

eternity dwells in all our hearts

"He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end." eccl 3:11

at one point or another, most all of us have wondered silently what job asked aloud: "if a man dies, shall he live again?" in other words, is this all there is? are we simply here today and gone tomorrow... nothing else? or is there a life beyond this physical one?

God has instilled within the human heart a longing for a life beyond this earthly existence; some have descriptively called it a "God vacuum." ancient cave dwellers depicted this hope in paintings etched inside their caves. the pharaohs of egypt were buried within their tombs alongside weapons, eating utensils, and even servants - expecting a life to follow beyond death. native american indians believed in a "happy hunting grounds" which existed beyond this plane. yes, God has put eternity in our hearts.

more and more we are hearing about death experiences where someone describes a plane beyond this existence - sometimes described as heaven and sometimes described as hell. i know these are all subjective, but sometimes the details retained boggle one's sense of perception. i.e., meeting a deceased relative someone never knew they had.

while believers stand upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ as evidence of a hereafter, non-believers are left with a "this is all there is" attitude. "so i

commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this will remain with him in his labor all the days of his life which God gives him under the sun." eccl 8:15 seeing that is the mindset of an increasing number of people, is it no wonder their attitude is "everyone did what was right in his own eyes." judges 17:6

indeed, there are many famous tombs in the world today. in the pyramids of egypt lie pharaohs, in westminster abbey lie the bodies of notables, in mecca one can find the tomb of mohammed - but there is one tomb that remains vacant until this day - the garden tomb where once lay the body of Jesus, the Christ of God.

in the scroll of the book, written long after job made his proclamation, we see Jesus presented to us in every book of the bible. He was the sacrificial son abraham did not have to make. He was the rock in the wilderness, satisfying their thirst. He was joseph, unrecognized by His brethren until His revealing in the second coming. He was our boaz, our kinsman redeemer who rescued a gentile from hopelessness. He's there in every book. "then I said, "behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me." psa 40:7

man, in all his futility, is seeking to make an eternity of his own; an extension of what they perceive as existence; meaning mostly their mind and accumulated knowledge, since they have no conception of soul. the truth is, there is no existence outside of God. "for in Him we live and move and have our being." acts 17:28 "before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me." isa 43:10 i emphasis once more: there is no

existence without God.

job - a man driven to destitution of all earthly necessities, let alone comforts, remained steadfast in his confession of belief. he did not say "i think" or "i hope." there were no "ifs" or "buts" in his statement. he was rock-solid certain and we can be too. even as he asked the question theoretically, he followed quickly with his assertion: "if a man dies, shall he live again? all the days of my hard service i will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and i will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands." job 14:14-15

how descriptively He is pictured as the shepherd and we the sheep. sheep tend to wander around aimlessly with no sense of direction. in like manner, without Christ, we wander without any perceived purpose. and another thing: sheep are defenseless. rabbits can run. dogs can bite. cats can scratch. bees can sting, etc. men and women without Christ are helpless and hopeless against the wiles of the devil. while mankind was created to "rule" the earth, when it comes to spiritual things after their fall, they are easy pickings in the spirit realm without a Shepherd's protection. yes, "all we like sheep have gone astray." isa 53:6

we who know Jesus; we who are "in" the Christ, have a Shepherd and have a hope that no one can take away. let us all proclaim with our brother job. "for i know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this i know, that in my flesh i shall see God, whom i shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. how

my heart yearns within me!" job 19:25-27 maranatha!