

mar 6

the road to emmaus

"but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." isa 40:31

as a butterfly soared overhead, one caterpillar said to the other, "you'll never get me up in one of those things."

yet for every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and he instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around himself. the chrysalis hardens and you'd think for all the world that the caterpillar is dead.

but one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis begins to writhe, the top cracks open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. for hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. and then, before you know it, the butterfly glides aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colors to the bright blossoms.

somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination for us. perhaps because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of resurrection. resurrection sunday approaches soon. the world would call it easter. however it may be referred to, it holds in itself a promise of life to come. a beauty

one can hardly imagine. a life unsoiled by sin.

what do we christians say in the face of death? there are many mysteries. though some have ventured there and come back to report, we only have their word. is it true or imaginary? but two things we know for sure. first, death is an enemy; a defeated enemy. away with the sentimentality that vainly seeks to disguise death's insult! death hurts. it hurts in the dying and it hurts those we leave behind.

but second, and more important, Jesus' resurrection from the grave is God's proof to us that death is not the end. the empty tomb and Jesus' Spirit within us testify that this glorious morning represents God's triumph over death. and ultimately, Jesus promised, God will raise from the dead all who believe in His Son.

i don't know which door i shall meet my Lord through (rapture or death), but i know what's on the other side of that door. at times when i try to contemplate it, it almost takes my breath away. o Lord, "what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? psa 8:4

we are all on the road to emmaus; on a pilgrimage from here to there; from here to home. Jesus is traveling that road with us, opening more truth up to us with each step we take forward. we are not alone. Jesus Himself is opening up the scriptures and instructing us as we go; not man's way - God's way. "there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." prov 14:12

like the caterpillar, we may find it hard to believe we will ever soar in the heavens. but with God's very breath doing the blowing, how can we do anything but soar? "whom have i in heaven but You? and there is none upon earth that i desire besides You." psalms 73:25 when we begin to truly say that and really mean it, perhaps our pilgrimage is nearing an end. perhaps we are beginning, just beginning to emerge from these bodily shells that encase us. all self desire has been crucified with Christ and God is all in all.

just a closing note here. the celebration of purim begins at sundown tonight. some are speculating it might be the rapture. a few bible translations render esther 9:30 as saying peace and safety (which a majority render as peace and truth). they then tie this to 1 thess 5:3 which says peace and safety comes before destruction, ere, the rapture. i do not argue against any speculation, only predictions. all i can say is, "come Lord Jesus. my heart is at peace with You." are you ready if He should come?