

Elpis Israel

for Young People

Chapter 1

Recovery of the Truth

From Brother Robert Roberts, Diary of a Voyage:

Brother Roberts:

God has permitted the recovery of the Truth in these latter days and there is a liability (possibility) that it might be lost again through the inability of complacent minds of limited grasp to see its wide-lying breadth, and through their tendency to sympathize more readily with the human than the divine bearing of its doctrine.

Translation:

God has allowed the Truth to be rediscovered in these last days.

However, if we don't spend the time to find out what it is really all about we are in danger of losing it again

The Truth is made up of the thoughts of God – which are much more spiritual than man's thoughts.

Brother Roberts:

The doctrines of the Truth embody the thoughts of God, and the thoughts of God are higher than the thoughts of men, and therefore, the majority of men easily fail to rise to the height of them, or easily fall from the height when lifted up to them.

Translation:

Most men can never reach an understanding of God's thoughts – and those who do soon lose them.

Brother Roberts:

The death of Christ has more to do with the exaltation of God, than the salvation of man. Most men take the latter more easily than the former, and quickly get astray through the power of mere humanitarianism.¹

Translation:

The death of Christ is more about elevating God than it is about saving men.

Most of mankind's thinking is wrapped up in something called humanism – where man is the center of the universe.

¹ Robert Roberts, Diary of a Voyage, p70.

Therefore – when we come to look at the Bible we want to find out what GOD’s thoughts are – and forget our own “ideas”.

Isaiah 55:6-9 “my thoughts are not your thoughts....”

Prov 3:5-6 “lean not to thine own understanding”

To the Bible, then, all must come at last if they would be truly wise in spiritual things. This is a great truth which few of the sons of men have learned to appreciate according to its importance. (p3)

Beginning the Book

A little Poetry from Uncle John:

REVOLVING upon its own axis, and describing an ample circuit through the boundless fields of space, is a planet of the solar system bearing upon its surface a population of over a thousand millions subject to sin, disease, and death. This orb of the starry heavens shines with a glory similar to that of its kindred spheres. Viewed from them, it is seen sparkling “like a diamond in the sky”; and with the rest of the heavens, declares the glory of God, and shows forth the handiwork of Him that did create it...²

Here’s the million dollar question - WHY?

- Before we look at HOW God created the heavens and the earth – we have to ask the question of WHY?
- Why did God create the heavens and the earth – and man upon it?
- What was his PURPOSE?

²Thomas, D. J. (1997, c1990). *Elpis Israel : An exposition of the Kingdom of God*. P1

The investigation begins: Darkness

Before the creative work of God took form – the earth was “without form” and “void” and darkness covered it.

Without Form and Void – darkness on the face of the deep

Genesis 1:1-2 ¹ *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* ² *And the earth was without form[8414], and void[922]; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

Concordance Work Meanings:

8414 תהו [tohuw /to·hoo/] n m. From an unused root meaning to lie waste; TWOT 2494a; GK 9332; 20 occurrences; AV translates as “vain” four times, “vanity” four times, “confusion” three times, “without form” twice, “wilderness” twice, “nought” twice, “nothing” once, “empty place” once, and “waste” once. **1** formlessness, confusion, unreality, emptiness. **1A** formlessness (of primeval earth). **1A1** nothingness, empty space. **1B** that which is empty or unreal (of idols) (fig). **1C** wasteland, wilderness (of solitary places). **1D** place of chaos. **1E** vanity

922 בהו [bohuw /bo·hoo/] n m. From an unused root (meaning to be empty); TWOT 205a; GK 983; Three occurrences; AV translates as “void” twice, and “emptiness” once. **1** emptiness, void, waste.

Concordance Work: Other Uses of the word VOID

- **Where else is this phrase used.... Does it tell us anything?**
“Without form and void”
Jeremiah 4:22-23 ²² *For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish (foolish) children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.* ²³ *I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.*
- **Other uses of the word that might be helpful:**
Proverbs 11:12 *He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.*
Proverbs 17:18 *A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.*
- **Other uses of the word Darkness:**
 - look up in concordance see all the list....
 - Anything you can see by looking at the list that helps you understand the meaning?

- **Two passages we will pick on:**

1 John 2:8-11 ⁸ Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. ⁹ He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. ¹⁰ He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. ¹¹ But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

Ephesians 5:11 ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Therefore: Darkness = ignorance of the word of God

Light

Onto this scene – God commanded light to shine:

Genesis 1:3-4 ³ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and **God divided the light from the darkness.**

- **The power of the word of God cut through the darkness and began to shape creation into something that was Good**

Divided: 914 - (bawdal) – put a difference, sever, separate, make a difference

The lights were to RULE the day and night:

Genesis 1:15-16 ¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to **give light upon the earth:** and it was so. ¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to **rule the day,** and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

- **Rule: to have dominion over, jurisdiction**

The same is true of the “spiritual creation” – onto the empty, desolate and naked scene God’s word creates order out of the confusion – and gives purpose!

- **The light is equated with God’s truth**

Psalms 43:3 ³ O send out **thy light and thy truth:** let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

Psalms 119:105 ¹⁰⁵ Thy **word is a lamp** unto my feet, and a **light** unto my path.

Proverbs 6:23 ²³ For the **commandment is a lamp;** and the **law is light;** and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

- **Specifically the light is the gospel –**

2 Cor 4:4 ⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the **light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

Therefore: Light = the word of God

This is the purpose of God with His creation – to fill the world with LIGHT.

The Purpose of God

God created the earth for a purpose:

Isaiah 45:18-19 ¹⁸ For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. ¹⁹ I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

God created the earth to be inhabited – with what?

Numbers 14:21 ²¹ But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

This is elaborated on in Habakkuk:

Habakkuk 2:14 ¹⁴ For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

What is the glory of the LORD?

Exodus 33:13 ¹³ Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know (YADAH) thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Know: Yadah – to know by an intimate experience

Exodus 33:18 ¹⁸ And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

God reveals his glory to Moses:

Exodus 34:5-7 ⁵ And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Biblical Algebra:

GOD'S GLORY = HIS WAYS = HIS CHARACTER

Putting these verses together a formula becomes apparent:

The purpose of God is to fill the earth
With inhabitants
Who have the (intimate experiential) knowledge
Of his Character
As the waters cover the sea

Our Salvation Dependant on our Understanding:

Eternal Life hinges on knowing of God:

John 17:3 ³ And this is **life eternal**, that they might **know thee** the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Knowing God isn't an academic knowledge – it is the practical outworking of it:

1 John 2:3-6 ³ And **hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.** ⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoso **keepeth his word**, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. ⁶ **He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**

This is being part of the LIGHT that shined out of DARKNESS

1 John 1:5-6 ⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is **light**, and in him is no **darkness** at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Biblical Algebra:

Putting these verses together a formula becomes apparent:

KNOWING GOD = WALKING IN HIS WAYS

Therefore:

The purpose of God is to fill the earth
With inhabitants
Who know intimately – by experience
And manifest the Character of God by walking in his ways
As the waters cover the sea