

METAPHYSICAL BIBLE INTERPRETATION

Being All I Am Created To Be:

Gospels Interpretation

Part 12

The New Life Of Spirit

Jesus' final demonstration of spiritual awareness: his crucifixion, resurrection and Ascension, is an inspiration to each of us to "...do the works that I do; and greater works than these..." (John 14:12) In this demonstration Jesus played out a common mythological theme of death and rebirth. Compare it with similar stories such as the story of the Phoenix, taken from a neighboring culture: the Egyptians.

The Phoenix is a great bird that circles the earth for 500 years taking on the troubles "sins" of the people. After 500 years he builds a funeral pyre of sweet woods and resins. Directing the sun's rays he sets the wood on fire and perishes in the flames. In so doing the "sins" are released, transformed, and the people are "saved" from the results of their transgressions. Out of the ashes a new Phoenix is born.

The story of Jesus takes this theme to a new level, the Ascension experience. The New Testament level of consciousness is one of increase. We have moved beyond the old level of even exchange "an eye for an eye" to that of the Law of Increase "...give, and it will be given you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." (Luke 6:38) We are not only reborn, but we ascend to a new level of experience; we are born of the Spirit.

This "new birth" comes as an extension of the process that begins with crucifixion. When we die to the physical, sense, level of consciousness we cease looking to the outer, physical, world as the source of our good. This can result in great tribulation as our old beliefs, thoughts and habit patterns are not want to go easily. When we hold strong to the knowledge of God as our source, no matter what the appearances, we will move through this crucifixion experience to be resurrected to a greater level of awareness of life and living.

In this resurrected state, our minds are opened to even greater levels of experience to which we might ascend. The

step of Ascension is not an end but a new beginning. It is the lifting of our conscious awareness of reality.

This experience can be compared to that of the Buddhist concept of Satori: an intuitive perspective of reality that transcends duality, an awareness of the immediate facts of existence. This is a consciousness of unity: a realization of the interconnectedness of all existence, a consciousness of the oneness of God and humanity, the physical and the spiritual.

In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John has an experience of the Ascended Christ: the level of awareness that awaits our realization. This compounded series of visions points the way to this experience of "...a new heaven and a new earth..." (Rev 21:1)