

Special Update - Romans 8:18-21 – October 7th, 2018

- We're going to do something a little bit different today having finished Ephesians two weeks ago, and being gone this last week.
- I want to share with you what the Lord impressed on my heart after spending some time praying, fasting, and seeking the Lord.
- While speaking at Jan Markell's conference last weekend the Lord ministered to me about the evil increasing in the world today.

I'll start with this One News Now article on Monday, about how the Arch of Baal – also known as the Arch of Palmyra – was reconstructed at the Capitol Mall in Washington, DC, on Thursday and displayed through Sunday, allowing spectators to marvel in the pagan false god of power, fertility and child sacrifice worshiped by the apostate Queen Jezebel of the Bible and ancient Phoenicians and Canaanites. <https://oneneWSnow.com/church/2018/10/01/arch-of-baal-erected-in-dc-to-pagans-delight>

The article quoted Jan Markell, who briefly shared about this at the conference, saying, "Why is any country – let alone America, let alone our nation's capital – celebrating the Temple of Baal? It was the same week that this Kavanaugh situation was exploding ... and my frank opinion is that the whole Kavanaugh debacle is all about child sacrifice as well. "The whole issue at stake in the Kavanaugh contention is that the left is afraid their child sacrifice sacrament is going to be taken away, which would be abortion – and it was child sacrifice going on in the Temple of Baal millennia ago. So there's an eerie parallel here."

- While I realize saying this might seem a little strange, I believe what's now happening in the world, is readying us for the next.
- Namely the Lord's return at the rapture of the church, by virtue of how recent events cause us to loosen our grip on this world.
- This because, it's only when we suffer hardship in this world, that we long for the Lord to return and take us out of this world.

Romans 8:18–25 - 18 I consider (reckon) that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

- I would suggest that Christians suffer more in this world than non-Christians ever will because we have the knowledge of truth.

Ecclesiastes 1:18 - For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

- In other words, what comes packaged with what we know to be true is a sorrow and a grief because we know what's coming.

- But God! But God takes that and as only He can, uses that grief to get our eyes off of this fallen world and onto what awaits us.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 - 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- Not only does this have the affect of getting our eyes on eternity, it also has the affect of seeking to reach the lost for eternity.
- The reason being is that the more heavenly minded we are, the more earthly good we will be and do, because of what awaits.
- The truth of the matter is, when we fix our eyes of faith on what is unseen in the future, we will have more hope in the present.

One night at dinner a man, who had spent many summers in Maine, fascinated his companions by telling of his experiences in a little town named Flagstaff. The town was to be flooded, as part of a large lake for which a dam was being built. In the months before it was to be flooded, all improvements and repairs in the whole town were stopped. What was the use of painting a house if it were to be covered with water in six months? Why repair anything when the whole village was to be wiped out? So, week-by-week, the whole town became more and more run down, and in a depressing state of disrepair had gone from bad to worse. Then he added by way of explanation: "Where there is no faith in the future, there is no hope in the present."

- It's been said that man can only live a few days without food or water, but he's unable to live even a few seconds without hope.

A number of years ago researchers performed an experiment to see the effect of hope on those in hardship. Two sets of laboratory rats were placed in separate tubs of water. The researchers left one set in the water and found that within an hour they had all drowned. The other rats were periodically lifted out of the water and then returned. When that happened, the second set of rats swam for over 24 hours. Why? Not because they were given a rest, but because they suddenly had hope! Those rats somehow hoped if they could stay afloat just a little longer, someone would reach down and save them. If hope holds such power for unthinking rodents, how much greater should its effect be on our lives.

As one so poignantly put it; "For the believer, there are no hopeless situations; there are only people who have grown hopeless about situations."

Psalm 42:5 - Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.

- Dare I say, it's only when we've lost hope in this world and the things of this world that we as Christians put our hope in Him.
 - Sadly, many a Christian has deeply planted the roots of their lives in the soil of this temporal world by putting their hope here.
 - To me, this explains why it is that when things are going good down here, there's really little desire or interest in eternal things.

- You'll forgive me for saying this, but if America is made great again, it may very well be at the expense of heaven being great.
 - Please know I in no way wish to start a "Make Heaven Great Again" campaign because I don't have to, God is already doing it.
 - It's my belief that God is seemingly allowing evil to prevail here in this world to instruct us and redirect us to the "blessed hope."

Titus 2:11-14 - 11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

1 John 3:2-3 - 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Romans 15:4 - For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- Here's where I'm going with this, God's Word give us that hope so we don't doubt in the dark what He promised us in the light.
 - Joseph is best example of this; because he had God's Word and God's promise he endured all the evil he was the recipient of.
 - Had it not been for the evil, it could be argued that God would not have worked it out for the good to bring about His salvation.

Genesis 50:20 - But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

Here's how one commentator best explained it: "If Joseph's brothers never sold him to the Midianites, then Joseph never goes to Egypt. If Joseph never goes to Egypt, he never is sold to Potiphar. If he is never sold to Potiphar, he is never falsely accused of rape by Potiphar's wife. If he is never falsely accused of rape by Potiphar's wife, then he is never put in prison. If he is never put in prison, he never meets the baker and butler of Pharaoh. If he never meets the baker and butler of Pharaoh, he never interprets their dreams. If he never interprets their dreams, he never gets to interpret Pharaoh's dream. If he never gets to interpret Pharaoh's dream, he never is made prime minister. If he is never made prime minister, he never wisely administrates for the severe famine coming upon the region. If he never wisely administrates for the severe famine coming upon the region, then his family back in Canaan perishes from the famine. If his family back in Canaan perishes from the famine, then the Messiah can't come forth from his family. If the Messiah can't come forth, then Jesus never came. If Jesus never came, then you and I are dead in our sins and without hope in this world."

- Here's the bottom line, Jesus came vis-à-vis Joseph; Jesus is our greater than Joseph; Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Joseph.

JOSEPH	JESUS
Was cast into an empty pit (Genesis 37:24)	Was placed into an empty tomb (Mark 15:46)
Was stripped of his coat (Genesis 37:23)	Was stripped of His robe (Matthew 27:28)
Was betrayed and sold for pieces of silver (Genesis 37:28)	Was betrayed and sold for pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15)
Was in prison next to two criminals (Genesis 40:3)	Was on the cross with two criminals (Luke 23:39-43)
One prisoner perishes, one is saved (Genesis 40:13)	One criminal perishes, the other is saved (Luke 23:43)
Foretells the raising up after three days (Genesis 40:13)	Foretells His raising to life after three days (Matthew 16:21)
Tells the cupbearer to remember him after he's raised up (Genesis 40:14)	Says to remember Him with the cup after He's raised (Luke 22:19)
Two dreams with two elements; the cup and the bread (Genesis 40:16,17)	Two elements at the last supper; the cup and the bread (Luke 22:17-19)
Says, at the supper, "serve the bread" (Genesis 43:31)	Says, at the last supper, "take this bread." (Luke 22:19)
Prophetically reveals a seven year famine (Genesis 41:27)	Is prophetically revealed in the seven year tribulation (Revelation 5:5)
Took an Egyptian bride before the 7-year famine (Genesis 41:45)	Takes His gentile bride before the 7-year tribulation (John 3:29)
Born sons come to him before the "7" year famine (Genesis 41:50)	Born again sons of God come to Him before the "7" year tribulation
All who come to him will live and not die (Genesis 42:2)	All who call upon Him will be saved (Romans 10:13)
Brothers come to him in the midst of the famine (Genesis 42:2)	Israel comes to Him in the midst of the tribulation ((Daniel 9:27)
Prophecies about him are fulfilled (Genesis 43:28)	The spirit of Prophecy is Him (Revelation 19:10)
Israel believed and said of Joseph, "it is enough"	To all who believe, He says, "it is finished" (John 19:30)
Israel said, "my son is yet alive" (Genesis 45:28)	They said, "Jesus, the Son is alive" (Luke 24:23)

- Before we partake together of the Communion Table I would like to share with you something that happened at the conference.
 - As I was getting ready to speak, a sister in Christ shared with me how God had used the ABC's of Salvation in a powerful way.
 - The friend she had led to Christ was worshipping in church on a Sunday, only to be murdered by her husband 24-hours later.

The ABC's of Salvation – The A is for Admit you're a sinner, (Romans 3:23).
 The B is for Believe, (Romans 10:9-10).
 The C is for Call, (Romans 10:9-10, 13).