

dec 31, 2022

come up hither

"and they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, 'come up hither.'" rev 11:12 kjv

this is a call from God issued to the two witnesses after they had been martyred for witnessing to the entire world. understood this was a message issued uniquely for them but in reality. it is a message issued everyday, to believers and unbelievers alike. everyday our Lord is calling, "come up here."

come into His presence. come into the fellowship we all were created for. instead, "all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way." isa 53:6 we have wandered far from the care of the good shepherd. we have refused to let His staff guide us and His rod correct us and as a result, we are in danger of being consumed by the enemy.

even the great people of faith walked humbly, dependently, knowing all their righteousness was as filthy rags. they ate and expelled as we do. they required sleep as we do. they struggled against their baser instincts also. all these things and more make them our equal. it was their belief in someone greater that allowed them to "come up hither."

i think of those like moses and david and paul. they say moses stuttered, david lusted after bathsheba and the apostle paul persecuted believers before his call. i think all of them, in their aged life, must have

looked back over it all and known for sure it was none of their doing but His. it was their humbled spirit that let it happen He has said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 cor 12:9 it was their humbleness that allowed them to boast in their weakness that His name might be glorified. that is why they are spoken of today.

there is a line from lord of the rings. "all you have to decide is what to do with the time given you." the amount of time given to each of us varies but how we use it will determine what its worth will be. "and I will give to each one of you according to your works." rev 2:23 eternal life and salvation is free. works are for rewards only. and works are determined by often we listened and responded to the call, "come up hither."

one must lay aside all their selfish ambitions; lay aside all desires for pleasure and ease. we must dress ourselves in humility and unworthiness. these are not things one can do alone. they must heed the call to come up hither. we must spend more time there than here. that too can only be accomplished by a renewing of our mind.

everyday our Lord is making that call to whoever will. some have further to travel than others. some have more time for that trip than others. none of us know if the next call will be the last call; for them anyway.

someday soon it will be the last call for all of us.

just as He will later call the two witnesses to come unto Him, He will also summon those who are His to cease restraint and come up hither so His wrath may be pored out. we call this the tribulation. "for then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. and unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened." matt 24:21-22

yes, there will still be elect in the tribulation. those that did not heed the call before will also be deaf to the trumpet call. their salvation will remain intact but at what cost? a great cost indeed. i plead with you, listen now for that call. come now into His presence. come up hither.