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MEJ. EDDY

"Goeiemôre!" sê 'n vrou toe sy 'n man nader wat plat op die grond sit. Die man kyk versigtig op na haar. Hierdie dame is duidelik gewoond aan die fynere dinge van die lewe. Haar jas is nuut en haar voorkoms getuig dat sy nooit in haar lewe enige maaltyd gemis het nie.

Sy eerste gedagte is dat sy met hom, soos vele ander, die gek wou skeer. Dit het al verskeie kere voorheen gebeur.

"Los my asseblief alleen..." grom die man.

Tot sy verbasing bly die vrou staan. Sy glimlag vriendelik sodat hy selfs haar pragtige ry wit tande opmerk.

"Is jy honger?" sê-vra sy. "Nee," antwoord hy sarkasties. "Ek kom nou huis van 'n ete saam met die president! Laat my nou alleen en gee pad!"

Die vrou glimlag nou selfs breër as tevore. Skielik voel die man 'n sagte hand onder sy arm.

"Wat vang jy aan, vroumens?" vra die man vies. "Ek het gesê los my uit!!"

Op daardie oomblik kom 'n polisiekonstabel aan diens nadergestap. "Is hier enige probleem, dame?" vra die konstabel.

"Nee geen probleem hier nie, konstabel," sê die vrou. "Ek probeer slegs om die man op sy voete te kry. Sal jy my help, asseblief?"

Die polisieman krap aan sy wang. "Dit is ou Jack. Hy is al 'n meubelstuk hier rond vir 'n hele klompjare. Wat wil jy met hom maak?"

"Sien jy daardie kafeteria daar oorkant?" vra die dame. "Ek gaan probeer om hom iets te laat eet en hom terselfdertyd vir 'n rukkie uit die koue neem."

"Vroumens, is jy van jou sinne beroof?" sê die haweloze man weerbarstig. "Ek wil nie soontoe gaan nie!"

Dan voel hy hoe twee sterk hande sy ander arm vasgryp en hom oplig. "Los my uit, jou simpele polisieman. Ek het niks gedoen nie!!"

"Hierdie is 'n goeie aanbod vir jou, Jack," sê die konstabel. "Moenie dit opmors nie."

Uiteindelik, en met vele moeite en smekinge, het die konstabel en die vrou daarin geslaag om Jack binne-in die kafeteria te kry en hom sit te maak by 'n tafeltjie in die verste hoek. Dit was reeds na ontbyt, want die meeste mense was reeds weg en die wat middagete wou nuttig, het nog nie opgedaan nie. Die bestuurder van die kafeteria staan nader: "Wat gaan hier aan, konstabel?" vra hy. "Wat beteken dit alles? Is hierdie man in die moeilikheid?"

"Die dame het die man hierheen gebring om iets te eet," antwoord die konstabel.

"Beslis nie hier nie!" reageer die bestuurder vies. "Om so iemand hier binne te hê, is sleg vir my besigheid!" Jack grinnik 'n tandlose glimlag. "Sien jy nou, vroumens! Ek het jou gesê! Laat my asseblief gaan, want in die eerste plek wou ek geensins hier gewees het nie!"

Die vrou draai na die bestuurder van die kafeteria en glimlag. "Meneer, ken jy Eddy en Vennote, die bankfirma aan die onderkant van die straat?"

"Maar natuurlik ken ek hulle," antwoord die bestuurder duidelik vies en ongeduldig. "Hulle hou hul weeklikse byeenkomste in een van my banketkamers."

"En jy maak 'n groot hoeveelheid geld deur die voorsiening van voedsel tydens hierdie weeklikse



vergaderings, nie waar nie?"

"Die besigheid het niks met u uit te waai nie?" vra-brom die bestuurder.

"Ek, meneer, is Penelope Eddy, die president en Hoofuitvoerende Beamppte van die Firma."

"Oo!! Ekskuus!"

Die vrou glimlag weer. "Ek het gedink dat dit moontlik 'n verskil sal maak." Sy kyk na die konstabel wat besig is om 'n giggle te sluk. "Sal jy saam met ons aansit vir 'n kopje koffie en 'n maaltyd, konstabel?" vra sy.

"Nee dankie, dame," antwoord die konstabel. "Ek is aan diens." "Dan dalk 'n kopje koffie om saam te neem?" "Sekerlik, dame. Dit sal baie gaaf wees!" Die kafeteriabestuurder maak 'n regsmdraai, "Ek kry dadelik vir jou 'n wegneem-koffie, konstabel," sê hy.

Mej. Eddy gaan sit by die tafel teenoor haar verdwaasde middagete-gas. Sy staar intens na hom.

"Jack, onthou jy my?" Arme Jack inspekteer haar gesig met sy bloedbelope oë. "Ek dink so - ek bedoel - jy lyk bekend."

"Ek is moontlik ietwat ouer nou," sê sy. "Moontlik meer versorgd as in my jonger jare toe jy hier gewerk het, en toe ek deur daardie deur gekom het, verklum en honger."

"Dame?" sê die konstabel bevraagtekend. Hy kan nie glo dat so 'n goedversorgde vrou ooit honger kon gewees het nie.

"Ek was pas klaar met hoëskool," vertel die vrou. "Ek het stad toe gekom om 'n werk te kry, maar was orals onsuksesvol. Uiteindelik het ek slegs 'n paar sente oorgehad en is verder uit die huurkamer geskop. Ek het vir weke op en af in die strate geloop. Dit was Februarie en ek was halfpad verklum en honger, toe ek hierdie plek gesien het. Ek het hier ingestompel in die hoop dat ek iets te ete sou kry."

Jack se gesig verhelder met 'n glimlag. "Nou onthou ek," sê hy. "Ek was agter die bedieningsstoornbank. Jy het na my toe gekom en gevra of, as jy iets kon doen, soos om skottelgoed te was, jy nie 'n bietjie kos kon kry om te eet nie. Ek het vir jou gesê dat dit teen die maatskappy se beleid was!"

"Ek weet," vervolg die vrou. "Toe maak jy die grootste geroosterde

Vervolg op p. 3

HEMEL EN HEL - 'N WERKLIKHEID?

Wanneer ons oor die **HEMEL** nadink, sal ons almal saamstem dat dit 'n wonderlike plek moet wees. 'n Plek waar almal in ewige geluksaligheid vir ewig sal saamwoon. Die detail van die hemel verstrengel ons egter, want hoe meer ons daaroor nadink, hoe meer vrae ontstaan daar. Hoeveel hemele is daar? Sewe, drie of slegs een? Waar is die hemel? Baie wanbegrippe ontstaan wanneer ons self, in ons eie denke, antwoorde soek. Ons behoort na die Skrif te gaan om ons vrae op te klaar.

Die hemel is 'n plek "daarbo." Die Skrif leer ons dat Jesus "opgegneem is in die hemel" (Hand. 1:11). Dit verklaar ook dat Elia "in die storm na die hemel opgevaar het" (2 Kon. 2:11). Paulus skryf: "Ek weet van 'n man in Christus... dat so iemand weggeruk is tot in die derde hemel" (2 Kor. 2:11).

Die hemel is 'n pléék, nie 'n "toestand" nie, ook nie iets in die verbeelding van 'n mens nie. Dit is 'n werklike plek - so werklik dat Jesus daarvan melding gemaak het (Matt. 6:20).

Die Nuwe Jerusalem is nie die hemel nie, maar die "heilige stad" wat Johannes uit die hemel sien neerdaal het (Openbaring 21:2). Ons lees in Heb. 11:10 dat Abraham uitgesien het na hierdie stad: "Want hy het die stad verwag wat fondamente het, waarvan God die boumeester en opriger is." En ons, die gelowiges, is ook op soek na daardie stad (Heb. 13:14).

Die Skrif praat van drie hemele:
■ Die lug of aarde se atmosfeer, ofthewel die atmosferiese hemel: Hand. 14:17: "...al het Hy Homself nie onbetuig gelaat nie, deur goed te doen, van die hemel vir ons reën en vrugbare tye te gee en ons harte met voedsel en vrolijkheid te vervul." As daar geskryf staan "voëls van die hemel" (Gen. 2:19; 7:3, 23; Ps. 8:8), is dit hiérdie hemel wat ter sprake is. Die lug bokant ons. Daar waar die wolke sigbaar is.

■ Die sterrehemel en die woonplek van "die bose geeste in die lug" (Ef. 6:12).

■ Die "derde hemel", die woonplek van God; dit staan ook bekend as die Paradys. Lees 2 Kor. 12:1-4. Paulus noem dit die "derde hemel" en ook "die Paradys" waarheen hy weggeruk is. Dit het waarskynlik gebeur toe hy gestenig is en vir dood agtergelaat is (Hand. 14:19-20). Hierdie

Paradys moet nie verwarring word met die "Tuin van Eden" in Gen. 2 nie. In Génésis kom die woord *Paradys* nooit voor nie.

Net soos die hemel, is die **HEL** ook 'n werklike plek, en nie slegs 'n toestand nie:

- Dit is 'n plek wat brand met vuur en swael (Matt. 5:22; Mark. 9:43-49; Jes. 66:24; Openbaring 19:20; 20:10,14,15).
- Daar is pyn, smart en ellende (Luk. 16).
- Dit is 'n plek sonder genade en sonderwater (Luk. 16).
- Dit is 'n plek waarheen die sondaar gaan vir sy ewige straf (Openbaring 20:11-15).
- Dit is 'n plek wat God voorberei het vir die duivel en sy engele (Matt. 25:41).
- Dit is 'n plek van letterlike vuur wat nie uitgeblus sal word nie (Mark. 9:43,49; Matt. 3:12; Matt. 7:19; Matt. 13:40-50; Matt. 18:8, 25:41-46; Judas 1:7; Openbaring 14:9-11).

Die Afrikaanse Bybel praat byna deurgaans van **Hel** (Doderyk) m.b.t. die ongelowiges en die Onderwêreld. Ook die King James Version praat meestal net van "Hell". Om die Onderwêreld egter te begryp, is dit nodig om na die oorspronklike tale (Hebreeus en Grieks) waarin die Bybel geskryf is, te gaan. Daar word 'n definitiewe onderskeid getref tussen die verskillende afdelings in die Onderwêreld:

■ **Die Doderyk** (Hebreeus: *Sheol* en Grieks: *Hadēs*). Dit is *Die Onsienlike Toestand of Onderwêreld*, wat verdeel is in twee kompartemente: die eerste is die *Plek van Pyniging*, en die tweede is die *Paradysgedeelte*.

■ Die Ou Testamentiese gelowiges het ná die dood na die *Paradysgedeelte* gegaan, en die ongelowiges na die *Plek van Pyniging* - nog nie die *Finale Hel* nie, want die *Finale Oordeel* het nog nie plaasgevind nie (Vergelyk Luk. 16). Omdat daar in Luk. 16:19-31 'n definitiewe verwysing is na persone met hulle name, is dit 'n ware gebeurtenis waarna Jesus verwys, en nie 'n gelykenis nie ('n gelykenis gee nie noodwendig name van persone nie).

■ **Die Doderyk** het poorte (Matt. 16:18), en Jesus het die sleutels van die Dood en die Doderyk gehad na Sy opstanding en verheerliking (Openbaring 1:18). Om hierdie sleutels te verkry, moes Jesus neerdaal "*in die onderste dele van die aarde*" (Efesiërs 4:9).

*Die Apostoliese Geloofsbelofte (soos in baie kerke gelees op 'n Sondagoggend) sê Jesus het "ter helle neergedaal." Dit blyk dus dat dit die *Onderwêreld* in die hart van die aarde moet wees. Hier het Jesus die sleutels van die *Doderyk* (*Hadēs of Sheol*) afgeneem van die vyand, die gelowiges bevry en die *Paradysgedeelte* verplaas na die *Derde Hemel*, waar God woon. Jesus sê ook aan die rower op die kruis: "Voorwaar Ek sê vir jou, vandag sal jy saam met My in die Paradys wees" (Lukas 23:43).

Op die dag van die kruisiging het Jesus nie na die hemel opgevaar nie, maar in die graf (Hebreeus: *Qeber* en Grieks: *mnēmeion*) gekom en in die *Onderwêreld* (*Hadēs*) neergedaal. Omdat die liggaaam van Jesus "nie verdwing sou sien nie" (Ps. 16:10; Hand. 2:27), beteken dit dat Hy, nadat Sy liggaaam in die graf gelê is en Hy Hadēs besoek het, teruggekeer het van Hadēs af voordat Sy liggaaam kon verderf. Hy het opgestaan uit die dood! Toe Hy die *Paradys* en die gelowiges daar verplaas het na die *Derde Hemel*, het Hy die rower op die kruis langs Hom, dus saam met Hom, geneem (verwys na Efesiërs. 4:8-10).

■ **Die Hel** (Hebreeus: *Tophēt* en Grieks: *Gehenna*). Dit is die *Finale Hel* waarin die Satan en die ongelowiges beland ná God se oordeel.

■ **Die Bodemlose Put** (Grieks: *Abussos*). Dit word nege keer in die Nuwe Testament vermeld, o.a. Rom. 10:7; Openbaring 9:1-2; 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3.

■ Toe Jesus die demone uit die besetene van Gadára uitgedryf het, het hulle Hom gesmeek om hulle nie na Abussos te stuur nie, waarop Hy hulle toegelaat het om in die varke in te vaar (Luk. 8:31). *Abussos* is ook die bewaarplek van demone (Openbaring 9:1-21) en die plek waar Satan gebind sal word vir 1 000 jaar (Openbaring 20:1-3; 7-8).

■ **Gevangenis van Gevalle Engele** (Grieks: *Tartarus*). Dit is die plek waar die gevallie engele bewaar word vir die *Dag van Oordeel* (2 Pet. 2:4; Judas 1:6), en vanwaar hulle die ewige straf deelagtig gaan word in die *Hel* (*Gehenna* - Op. 20:11-15).

■ **Opsommend lyk die prentjie dus so:** Dit is duidelik dat daar 'n werklike plek is soos die *Hemel*, en ook 'n werklike plek soos die

Hel. Verder sien ons ook dat *Die Onderwêreld* uit verskillende afdelings bestaan: *Die Doderyk*, *Die Hel*, *Die Bodemlose Put* en *Tartarus*. Toe Jesus gesterf het, het Hy neergedaal in die onderste dele van die aarde. Hy het *Hadēs* (*Doderyk*) besoek en die sleutels van die vyand afgeneem. Daarna het Hy die *Paradysgedeelte* leeggemaak (die Ou Testamentiese heiliges) en verplaas na die *Derde Hemel*. In die *Onderwêreld* het Hy ook *Tartarus* besoek en aan die gevalle engele aangekondig / geproklameer (Grieks: *kerussō*) dat hulle verdoeming vas of finalis (1 Pet. 3:19).

*Wanneer die mens tot sterwe kom, gaan die gelowige na die *Paradys* (*Derde Hemel*) en die ongelowige na *Hadēs*. Beide is 'n tussenstaat (nie 'n sieleslaap of 'n vasevuur nie, maar 'n afwagting) totdat die *Finale Oordeel* plaasvind. Daarna woon die gelowiges in 'n verheerlike staat (na hulle opstanding), vir ewig saam met die Here, en die ongelowiges (na hulle opstanding) vir ewig in die *Hel* (*Gehenna*).

Ons is elkeen op pad na een van HIERDIE twee bestemmings: die *Hemel* of die *Hel*. Na watter bestemming is u op pad?

Ons het nou reeds aan hierdie kant van die graf 'n keuse wáár ons die ewigheid wil deurbring. Kies Jesus vandag en neem Hom aan as jou Persoonlike Saligmaker (Joh. 1:12-13): "Maar almal wat Hom aangeneem het, aan hulle het Hy mag gegee om kinders van God te word, aan hulle wat in Sy Naam glo; wat nie uit die bloed of uit die wil van die vlees of uit die wil van 'n man nie, maar uit God gebore is." Kry só sekerheid dat jy 'n kind van God is (Joh. 3:36; 1 Joh. 5:12-13). Hierna is dit 'n blye vooruitsig om die ewigheid saam met Jesus deur te bring!

God het Sy Seun Jesus Christus gestuur om in liefde met ons bemoeienis te kom maak. "Want so lief het God die wêreld gehad, dat Hy Sy eniggebore Seun gegee het, sodat elkeen wat in Hom glo, nie verlore mag gaan nie, maar die ewige lewe kan hê" (Joh. 3:16).

Jesus staan met oop arms voor elke mens en Hy roep: "Kom na My toe, almal wat uitgeput en oorlaai is, en Ek sal julle rus gee" (Matt. 11:28). "God is liefde" (1 Joh. 4:8). Kom, word deel van Sy liefde waarmee Hy uitreik na elke mens wat dit wil aanvaar.

MEJ. EDDY

Vervolg van p. 1

vleistoebroodjie wat ek nog gesien het, met 'n koppie koffie en beveel my om by die hoektafel te gaan sit en dit te geniet. Ek was so bang dat ek jou in die moeilikheid sou bring, maar toe ek opkyk, sien ek dat **jy** die geld vir my kos in die kasregister geplaas het. Toe weet ek alles sou regkom."

"So, het jy toe jou eie besigheid begin?" vra ou Jack. "Daardie agtermiddag het ek 'n werk bekom. Geleidelik het ek gevorder. Uiteindelik het ek my eie besigheid met die hulp van my Hemelse Vader begin wat daagliks van krag tot krag gegaan het."

Sy maak haar handsak oop en trek 'n besigheidskaart uit. "Wanneer jy hier klaar geëet het, wil ek hê jy moet Meneer Lyons besoek. Hy is die Personeel-bestuurder van my maatskappy. Ek gaan nou met hom praat en ek weet hy sal iets vir jou vind om in

die kantore te doen."

Sy glimlag. "Ek dink hy sal die fondse vind om aan jou 'n voor-skot te gee sodat jy nuwe klere kan koop en 'n blyplek kan bekom, totdat jy weer op jou voete is... As jy enigets verder nodig het, my deur is altyd vir jou oop."

Daar is tranen in die ou man se oë. "Hoe kan ek jou ooit bedank?" sê hy. "Moenie my bedank nie," antwoord die vrou. "Aan God kom die eer toe. Dank Jesus... Hy het my na jou toe gelei."

Buite die kafeteria se ingang het die konstabel en die vrou 'n oomblik vertoof voordat hulle in hul onderskeie rigtings gegaan het. "Baie dankie vir al u hulp, konstabel," sê sy. "Inteendeel, Mej. Eddy," antwoord hy. "Baie dankie aan u. Ek het vandag 'n wonderwerk sien gebeur. Iets wat ek nooit sal vergeet nie. En... en dankie vir die

lekker koffie."

ooO0Ooo

Indien jy my as persoon nie ken nie, het jy nie veel in die lewe gemis of verloor nie. Indien jy na van die e-posse wat ek aan jou gestuur het, nie na gekyk en gelees het nie, het jy moontlik 'n glimlag of twee gemis. MAAR, as jy my Verlosser en Saligmaker, Jesus Christus, nie ken nie, het jy alles in die lewe verloor! Ek vertrou dat jy 'n wonderlike dag sal geniet. Mag die Hemelse Vader jou seen en moenie vergeet dat "wanneer jy jou brood op die water werp," jy nooit sal weet hoe dit na jou sal terugkeer nie... My hemelse Vader sal vandag of mōre sekere dinge in jou lewe moontlik skuif of verander en wel tot jou voordeel. Hy, die Hemelse Vader, maak deure toe wat geen mens kan oopmaak nie en Hy maak deure oop wat geen mens kan toemaak nie!! Glo in Hom en leef in oorwinning!

GOD REACHES DOWN

**What a shallow,
hostile and cruel world
we face every day!**

**Who can keep us
from total ruin?**

**I cried out to God...
He reached down
and pulled me out
of this ocean
of chaos and hate
and brought me
into HIS PRESENCE
where my cup
now overflows
with His tender mercies
and blessings!**

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GO OBAMELA BADIMO - A GO TSAMAISANA LE BEIBELE?

(Ancestor worship - is it Biblical?)



Johan Zerwick
Sēlē ke 083 458 3837

GO OBAMELA BADIMO KE ENG?

Go obamela badimo go diriwa ka mekgwa e e farologaneng mo lefatsheng ka bophara e bile le mo dinageng tse di tsayang karolo e kgolo mo ikonoming ya lefatsheng. Go dumela mo badimong go ikaegile thata mo tumelong ya gore mewa ya ba ba suleng e ka boela mo go ba ba phelang mme ba ba suleng ba ka fetola maphelo a ba ba santseng ba phela. Go dumelwa gore go na le kgonagalo ya go tlhaletsana le badimo mme go siame go dira jalo.

Gape go dumelwa gore ba ba suleng ba ka fetola bophelo jwa yo o phelang mme ba ba phelang ba santse ba ka dira gore badimo ba itumele le gore ba fetole mekgwa e ba go thusang kampo mokgwa o ba go tshegofatsang ka teng. Ga se fela batho baba sa dumeleng mo Modimong le mo Beibeleng ba ba dumelang mo badimong.

Le batho ba ba tsenang kereke e e dumelang mo go Jesu Keresete ba ba santseng ba dumela me ba direla badimo ditirelo. O tla bona nako e nngwe maphutego a le a kereke ya pholoso mme fa go tlhokafala mongwe mo lapeng

kgotsa mo balosikeng ba be ba dira ditirelo tsa badimo kwa malapeng a bone.

Ba re moswi o isiwa badimong mme ba tshwanetse go mo fitlha sentle gore a ba direle sentle mme a ba emele kwa Modimong. O tla makala fa maphutego a batla go leboga badimo fa ngwana a bonwe, fa go nyalwa kgotsa fa mongwe a bone phatlhatiro e siameng.

Go raya gore go na le mekgwa e e farologaneng go tlhaletsana le balosika ba ba suleng.

DITEMANA

A re buise ditemana tse di nopolotsweng tse di buang ka go bua le badimo.

"Se batleng thuso mo go ba ba buang le badimo le mo go baitseanape; lo se ka lwa ba botsa lwa tloga lwa itshekologa ka bone; ke nna Morena Modimo wa Iona" (Lefitiko 19:31).

"Motho yo o batlang thuso mo go ba ba buang le badimo le mo go baitseanape, a ba sala morago ka boikepo, motho yoo ke tla mo leba ka bogale, ke mo nyeletsa mo morafeng wa ga gabu. Itshepiseng, lo nne boitshepo; gonnie ke nna Morena Modimo wa Iona.

Tlhokomelang melao ya me, lo dire ka yona; ke nna Morena yo ke lo itshepisang" (Lefitiko 20:6-8).

"Mme Aborahame a re: 'Ngwanaka, gopola gore o amogetse tse di molemo tsa gago mo bophe-long jwa gago, mme Lasaro ene tse di bosula jalo; mme jaanong mono ene o a gomodiwa, mme wena o a tlhokofadiwa. Mme kwa ntle ga tsotle tseo go na le kgophu e kgolo fa gare ga rona le Iona, gore ba ba kwano ba ba ratang go fetela go Iona, ba retelelwé, le ba ba koo, ba ba ratang go tla kwano go rona, ba palelwé'" (Luka 16:24-26).

"Mme e re ba lo raya ba re: 'Botsang badimo le baitseanape ba ba dumadumang, ba bolela tse di sa utlwaleng' lo re: 'A batho ga ba na go botsa Modimo wa bone? Kampo a go ka kopiwa baswi gore ba thuse ba ba phelang?' 'Tlhokomelang thuto le tshupo! Fa ba sa bue ka fa lefokong le, ga ba nke ba bona mahube.' Mme ba tla ya le naga, ba gateletswe, ba bolailwe ke tlala. Jaanong e tla re ba tshwerwe ke tlala, ba ngale, ba rogake kgosi ya bone le Modimo wa bone, ba lelale, ba be ba lebe lefatsheng, mme ba tla fitlhela tlalelo le lefifi fela, ba leleketswe mo

bontshong le mo pitlaganong le mo lefifing" (Jesaya 8:19-22). "Lona bana, utlwang bagolo ba Iona mo Moreneng; gonnie moo go siame. Taolo ya ntlha e e nang le tsholofetso ke e: 'Tlotla rraago le mmaago gore o nne sentle, mme o phele ka bolele mo lefatsheng'" (Baefeso 6:1-3).

Temana e ya bofelo e re ruta gore re rate mme re tlotle batsadi ba rona fa ba santse ba phela. Gape re ka ba tlotla mme re ba gopola fa ba sole mme go ya ka ditemana tse dingwe, ga re a tshwanelwa go laolwa ke bone le go tlhaletsana le bone.

THAPELO

Modimo, Ntate wa rona, re thuse gore re tlhaloganye gore fa re amogetse Jesu Keresete mme re dumela mo go Ene, ga re tlhole re tlhoka thuso ya badimo. Re thuso go tlhaloganya gore Jesu Keresete ke Ene fela mmueledi wa rona yo a dutseng fa letsogong la Rara. Re thuse go se lebale gore re bana ba Modimo mme re na le Mopholosi Jesu Keresete mme re na le Mothusi le Mogakolodi wa Mowa o o Boitshepo.

AMEN.

GELYKENIS VAN DIE RYK MAN EN LASARUS

Hierdie gelykenis vertel Jesus met die oog op die Fariseërs wat ontevrede was omdat Jesus saam met die tollenaars en sondaars geëet het (Lukas 15:2; 16:15).

Die Fariseërs het groot waarde geheg aan uiterlike dinge soos mooi huise, ringe aan die vingers en rykdom. Armoede en siekte is gesien as die straf van God. **Dink mense vandag nog so?**

Toneel 1: 'n Groot teenstelling: 'n Ryk man lewe in oorvloed. 'n Tipiese Fariseër. By sy voorhekkie lê 'n arm man wat hoop om net die oorskietkos van die ryk man se tafel te kry.

Toneel 2: Nog 'n teenstelling: die rolle is omgekeer. Die ryk man is in die doderyk in erge pyn. Die arm man, Lazarus, is in die hemel. Die ryk man kerm "Vader Abraham", wat daarop dui dat hy 'n verbondskind was. Die Fariseërs het geroem op die feit dat Abraham hulle vader was (Johannes 8:33). Dit was vir hulle die "waarborg" dat hulle die ewige lewe sou kry.

Kan ons dit gelyk stel met die doop van vandag? Jy is dalk in die verbond gebore, het Belydenis van Geloof afgelê, is 'n lidmaat op die boeke van die Gereformeerde Kerk. **Is dit 'n waarborg dat jy hemel toe sal gaan?**

Lazarus maak geen aanspraak op enige verdienste nie. Hy is deur die Fariseërs as verwerplik beskou omdat hy arm en sieklik was. Die naam Lazarus is in die Nuwe Testament die weergawe van Eliëzer: *My God help*.

Die feit dat die ryk man ryk is en die bedelaar arm, is nie waaroor dit gaan in die gelykenis nie. **Dit gaan om die hart.** Wie sy hulp van God verwag, kan wéét dat God 'n God is wat help. En wie die hart gevoelloos toesluit vir die nood van die mens wat God oor jou pad laat kom, word in die weegskaal van die Hemelse Regter te lig bevind (Vgl. ook Mt. 25:31-46). **Die feit dat die ryk man ryk is, bepaal nie sy eindbestemming nie. So ook nie die feit dat Lazarus arm was nie.**

Lazarus het op aarde nikks, behal-

we God. Die ryk man het op aarde alles, maar hy het nie God in sy lewe nie.

Jesus kom soms in vreemde gestalte na jou. Wie die naaste in nood nie raaksien nie, moet ook op hierdie punt tot bekering kom.

Toneel 3: **By die dood kom 'n besliste skeiding.** Lazarus kan nie na die ryk man gaan nie - die ryk man kan nie by Lazarus en Abraham uitkom nie. Tussen die hemel en die doderyk (hel) is 'n onoorbrugbare kloof.

Wat/waar is die hemel? Hemel is daar waar God is. En hel? Waar God nie is nie! **Wat op aarde gebeur, bepaal waar jy in die lewe ná hierdie lewe sal wees.**

Toneel 4: Die ryk man vra 'n buitengewone geringe ding. Lazarus moet net die punt van sy tong kom verkoel. Hoe ironies! In die lewe het die ryk man nie vir Lazarus gehelp nie; nou moet Lazarus hóm help. Volgens Abraham kan dit nie!

Toneel 5: By die huis van die ryk

man op aarde is daar vyf broers. Hulle leef net soos hy geleef het. Hulle moet dringend gewaarsku word! Maar hulle het tog die Bybel - die wet en die profete. Nee, maar as iemand uit die dood hulle kom waarsku, sal hulle luister. Regtig?

Dan is dit te laat. As hulle nie nou na die wet en profete luister nie, sal hulle ook nie na iemand van "die ander kant" luister nie.

Daar is Een wat uit die dood opgestaan het! Jesus Christus! **Luister nou na die Woord van God.**

Glo in Hom as jou Verlosser en Saligmaker.

Die Woord skei mense nou en sluit die hemelpoort oop of toe (Hebreërs 4:12).

En kyk mooi na die man (of vrou) in vodde geklee wat op 'n dag jou voordeurklokkie kom lui. Dalk het die Here hom/haar oor jou pad gestuur om iets van God se genade, deur jou hande, deur te gee?

- Ds. Koos Mouton, 082 925 3959.

HEMEL EN HEL - 'N WERKLIKHEID?

Vervolg van p. 2

Jesus Self het gesê: "Ek het nie gekom om die mense van die wêreld te oordeel nie. Ek het gekom om hulle te red" (Joh. 12:47). **Hy straf nie. Hy oordeel nie. HY red!** Nou is die tyd van genade. Die oordeel kom nog aan die einde van die dae (Openbaring 20). Nóú kan ons nog genade vind om gered te word!

In Jes. 1:18 roep God die mens toe: "Kom nou en laat ons die saak uitmaak, sé die HERE: al was julle sondes soos skarlaken, dit sal wit word soos sneeu; al was dit rooi soos purper, dit sal word soos wol." En ook: "Want Hy sé: In die tyd van die welbehae het Ek jou verhoor, en in die dag van heil het Ek jou gehelp. Kyk, nou is dit die tyd van die welbehae; kyk, nou is die dag van heil" (2 Kor. 6:2).

JY VRA: WAT MOET EK NOU DOEN?

Gaan op jou knieë voor Hom:

(1) Erken dat jy 'n sondaar is en dat NET JESUS jou kan red.

"...want almal het gesondig en dit ontbreek hulle aan die heerlikheid van God" (Romeine 3:23).

(2) Bekeer jou, d.w.s. keer jou af van jou verkeerde weë.

"...maar as julle jul nie bekeer nie,

sal julle almal net so omkom" (Lukas 13:5).

(3) Bely jou sondes met berou en vra God om vergifnis.

"As ons ons sondes bely, Hy is getrou en regverdig om ons die sondes te vergewe en ons van alle ongeregtigheid te reinig" (1 Joh. 1:9).

(4) Vra Jesus om in jou hart in te kom.

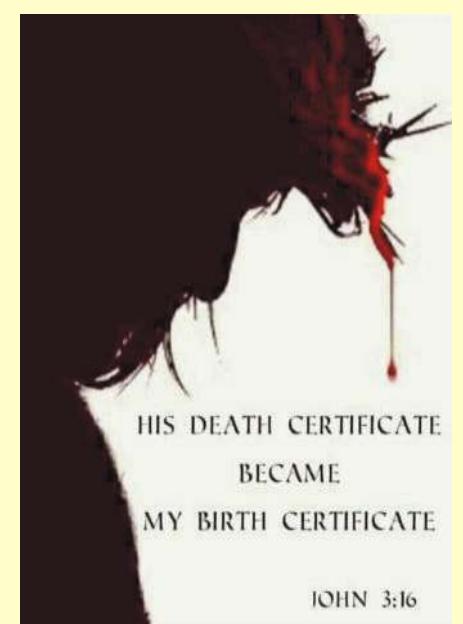
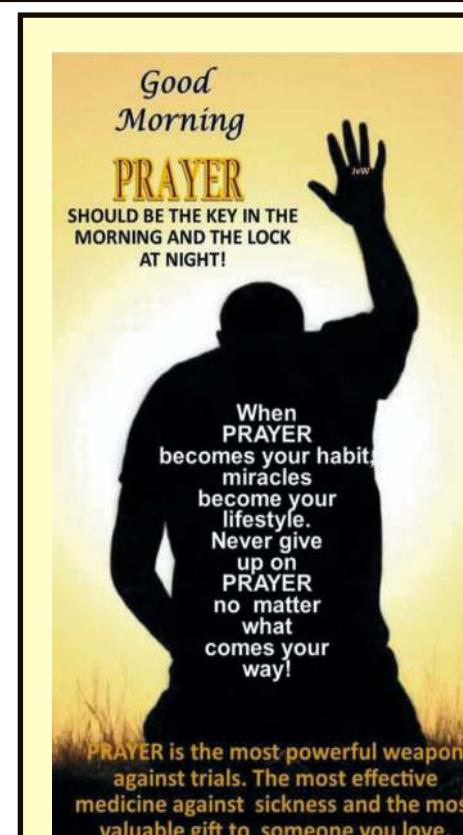
"Maar almal wat Hom aangeneem het, aan hulle het Hy mag gegee om kinders van God te word, aan hulle wat in Sy Naam glo" (Joh. 1:12).

"As jy met jou mond die Here Jesus bely en met jou hart glo dat God Hom uit die dode opgewek het, sal jy gered word; want met die hart glo ons tot geregtigheid en met die mond bely ons tot redding. Want: Elkeen wat die Naam van die Here aanroep, sal gered word" (Rom. 10:9,10,13).

(5) Aanvaar Sy vergifnis en leef voluit vir Hom!

(a) Lees jou Bybel elke dag.
(b) Bid elke dag.
(c) Gaan gereeld Kerk toe.
(d) Vertel vir iemand anders wat Hy vir jou gedoen het!

© Dr. J J Venter



Two Horses

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing...

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing. But if you stand nearby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field.

Attached to the horse's halter is a small bell. It lets the blind friend know where the other horse is, so that he can follow. As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see that the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind horse, and that the blind

horse will listen for the bell and then slowly walk to where the other horse is, trusting that he will not be led astray.

When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, it stops occasionally and looks back, making sure that the blind friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges! He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need...

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives.

At other times, we are the guide horse, helping others to find their way...



Good friends are like that... You may not always see them, but you know they are always there!

Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours, and remember: Be kinder than necessary - everyone you meet is fighting some

kind of battle.

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly - FOR WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT.

-Author unknown

HOW WEAKNESS BECOMES STRENGTH...

Think of a situation you wish you could change, and then imagine what the apostle Paul must have been going through in 2 Corinthians 12.

Paul was suffering, and so he repeatedly begged God to remove his pain. But God doesn't change Paul's situation. Instead, God tells Paul that His "grace is enough" for him.

Charis, the ancient Greek word for "grace," conveyed the favour God showed humanity when He sent Jesus to Earth for us.

Before Jesus, people couldn't draw near to God on their own. **But Jesus made a way for anyone to experience intimacy with God.** A relationship with God isn't something we earn - it's a free gift we receive when we accept that Jesus died for us and rose from the dead.

So when God tells Paul that His "grace is sufficient," what He essentially saying, is: "I am enough for you."

God could meet Paul's needs because God was all Paul needed - and God was with Paul. The influence Paul had was only because God chose to show off His power through him.

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us!" (2 Cor. 4:6-7 NIV).

We are all like "jars of clay" - simple and not that impressive. But when we submit our lives to God, we become containers that showcase His power.

Like Paul, we can then boast about how weak we are so that in that way God gets the credit for every great thing that happens to us.

Our situations might not change, but our cry often changes from, "God, please remove this suffering," to, "God, when I suffer - show me how You are using this for Your glory and my good."

So, whatever you're facing, know that God is near. He sees you, and He loves you. Take some time today and ask God to show you how He is empowering you. **Draw near to Him, and let Him strengthen you!**

- Selected

Gebet



Here, ek wou so graag goeie voorsorg tref vir hierdie reis.

vind. En medisyne vir kwint en kwaal.

Ek wou alles in oorvloed saamneem op die pad: Padkos, en water vir die dors, 'n trui vir die koue wind, 'n sambrel vir die wolk wat laag oor die bome hang. Vir die wis en die onwis moes ek sorg, want wie kan die dag vooruit bepaal?

Tog moes ek uitvind dat ek so swaar aan voorsorg dra. Die rugzak het so vol geword van las en bekommernis oor môre. My skouers het seer geword van al die bagasie...

'n Wapen sou ook nodig wees vir die geværlike tye waarin ons leef. En geld... Tog net genoeg geld om te koop wat kort, want dis swaar om te sukkel. En sekuriteite, om teleen as dit nodig sou word, en assuransie, om te verseker teen wie weet wat.

Toe eers het ek onthou dat U net een kleed gehad het waaroer hulle die lot souwerp, dat U die lelies van die veld sonder hul verdienste klee, dat U broodjies en vissies gratis verskaf en drinkwater soveel as ek benodig.

En my identiteitsdokumente sodat ek op my eie goeie naam kan roem. En my kwalifikasies, as ek langs die pad 'n werk moes

Mag ek my nuttelose rugzak leeg uitskud op die pad? Sodat ek net my kruis sal dra en U sal volg, terwyl U vir al die nodige sorg. Dankie Vader, dat U net altyd daar is vir my.
Amen.

When God Strikes the Stricken!

**The Testimony of Omar Mohammed
Told by George Cantz**



LIGHTNING STRUCK...

Working in the fields with his father, Omar Mohammed watched a black scowl gathering across the face of the sky and heard thunderclouds growling with menace. Omar and his father ran for shelter, the storm pursuing them with lightning flashing like a glittering sword...

Eventually he stirred, finding himself alive. Nearby, his father's twisted form lay sprawled. Omar crawled over but could see he was lifeless. The angry storm had robbed him of his father. What would have been his shocked scream of panic, issued as a wordless croak. He could not utter a syllable. He was mute!

Uncanny silence also engulfed him. Neither the thunder nor the hissing of the gale was penetrating his ears. They were dead! In fact, later diagnoses revealed that the high electric voltage of the lightning had burned out his voice and aural capacities. In one tragic second his future had been wrecked!

Desperately ill in hospital, doctors and specialists studied and examined his injuries. Weeks, months passed, with no improvement. More hospital visits, more examinations, more consultants, and the final verdict - the damage was irreversible! Nothing in the world could be done for the young man.

Omar had grown up in Southern

Sudan. After this terrible mishap, he was officially registered as having a major handicap, being deaf and dumb! The government granted him identification as a disabled person, giving him a license to beg. Begging was his only way to survive.

Omar set himself up daily outside the busy campus of the Khartoum University and for over five years, became part of the scene familiar to thousands. Then, at the beginning of the year 2000, he read that the German evangelist, Reinhard Bonnke, and the "Christ for all Nations" team were coming to Khartoum for meetings in the vast Green Square, the area where government rallies were held. For Omar, events were rare, especially free events like this one. When he saw people moving in like great streams, flooding the Square, he joined them.

TWICE...

The multitude sang around him and Omar could see this man speaking from the platform.

But despite the high-powered amplifiers, not a word reached him. He grasped what was happening however, when the evangelist prayed for all the sick and afflicted people, for many pressed forward to demonstrate that they had been healed. In his silent world he heard the whisper of hope...

On the second afternoon Omar was there again in the service,

near the front. Once more the preacher spoke, following it with instruction and prayer for the afflicted.

Then it happened! Bitter fate had once flashed from the sky and wrecked his life, but as Reinhard Bonnke spoke the Name of Jesus, it felt to Omar as if lightning had struck him again! He was felled to the ground as before. What now?

He soon knew! An explosion of sound burst upon him - two hundred thousand people roaring with joy! He could hear, acutely!

He leaped to his feet, shouting! It was impossible but his voice was back - in full strength!

TOTALLY HEALED!

He became conspicuous, jum-

ping, delirious with joy! The magnitude of the marvel moved and touched the crowd.

On the last day of the campaign, Omar came and stood before the multitudes demonstrating the restoration of his faculties - his once lost voice declaring the goodness and glory of the Lord!

He said he was returning to his home in the South to take up work, no longer having to beg. He was now able to earn his daily bread. As 210 000 spectators praised God, he announced he would be surrendering his disability document to the appropriate officials, together with the explanation that he no longer needed it because Jesus Christ had healed him!

[Www.cfan.org/rsa/index.htm](http://www.cfan.org/rsa/index.htm)



The Fountain of Strength

My mother's habit was every day, immediately after breakfast, to withdraw for an hour to her own room, and to spend that hour in reading the Bible, in meditation and prayer. From that hour, as from a pure fountain, she drew the strength and sweetness

which enabled her to fulfil all her duties, and to remain unruffled by the worries and pettinesses which are so often the trial of narrow neighbourhoods.

As I think of her life, and all she had to bear, I see the absolute triumph of Christian grace in the

lovely ideal of a Christian lady. I never saw her temper disturbed; I never heard her speak one word of anger, of calumny, or of idle gossip; I never observed in her any sign of a single sentiment unbecoming to a soul which had drunk of the river of the water of life, and which had

fed upon manna in the barren wilderness.

Give God the blossom of the day. Do not put Him off with faded leaves!

From: Streams in the Desert by Mrs Charles E. Cowman

Hendrik van Graan
Susana van Graan
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Wat is 'n Boom?

Op 'n dag hou ek stil bo-op 'n berg in die plantasies van Tzaneen. Ek staan en kyk oor die omgewing en die Laeveld en dink ek kan tot by Phalaborwa sien...

Ek hoor 'n voertuig aankom en dit ry tot by my. 'n Voertuig van Merensky Bosbou. Die vuurtoring het gerapporteer dat hulle 'n voertuig sien stilstaan in die plantasie. Die bosbouer het kom kyk wat aangaan.

Ons kyk saam na die omgewing - Pragtig!

En Hannes vra my toe: "WAT IS 'n BOOM?"

'n Boom? Wat 'n vraag! Ek dink 'n bietjie en besef hy wil vir my iets sê en ek vra hy moet my vertel...

Hy sê: "[A TREE IS A SEED THAT TOOK A STAND.](#)"

Daar gaan dikwels 'n hele klomp sade tot niet. Party lê net en het op klip gevallen. Ontkiem, maar ver-

droog. Ander versuip. Ander ontkiem, maar lê bo-op en verdroog. Ander groei, maar brand dood.

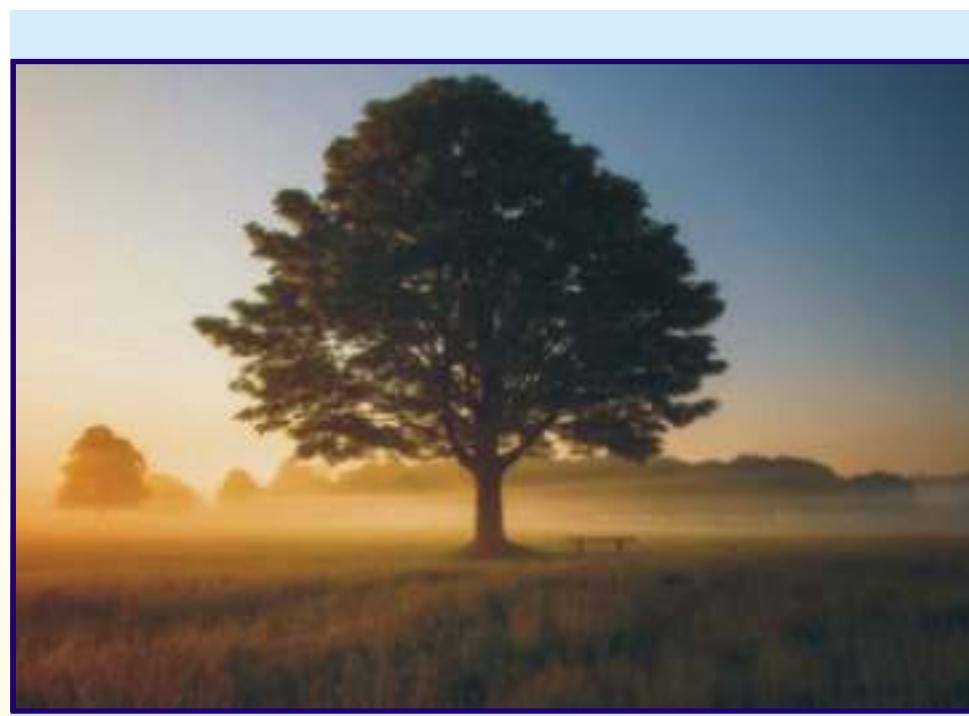
Daar is 'n klomp redes waarom sade nie tot volwassenheid ontwikkel nie, maar teen die tyd wat dit 'n boom geword het, is dit een met baie getuienis. Wat 'n klomp aanslae oorleef het.

My vriend/vriendin, as jy "groot" geword het, 60 verby, dan het ek baie respek vir jou. Dan beteken dit jy is "A tree that took a stand".

Maar, dan vertel dit ook dat jy gespaar is sodat jy koelte kan gee, takke het waarop voëls kan sit en nesmaak, vrugte kan dra vir almal om daarvan te kan eet, hout het wat gebruik kan word, en 'n karakter het wat eie is. Pragtig gevorm, en uniek.

Jy was gevorm om 'n doel te dien.

Ek bid dat jy nie net staan en wag dat jou tyd verbygaan nie. Jy is 'n uitverkore saad wat 'n BOOM geword het!



Jy het vrug, koelte, en skuiling vir ander. Ek dank God dat ek vir jou kan sê dat jy spesiaal gespaar is tot nou toe.

Gebed: Vader, ek bid vir elke boom wat staan. Dat U vir elkeen sy of haar waarde sal wys en dat hulle dit ook sal uitleef.

Dankie Vader dat ons tot hier gevorder het en al vrug gedra het vir ander om te eet. Ek loof U groot en Heilige Naam! Amen.

- OPGEDRA AAN ONS SENIOR KONINGSKINDERS.

'N KONTANTLOSE WÊRELDGEMEENSKAP IS AMPER HIER!

Die leiers van globale instellings, korporasies, regerings, finansies, akademie, media, en tegnologie het op 29-30 Maart 2022 in die hoofstad van Dubai in die Verenigde Arabiese Emirate vergader om te bespreek hoe om die "Nuwe Wêreldorde" so gou as moontlik te implementeer.

'n Ekonom by hierdie Wêreldregeringsberaad het openlik erken dat die planne van die Nuwe Wêreldorde vir 'n kontantlose globale samelewing "net om die draai" is.

Dr. Pippa Malmgren, 'n toonaangewende Amerikaanse ekonom wat as 'n spesiale raadgewer vir president George W. Bush gedien het, het in haar toespraak alles bevestig wat *The European Times* en ander media al 'n geruime tyd oor berig, nl. dat 'n kontantlose samelewing, wat deur die liberale elite beheer word, binnekort 'n werklikheid sal wees.

Dr. Malmgren se verklaring lui as volg: "Ons bevind ons in 'n tyd van dramatiese veranderinge waar ons op die punt staan - en ek sê dit met vrymoedigheid - om die tradisionele stelsel van geld en rekeningkunde te laat vaar en 'n nuwe een in te stel. En die nuwe een, die nuwe rekeningkunde is wat ons "blokketting" noem... Dit

beteken digitaal, dit beteken om 'n byna perfekte rekord te hê van elke enkele transaksie wat in die ekonomiese plaasvind en wat ons baie groter duidelikheid sal gee oor wat aangaan."

Hierdie nuwe geldstelsel waaroor Malmgren met soveel entoesiasme praat, sal "nie net digitaal wees nie, maar ook gesentraliseer, 'programmeerbaar' wees."

Dit beteken dat die sentrale banke volkombe beheer oor jou geldsake sal hê en sal dit so kan programmeer dat dit net aan sekere goed of op sekere plekke bestee kan word. Het jy byvoorbeeld die afgelope maand te veel wapens of te veel ammunisie gekoop? Of miskien het jy baie onnodige reise onderneem en sodoende te veel brandstof verbruik? Indien wel, sal die regering jou geld laat "herprogrammeer" om toekoms-tige aankope van taboe-items en die vermoorsing van brandstof te beperk. Die moontlikhede van wat hulle kan doen, is eindeloos.

Wat beteken dit alles? Sodra digitale programmeerbare geld ingestel word, sal waar en hoe jy "toegelaat" word om jou geld te bestee, afhang van jou sosiale krediettelling. Pippa Malmgren het uitdruklik ook gewaarsku dat die stelsel "voor die deur is". Dus moet ons ons daarvoor gereed

maak. En sodra dit ingestel is, sal dit die einde van ons vryheid wees, want niemand sal toegelaat word om te koop of te verkoop sonder om 'n gedigitaliseerde, hibriede mens ("robot-mens") te word nie.

Met verwysing na hierdie beplande Wêreldregeringsprogram het Joe Biden die volgende gesê: "Daar gaan 'n nuwe wêreldorde daar buite wees en ons moet dit lei" (*The European Times*).

'n Wêreldregering is in die vooruitsig gestel deur van die grootste denkers en belangrikste leiers van die vorige eeu. Hulle glo dis die enigste oplossing vir wêrelvdvrede. Hieroor het Albert Einstein hom soos volg uitgedruk: "Die mens se begeerte na vrede kan net verwesenlik word deur die skepping van 'n Wêreldregering, want daar is geen heil vir die beskawing of die menslike ras anders as deur 'n Wêreldregering nie."

Die eertydse Franse president, Charles DeGaulle, het weer gesê: "Nasies moet verenig onder 'n Wêreldregering, of uitsterf." In 1992 het pres. Bill Clinton se staatsekretaris, Strobe Talbott in *Time Magazine* gesê: "In die volgende eeu sal die konsep van "nasies" soos ons dit ken, uitgedien wees; alle state sal 'n

enkel Wêreld-utoriteit aanvaar, want nasionale soewereiniteit was glad nie so 'n goeie idee soos wat ons gedink het nie."

Die gewese assisent-sekretaris-generaal van die VN, Robert Muller, kon nie wag dat dit moes gebeur nie: "Ons moet so vinnig moontlik beweeg na 'n Eenwêreldregering; 'n Eenwêreld-godsdiens; onder 'n Eenwêreld-leier."

En laastens het die gewese sekretaris-generaal van NAVO, Paul Henry Spack, in 1957 nie doekies omgedraai oor wié die wêreldleier sal wees nie: Wat ons wil hê, is 'n man van voldoende statuur om die lojaliteit van die mense te behou, en om ons uit die ekonomiese moeras waarin ons wegsink, te lig... Stuur vir ons so 'n man en of hy nou God of die duivel is, ons sal hom verwelkom."

Wat Paul Henry Spack duidelik nie geweet het het nie, is dat die Almagtige Skepper nog nooit vir hierdie posisie beskikbaar was nie. Die duivel sal dus onbestreden verkies word! Net so skielik as wat die COVID-19 virus ons twee jaar gelede oorval het, net so onverwags gaan hierdie Wêreldregering met sy digitale geldstelsel ons voorland wees... - Oorgeneem

11 Answers to Questions About the End Times

We are closer to the End Times than ever before.

While that might be an obvious statement, many who don't believe in the Bible acknowledge that the world will end and that we are getting closer to that day. It's a reality that is both fascinating and frightening. One of the best ways to come to terms with earth's final days is to study biblical prophecy. If you wonder about the End Times, renowned prophecy expert and Bible teacher Dr David Jeremiah invites you to join him for an exploration of eleven frequently asked questions about the End Times.

1. Are We Living in the Apocalypse?

No. Before God's judgment falls, I believe Jesus will take to heaven those who have placed their faith in Him as Saviour. Seven years later, Jesus will return to end the world as we know it and establish His Millennial Kingdom.

But signs of the End Times are beginning to manifest today. These issues will only deepen and reoccur more frequently as we get closer to the end. In Matthew 24, Jesus gives us a glimpse of some of these signs:

The Sign of Deception. People will cry desperately for leaders to deliver them, and they will seek mystics and religious leaders who claim to have hidden knowledge. Many false teachers will claim to be the Saviour. Jesus is the only salvation for this world, and we must be vigilant against counterfeits.

The Sign of Disputes Among Nations. Conflicts, border skirmishes, race wars, national battles, and general unrest will escalate.

The Sign of Devastation. There will be widespread famine and disease, as well as "earthquakes in various places" (Matthew 24:7).

The Sign of Deliverance Into the Tribulation. Just before Jesus returns, there will be an explosion of antagonism toward God's people. Christians will experience persecution. Many will pay a high price for proclaiming the Name of Jesus in our world.

These signs regularly appear in the news today. While we cannot know the date or time of the Rapture, we know these issues will exponentially grow when it does happen.

2. What Are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?

Many movies and TV shows deal with apocalyptic circumstances, and references to the four horsemen are not uncommon. Hollywood uses the concept of

the horsemen for its own purposes, but Scripture provides the only reliable description of the apocalyptic figures.

In Revelation 6:1-8, John describes Jesus opening four of the seven seals of judgment to begin the Tribulation. The first four seals are the horsemen, who are released from heaven to usher in various judgments on the earth.

White Horse: "And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer" (Revelation 6:2).

The rider on the white horse is the Antichrist. After working with Satan to unite the world under the guise of peace, the Antichrist will later wage open war against God's people. His white horse is a direct imitation of Jesus' return later in Revelation (19:11-16). Satan's purpose has always been to counterfeit the work of Christ, and the Tribulation will be no different.

Red Horse: "Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword" (Revelation 6:4).

The fiery red horseman represents nation rising against nation and individuals fighting each other. It ushers in the war, murder, and bloodshed that characterize the Tribulation.

Black Horse: "So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, 'A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine'" (Revelation 6:5-6).

The Bible often associates black with famine. In the early days of the Tribulation, food will be in short supply, so people will have to work all day to get enough food to eat - a denarius was the standard daily wage for ancient labourers. However, the luxuries of the wealthy ("oil and wine") will remain untouched.

Pale Horse: "So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth" (Revelation 6:8).

Death is the pale rider followed by Hades (or hell). Together, they will

kill with the sword, hunger, disease, and wild beasts - the four judgments the Lord said He would send in Ezekiel 14:21.

3. What Does 666 Mean?

666 is the mark of the Beast. During the Tribulation, the Anti-christ's accomplice, the False Prophet, will introduce the mark to bolster the Anti-christ's one-world rule. According to Revelation 13:16-17, "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

Bearing the mark will be the only way to function in society. Those who refuse to take it will go bankrupt or starve.

Why 666? Revelation 13:18 tells us it is the number of man. We see this affirmed throughout Scripture. In Genesis, God created man on the sixth day. The Old Testament Law required men to work six out of every seven days. A Hebrew could only be held as a slave for a maximum of six years. And after six consecutive years of sowing a field, the law required its owner to let it lie fallow.

Another way to think of it is the number 666 represents the ultimate in human ingenuity and competence. The Anti-christ is the epitome of man's last attempt at ruling the world before Jesus overrules all those who oppose Him once and for all.

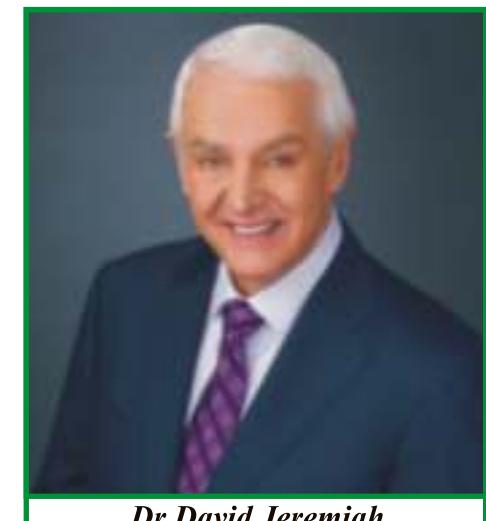
The original text used the Greek word *charagma* for "mark." In antiquity, this word was always associated with the Roman emperor. It often contained the emperor's name, his image, and the year of his reign. It was necessary for buying and selling and was required to be affixed to documents to attest to their validity.

4. What Is the Battle of Armageddon?

The Battle of Armageddon is the final battle between the forces of evil and good, with Jesus as the Victor.

Six world powers will converge in the final campaign: the revived Roman Empire, the northern confederation (Russia and her allies), the kings of the East (Asia), the kings of the South (Africa), the Lord and His armies, and the nation of Israel.

Israel will be at the centre of the conflict with all the other Earthly nations gathering against Jerusalem. But according to biblical prophecy, these nations will band



Dr David Jeremiah

together and fight against the Lord when they see Him coming with the angels and believers who were raptured into heaven.

Christ Jesus will descend to the battlefield in all His power and majesty as the King of the Universe. In the words of Revelation 19, "*His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns... Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations... He has on His robe and on His thigh a Name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*" (vv. 12, 15, 16).

Christ Jesus will slay the nations with the sword as His armies stand together watching. He will conquer without sustaining any losses. All the powers of evil will be no opposition to His strength. In one dramatic moment, He will throw the Anti-christ and the False Prophet into the lake of fire. The Battle of Armageddon will end as soon as it begins.

The resulting bloodshed, according to Revelation 14:20, will spread over a 300 km area (approximately the size of Israel) and reach a depth of 1.2 m (the height of a horse's bridle).

"All the birds" will be "filled" with the flesh of the battlefield (Revelation 19:21), and it will take seven months to bury the dead and seven years to rid the earth of all the weapons gathered by the nations (Ezekiel 39:8-16). The bloody battlefields will be the remains of all those who rejected Christ Jesus.

5. What Will Happen at the Great White Throne Judgment?

The Great White Throne Judgment will be the final judgment of all "small and great" who have rejected Christ (Revelation 20:12).

Many "good people" who were admired by their peers will be there - even many who held offices in the church and appeared to be Christians. But anyone who has sincerely placed their trust in Jesus and accepted Him as their Saviour will not be present.

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As Jesus sits on His great white throne, He will summon every person who has rejected Him. Their bodies will rise from the grave and sea to accept their final judgment. Books of judgment will expose every word, action, and thought of the defendants.

Romans 3:20 says, “*By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight.*” The Great White Throne Judgment will attest to that. Matthew 7:22-23 says, “*Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many wonders in Your Name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*”

Their fate will be sealed when their names are not found in the Book of Life. After each one stands trial, they will be cast into the lake of fire, the final and forever hell.

Is your name written in the Book of Life? Have you placed your trust in Jesus and accepted the eternal salvation He openly offers to you? If you haven't, I urge you to make the decision today!

6. Is the Antichrist Alive Today? The Antichrist could be alive today, but we can't know for sure. The Bible says that his identity will not be revealed until after the Rapture because the Holy Spirit will no longer be restraining the work of evil on Earth (2 Thessalonians 2:5-12). Only when the Antichrist is prepared to take leadership, will the world know who he is. Since the Rapture could happen at any time, he may be alive today.

While we cannot know who he is, we know details about him. He will be the incarnation of Satan, the great deceiver. Second Thessalonians 2:4 describes him as one “*who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*”

Not only will he present himself against Christ but also instead of Christ. He will be the consummate counterfeiter!

We know that the Antichrist will be a charismatic leader who will sway the masses with his speaking ability. Daniel 7 says he will have “*a mouth speaking pompous words.... He shall speak pompous words against the Most High*” (vv. 8, 25). “*And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies*” (Revelation 13:5). Captivated by his eloquence, the nations will unite

in a One-world Government with him as the supreme leader.

In all of this, God will remain in control. Revelation 13:7 says that “*it was granted to [the Antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome them.*” He will send a strong delusion into the minds of the unsaved people to believe the lies of the Antichrist, “*that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness*” (2 Thessalonians 2:12). The Antichrist will come in great power, but only in the power that God allows him. And he will not be revealed until Jesus raptures all believers into heaven.

7. Will Everyone Hear the Gospel Before Jesus Returns?

This can be a tricky question. Before Jesus returns to Earth during the Second Coming, everyone will hear the Gospel, but not necessarily before the Rapture of the Church occurs. When Matthew 24:14 says, “*This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come,*” it means that the Gospel will reach all people before the end of the Tribulation period.

8. Is There a Second Chance of Salvation After the Rapture?

Yes, during the Tribulation, many people will choose to believe in Jesus and be saved. Most of these new believers will become martyrs for their faith because of intense persecution. Revelation 7:9-14 portrays these new believers accumulating in heaven after the Rapture: “*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ ... Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?’ And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’*”

How will these people discover the truth of the Gospel after the Rapture? According to Revelation 7, 144 000 Jews - twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes of Israel - will be chosen and sealed as witnesses to the Gospel before Christ returns. The Holy Spirit will provide them with power and protection to preach the Gospel during this time. With

the promise of God's protection, they will be fearless. No one will be able to harm them until their job is complete. Then, they will ascend to heaven.

Revelation also mentions two men who will prophesy for nearly three-and-a-half years of the Tribulation (Revelation 11:3). Then, after the 144 000 enter heaven, an angel will proclaim the Gospel “*to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people - saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and Earth, the sea and springs of water’*” (Revelation 14:6-7).

This bold preaching of both angels and men will be a testament to the strength of God's character; it will demonstrate His graciousness and justice. When His judgment is on display, His mercy is just as real and present.

Although multitudes will receive salvation during the Tribulation, no one should use it as an excuse to put off accepting Christ. **If you haven't already, I urge you to surrender your life to Jesus today!**

9. What Is the Difference Between the Rapture and the Second Coming?

This is one of the most common misconceptions about biblical prophecy. The Rapture and the Second Coming are often confused, but they are two different events on God's prophecy timeline.

First, the Rapture will be the day when Christ takes every Christian to heaven with Him, including those who have died. This is the event Paul describes in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: “*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*”

Some argue that the Tribulation period will begin before the Rapture. However, Scripture says, “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 8:1), and I believe the Church will not experience the judgment that God has planned for that time.

At the end of the seven years, Jesus will return, marking the Second Coming. Unlike His first appearance, He will emerge as the victorious King of the Universe, surrounded by His saints. He will

gain victory at Armageddon and establish His kingdom on Earth.

At the Rapture, Jesus comes **for** His saints. At the Second Coming, He comes **with** His saints. At the Rapture, Jesus doesn't come to Earth. At the Second Coming, His feet touch down on the Mount of Olives, and He will reign on Earth. At the Rapture, Jesus comes with a blessing for His saints. At the Second Coming, He brings judgment for those who have rejected Him.

The Rapture can happen at any moment, but we know the Second Coming will happen seven years later.

10. Will Today's Believers Be on Earth for the Millennial Kingdom?

Not only will believers today be on Earth for the Millennial Kingdom, but they will also rule with Jesus!

After the Tribulation, raptured believers will join Jesus and His armies of angels and return to Earth: “*The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean*” (Revelation 19:14, NIV). Jesus will gain victory at Armageddon, and believers will receive authority to reign with Him for one thousand years.

Several passages in Scripture point the role of believers in the kingdom:

“*Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him*” (Jude 14-15).

“*Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?*” (1 Cor. 6:2).

“*And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years*”

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(Revelation 20:4-6).

Today's believers are rulers in the making. God is preparing us not only for heaven but also for administrating the Millennial Kingdom. During this time, God will establish the first genuinely righteous leadership. As our righteous King, He will never make one mistake - He will always make the right decision.

11. Will God Destroy the Earth?

Pop culture leads us to believe that one day a giant explosion will destroy the earth. But God is not going to destroy the planet, He is going to purify it.

Second Peter 3:10-12 says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a

thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up... The heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat."

It's understandable how this passage can lead some to believe in the apocalyptic explosion theory. But when we look at the original Greek, the word translated "burned up" more accurately conveys the idea of being uncovered or laid open. God will not burn the earth down to a heap of ashes; He's going to refine every element and atom down to the earth's core. He's going to renovate the earth to a quality we haven't

experienced. The beauty we enjoy today is barely a taste of the vibrancy we will experience when God purifies His creation!

Revelation 21:1 says, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." But God will not create a new earth from scratch like He did in Genesis. He will renovate His creation and remove all the evidence of sin, decay, and disease. The world will not be new in composition but in quality - perfectly refurbished to its core.

Then the New Jerusalem - the city of heaven we hear so much about with streets of gold and pearly gates - that city will come out of the clouds, and there all believers

will reside with God for eternity. "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:2-4).

<https://www.davidjeremiah.org/this-could-be-the-day/the-church-age/11-answers-to-questions-about-the-end-times>

AMEN EN KOEBAAI...

Ek weet nie van jou nie, maar ek het twee soorte bid in my lewe: die een is sommer die gewone praat met God, geliefdes voor Sy voete lê, Hom aanbid vir Sy liefde en sorg, en dan opstaan en die dag voluit aanpak...

En dan is daar die "amen-en-koebaai-bid". Daardie oggende wat jou bid nie woorde wil kry nie, en sommer net rou emosie is: verlange wat te veel word, vrees vir dinge wat wag, hartseer oor dinge wat gebeur het.

En as 'n mens só voor die Here 'voel', wil 'n mens nie amen sê nie. Want amen voel party dae soos koebaai, so al asof jy en God julle eie koers gaan inslaan, tot die volgende gebed natuurlik.

Op sulke dae klou jy wanhopig aan die Here vas, weet jy met kinderlike geloof dat die Here jou nie sal los nie. Nie op daardie oomblik nie. Nooit nie!

Iemand het een dag gesê dat mens soms moet bid, en ander kere net moet toelaat dat die Here jou liefhe... Op "amen-en-koebaai-dae", mag jy maar net stil by Hom sit en Hom vra om vir jou lief te wees. Op "amen-en-koebaai-dae", mag jy jou oë toemaak en in jou gedagtes voel hoe die Here jou styf vashou. Op "amen-en-koebaai-dae" mag jy maar jou kop teen Sy bors laat sak, en jou huile huil. Op "amen-en-koebaai-dae" maak dit nie saak of jy amen sê nie, want die Een wat jou naam in Sy



handpalm geskryf het, het gesê: "Moenie bang wees nie (nie vir die hartseer van verlang na 'n geliefde nie, nie vir die spoke van die verlede of die uitdagings wat voorlê nie), want Ek is by jou. Altyd!"
-Pierre Cronjé het hierdie pragtige stukkie geskryf.

Jer. 20:11

B&B *Uit die Hand*

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AGS BAILLIE PARK

**WYNNESTRAAT 18
POTCHEFSTROOM**

Mei 2022 Spesiale Dienste:

- Hemelvaartdienst
Do. 26/05 om 19:00
- Pinksterdienste
So. 29/05 om 09:30 & 18:00
Ma. - Wo. 30/05 - 01/06 om 19:00

U is hale welkom!

Pastoor Johan Nortje 083 280 8971