

apr 18

the word that keeps coming to me today is "refuge". the old testament even had cities of refuge established. today, of course, we know that our refuge is in Jesus Christ.

i think of all the newborn christians that will be coming in, seeking a refuge from the rising darkness; a place of light to see and learn. they know so little of the things of God, having spent most of their lives in ignorance of Him. even the most basic things that seasoned christians take for granted will be new to them.

i know it is not "politically correct" to speak of women as anyway inferior or lacking when compared to men, but there is a verse in isaiah that i think is symbolic of the end times. "in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, 'we will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by your name, to take away our reproach.'" isa 4:1 my meaning of this verse: the women represent the newborns, unequipped and untrained in the things of God. the men representing the stronger christians they seek to be near to learn from.

this has been a teaching i heard years ago but i think it is a good one and represents the times we are in. we who are seasoned must be ready to be a place of refuge for those who be seeking shelter; shelter and training in the things of God. and knowing our Father, they will learn with supernatural speed and may well even obtain wisdom we can draw from.

(just an amusing side note here. after i had begun to grow in the Lord, some of the elder christians used to say: "if you want a quick answer to your pray, get a baby christian to pray for you. they seem to be indicating that God would answer a newborn faster than than someone He was training to use their "faith" muscles. true or not, i know i want to be fully trained and equipped for things i see ahead.)

depending on the wording of different translations, refuge is used often in the scriptures. "reverence for God gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security." prov 14:26 He is our strength. He is our refuge.

are we prepared as the body to be one of His cities of refuge? i hear that now as churches are beginning to open many are not returning. the word says there will be a great falling away at the end times. "and because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold." matt 24:12 as the persecution of churches and christians progress, will we need as individuals to become a refuge for those seeking? should we already have become that?

i want to be that "feeding place" for the newborns. i want to be a "city of refuge". i want to be poured out for His glory. revelation has a dire warning for those in the end. "he who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." rev 22:11

when the scriptures tell us about the virgins, it says, "while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept." matt 25:5 the foolish virgins asked, "give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out". matt 25:8 the oil always represents the Holy Spirit in the scriptures. my question to you: do you have enough oil to share?

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