet from among their**

**countrymen like you, and I will put My Words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.**

A further covenant is made by God with David who was God's anointed King of Israel. God speaks to David in 2 Samuel 7:10, 11, 12: **I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them and they will live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel: and I will give you rest from your enemies.** The Lord declares that the Lord will make a house (dynasty) for you. When your days are complete, and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up thy descendant after you, who will come forth from you and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever. This is what Jehovah declares to David about the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is the time of the eon, His Kingdom; the flow of great blessings out of God that He has set in their hearts.

This Kingdom is what Isaiah was referring to in his words: **Now it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house (dynasty) of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills, and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, "Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths, for the Law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-4).**

Isaiah goes on to say that the Lord will set the order among the nations, enlightening many peoples and that they would give up their weapons and learn war no more. In Isaiah 9:2-7, the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah is described and foretold (verse 7): There will be no end to the increase of His government or peace. On the throne of David and over his kingdom to establish it and uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. In Isaiah 11, the peaceful and benign quality of the Kingdom is stated, and in Isaiah 35, the fruitfulness and health that the Kingdom brings is described.

It is interesting that the passage, quoted earlier in Ecclesiastes, is preceded by the popular address for funerals-that there is an approved time for everything. In Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, it begins by saying there is a time for everything, for every event under heaven. It says there is a time to give birth,

a time to die, and later a time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. It ends with the statement (Eccl. 3:9-11): What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils? I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that (Lit. without which) man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end (the conclusion). The word "world" has been replaced with the term "eternity," which is a translation of the Hebrew word **olam**, which has the same meaning as the Greek word **aion** or "eon" in English. Just as God has put an intuitive knowledge of a Supreme Being in the heart of man, so God has put the desire for the eon in their heart, also. This refers to the desire of the peoples of the earth to have God's loving-kindness, justice, and righteousness in their lives, so that peace, plenty and health could be maintained over the years. It is clear that without this desire for the "eon," men would be either uninterested, or unable to find out the work that God has done to preserve and improve this world for man to live upon, from creation even to that future day. This is sad, for it means that most men do not study the Bible with an interest in learning about God. What do you know about Him? What is His character? What is He doing for man today? What has He planned to do for men in the future? How does He express Himself to man? Do you know and believe in that one expression; the Word, Jesus Christ?

The words of Isaiah 26:9, 10 speak volumes about God: At night my soul longs for Thee, indeed, my spirit within me seeks Thee diligently; For when On the earth experiences Thy judgments, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. Though the wicked is shown favor, he does not learn righteousness: he deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, and does not perceive the majesty of the Lord. It is this condition of righteousness in the world that all peaceful men on earth would desire now, but that's the day of Christ. Today, we are in the Day of Man in which the unjust have the unfair advantage over the just. In this day wickedness of the wicked grows bolder and bolder and God is not in their thoughts (2 Tim. 3:1-9). Today God works in grace with all men, good and bad. God is working, but His work is in secret. In the future we will be made aware of how great His grace has been to us.

Paul addresses this in Philippians 1:6 and 1:9, 10. The translations here are poor in all versions, but we recall that these people had become believers in the Acts Period (Acts 16:12-40). So now with the beginning of the Dispensation of Grace, Paul says: **For I am confident of this very thing,**

**that He who began a good work in you will bring it to a full end until the Day of Christ.** He, then in 1:9, 10, says: **And this I pray that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may distinguish the things that carry through in order to be sincere and blameless until the Day of Christ.** When God steps into the affairs of men, He will reverse this influence of sin and death, so that the earth will be free of the wicked and only the righteous will be allowed to live here. It will be an idyllic state, like the garden of Eden, but not without a test at the end of several hundred years. It is the kind of condition we would like to raise our children in, living without fear of evil people. The passage really says we would like to have that ideal state in which we could live in peace with others; in service to God without any fear. Such a condition will promote love among all peoples, races, languages and nationalities. Wouldn't you like to have it today? Study the Scriptures and wait patiently on the Lord.

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