

In the Process of Time

“Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged [them].” (Exodus 2:23-25 NKJV)

Time is a constant struggle for some people. I know it is for this writer. Things are always happening too slow or too fast. What causes this struggle? Why is it so common for men to be impatient?

God’s people had been suffering a long time by our standards. Surely, some lived their whole life under the oppressive tyranny of the Egyptians. When a person looks at this situation, it is easy to ask, “Why so long Lord?”

There is a fundamental presupposition that drives this thinking. That presupposition is as a creation of God I deserve to be happily supplied with creature comforts. It could be that isn’t the best way to put it, but the point is God’s children have the wrong focus. Believers are too concerned with their own comforts while despising the glory of God.

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM (1674) asks, “What is the chief end of man?” The answer it gives is “Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.” This is well stated, however, believers transpose the answer to their own harm. They say the chief end of man is to enjoy God forever, and then glorify Him. What they fail to understand is that to enjoy God forever you must first glorify Him.

Believers are not as important as God is. When saints fail to recognize this they fail to humble themselves properly. Unless a person is humble, he will never fully experience the joy God desires for him. Consider the following passages.

“Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.” (Proverbs 3:34 NKJV)

“The humble also shall increase [their] joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 29:19 NKJV)

“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name [is] Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy [place], With him [who] has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” (Isaiah 57:15 NKJV)

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”” (James 4:6 NKJV)

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:10 NKJV)

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,” (1 Peter 5:6 NKJV)

If a believer will learn to live for the glory of God, he will learn to live outside of time. The time spent in this world should have only one goal: To glorify God, and enjoy him forever. Keep it in that order and in the process of time, you will have joy inexpressible.