

Bereans Bible Institute

Module V – Redemption of the Creation

Lesson 1 – Introduction

I. God's purpose for His creation

- A. Restore all things (Acts 3:19-21) the 120th Jubilee
- B. Reconcile all things (Col. 1:19-20)
- C. Redeem all things (Lev. 25:1-13, 23-28) This is the theme of the Jubilee Year
 - 1. "Redeem" (verb) or "redemption" (noun) means to RESCUE at great personal cost.

II. Two camps regarding God's ultimate purpose for His creation

- A. The *"blow it all up and move in with God"* camp.
 - 1. Supposes a "heavenly destiny."
 - 2. Supposes that we are really "ghosts" imprisoned in "flesh suits." We can be transplanted from our "earth-dust" body into a different "heaven-dust" body (not of this creation).
 - a. This concept subtly denies the "resurrection" by redefining it.
 - 1. It is actually "reincarnation" not "resurrection."
 - 2. Many believe "reincarnation" occurs at death.
 - 3. Others believe "reincarnation" occurs at the 2nd coming.
 - a. Remain as disembodied "ghosts" in the interim.
 - b. The alleged complete destruction of this creation and its very "elements" demands complete destruction of our bodies, since we were made from, and consist of, those elements.
 - c. "Cremation" of dead bodies presupposes "reincarnation" not "resurrection."
 - 1. Many pagan cultures burn the body to release the "immortal" ghost.
 - d. "Death" is man's friend, releasing him into a better "life."
 - 3. Supposes that the physical substance of this creation is not worthy of us.
- B. The *"restore it from the ground up"* camp.
 - 1. Supposes the complete restoration of this creation to be our permanent home. God comes to live with us here.
 - 2. Supposes that we are "living dust." Our consciousness is not possible without a brain.
 - a. Our only hope is "resurrection" from the grave (Ezek. 37:1-14; Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:28-29).
 - b. Jesus' resurrection is proof of "resurrection" not "reincarnation."
 - 1. He consisted of "flesh and bone" (Lk. 24:33-39, cf. Gen. 2:23)
 - 2. He still had the scars of the crucifixion (Jn. 20:26-27)
 - 3. We will be like Him in the resurrection (Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2)
 - c. A proper burial shows respect to the body, and anticipates the resurrection.
 - 1. Jesus' body was anointed with spices and perfumes, gently wrapped and placed in a prepared tomb.
 - 2. When Jacob was about to die in Egypt, he asked that his bones be dug up and reburied in the Promised Land in the hope of the resurrection. (Gen. 50:25-26; Ex. 13:19; Heb. 11:22)
 - 3. In the Bible, burning of bodies was the ultimate insult. It implied no hope of an afterlife. (2 Kings 23:16,20; Amos 2:1-2).
 - d. "Death" is our enemy. "Victory" does not occur until resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51-58).
 - 3. Supposes that the physical creation & its matter was "very good" (Gen. 1:31), good enough for God to live here (Rev. 21:3).