

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD? TEACHING by Mary Lou Houllis

"For I know the thoughts I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end."
Jeremiah 29:11

By the time you read this article, voting will have taken place and the Presidency of the United States of America will have been decided. As the people who have crossed from the 20th to the 21st Century, we are in a constant state of change and transition! Things that seem to be true today cannot necessarily be relied upon for tomorrow. What is coming in the days ahead and what does the future hold for America, the Middle East, and the whole world? Are we on the brink of extinction ... should we be looking to the future with dread and fear? Is the destiny of America held in the hands of its next leader? Is the future so uncertain that there is nothing for us to hold onto, nothing that we can put our faith and trust in?

These are sobering questions and ones that need answers; not only for us, but also for those who are living their lives in the grip of fear. Those who feel that there is no lasting joy or hope on the horizon and that great devastation is just around every corner. It is imperative for us who call ourselves Christians, to know the answers to these questions. Then, after we have settled the truth in our hearts, to be able to share with the world the hope that lies within us!

There is a famous scripture inscribed on plaques, posters, and found in every promise book of Christian stores today. You and your children probably know it by heart, it is in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end." The thoughts God has toward His creation are ones of peace. He wants creation to know that His plan for them is the abundant life, free from fear of the future. He wants to give us a revelation of an expected end. That word "end" can be translated from the Hebrew, "last, hence the future, also end (time)." God does not want us to be in the dark concerning the future, but to know and expect His plan of peace to be fulfilled.

Today, warnings are going forth from what we term both Christian, and secular, which cause us to fear the future, to feel that these are times of great uncertainty with little hope for what's ahead. They lead us to believe that we can only look forward to a future growing darker and more evil until God finally pours out His wrath upon man. That future is not the one God is talking about in Jeremiah. This is not what Jeremiah proclaimed coming from the very thoughts of God for a peaceful future with an expectation!

How can we know the truth? The Bible says the truth will make us free! One of the scriptures that gives us a key to the time we are living is in II Peter 3:8; "But beloved, be not ignorant of *this one thing*, that one day is with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." God is showing His beloved, His Body, a key. In the Bible a thousand year period is what God calls *one day*. Which day have you been chosen to live in? This question must be answered for you to know, and get a revelation, of the times ahead. If we go back 2,000 years, or by God's account 2 days, we will be at the time of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If we were to go back 6,000 years or 6 days by God's time, we would arrive at the formation of Adam. Where are we today in this timetable of God? You and I have entered the third day from the

resurrection of Christ and the seventh day from the formation of Adam. We are a generation which has entered the fullness of the plan for all creation, if we have eyes to see!

Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ gave a dual prophecy that the people of His day did not understand, nor believe. "Jesus answered and said unto them, destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." John 2:19. Christ was revealing a spiritual message to the Jews, but they could only see in a physical realm. They said, how can He say this, when it took us 46 years to build this temple and this man thinks He can raise it up in three days, what foolishness! "But He spake of the temple of His body." (verse 21) Jesus Christ was telling them, the *real Temple*, the place where God was dwelling in the earth, His body, would be destroyed but raised again on the third day. The Bible also clearly tells us that God would never again dwell in temples, or buildings, made with hands (Acts 17:24) and that now *we are* the temple of God (I Cor. 3:16.) You and I are His dwelling place on this earth, the Body of Christ together.

In this day we have entered we are seeing this prophecy being fulfilled in the Body of Christ. On the third day from His crucifixion, He raised His Body from death to life to manifest true God life in one man. Now on this Spiritual Third Day from His death, there is another resurrection occurring! It is the resurrection of His Corporate Body into the very life of God which is to manifest on this earth.

While so many are proclaiming a message of bad news and devastation ahead, we are in a time that the whole creation has been groaning for. A time when the creation is being set totally free and delivered. This is exactly what the Bible promises and reveals. Let's read it in Romans 8:19 "For the earnest expectation of the creature (formation, creation) waiteth for the manifestation (disclosure, appearing, coming, revealed) of the sons of God." The whole creation is groaning in travail...but that groaning is bringing forth the very appearing of the Body of Christ, the Sons of God, in resurrection life! Verse 21 says, "Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." This is Gospel... this is Good News for a future from the very mind of God!

There is a scripture in this chapter quoted out of context, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called *according to His purpose.*" The purpose and calling is clearly revealed when you read all of Romans 8. God is on this Spiritual Third Day, raising His Body into manifestation upon the earth. The very glory of God is being revealed through a people (Rm. 8:18) to setting creation free!

Christ has been building a spiritual house, a Body to be fully revealed in this Third Day. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." We have been chosen, before the foundation of the earth, to be the people to live in this fullness of time. The greatest time for all mankind is NOW! Can you see with Spiritual eyes, or are you like the populous 2,000 years ago, only able to see the physical realm? In the midst of a perceived "darkness," we are called to have spiritual eyes to see a Great Light arising.

I know the majority, even those who had been followers of Christ, did not believe what He told them would occur on the Third Day. He said He would arise and walk right out from what looked like the impossible. It seemed foolishness with all the evidence of His

beating, torture and finally death on the cross. They gave up hope of any future ahead for them. Have you? Today, no matter how foolish it sounds or looks, the future is sure! The time of hope has arrived and what all creation has been groaning for is here, the very manifestation of the Sons of God! Once again, on this Third Day, a Body is on the rise... with healing in their wings for all humanity.

These Sons of God are the trees spoken of in Revelation 22:1. "He showed me a pure river (a people of pure water or word, no accusation nor condemnation) of water of life (Zoe, God-life) clear as crystal, (a transparent people) proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. These people are the tabernacle of God, God is sitting in the midst of them, and His life is proceeding out from them. Out from these Sons, is proceeding the very Kingdom of God - righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom of God is within us, Christ revealed. What their lives are yielding, are the leaves which are for the healing of all nations. (Rev. 22:2) The word "leaves" comes from the Greek root "phuo" and means to "puff or blow, to germinate". These Sons are releasing in the earth the life of God, which is germinating all of creation with the truth of their purpose and origin. The truth is what makes us free! The healing of all nations is within you this very moment. All that is needed is for you to awaken to the reality! We are the hope (Christ in you) of all creation. Healing and peace for the world is not coming from "out there someplace" but from within a Son Company which is rising, and manifesting, the very life of Christ.

It may look dark in this world to the natural eyes, but in Isaiah 60:1-5 we see the light and glory of God arising and manifested from within a people on the earth. YOU are those people. You have a true hope and eternal future of the Glory of God covering the earth like the waters cover the sea! Don't be fooled by what your physical eyes see, be confident in what the Spirit is revealing -- the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ within you! The future is as sure as the Sun (Sons) arising in the morning, and shining more and more unto the perfect day!