

mar 29

the man in white

"as he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven." acts 9:3

we might ask ourselves, "why does one have supernatural encounters while others do not?" i can't answer that. we can't decide a vision or dream into happening. they are in God's prerogative. i only know He gives to each what they need to embrace the truth they are all called to.

yes, the man in white is showing up all over, and yes, the muslim world as well. the recent massive earthquake in turkey did so much devastation. many stories are just beginning to come out; stories of carnage, destitution and yes, miracles.

it seems there was a little girl trapped in the rubble for days. upon rescue, she was questioned about her ordeal. it appears she wasn't afraid or alone. a man in white had fed her even while he carried her house on his back. (i would take that to mean he kept the house from falling down further.) they tested her and she had all the necessary proteins and things needed to sustain life.

then there was one little boy trapped in the rubble for eight days before rescue. say what you will, there is no way a little eight year old can survive that long without food, let alone water. he, in no way looked like a child trapped that long. sometimes when these

things happen, a whole village ends up coming to the Lord.

there was an old man living alone in a house. it seems a room would suddenly be filled with smoke and a man in white would appear and have him write down things he was told. when he told this to people, they finally said, "well, let's see what you've got." a man with no knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord, with little formal education, had written the gospel of john.

another story is of a christian sharing her faith with a friend. she was assertive Jesus was the son of God and the only true way while her friend was adamant God had no Son. one day while the friend was walking along she happened to look up. she saw a man just standing there in the clouds. being afraid and feeling sudden shame from her unworthiness, she turned her face to the ground. there before her lay the shadow of the man above her.

there are stories like this all the time; so much more as we see the day approaching. one might ask if all these were true stories or maybe embellished a little. some have definitely been verified while others have been passed around so long - who knows? the think about that, most stories begin with a grain of truth. as far as the man in white, that has happened ant been verified so many times i think it remains beyond question, even if the relating of the story has some detours.

turkey is still reeling from all that has happened. we ask why? why would Jesus rescue some and not

others? why did He not rescue ten thousand from the quake; at least the children? we all live in a fallen world. God sees eternally whereas we see presently. although God is interested in our earthly welfare, He is much more concerned about our eternal well being. again, these things remain in God's providence. that doesn't make Him good or bad. it makes Him God. shall the potter be esteemed as the clay? i know and trust that God is holy and all His judgments righteous. "Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. neither do i concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me." psa 131:1

the muslim are such a god oriented people. i hear a part of their prayers is: "o allah, guide me to the straight path." i believe those who make that prayer with a sincere heart and not just words will find their way to the true God and find that Jesus is the door they must enter. scripture says, "blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." matt 5:6

it might lead one to ask, "then why do we have to do all this work of evangelism?" why doesn't He just appear to everyone and convince them of who He is? FAITH! that is the needed element. "the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it." heb 4:2

to us have been given the great honor and privilege of sharing Jesus Christ with the world. some will scoff, some will rebel, some will come at you with all the hatred the devil embodies. and some, just some, will

let the seed of faith be planted in their lives. the diligent will nourish it, tend to it and watch it ever grow; grow into that mustard seed when planted becomes the greatest herb of all.

"how then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach unless they are sent?" rom 10:14-15 many are walking around as if in a daze or a dream, unaware of the impending doom. "but you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a thief." 1 thess 5:4

the shame of it all is that muslims are more prepared to make a defense for what they believe than most christians are for what they believe. dear friends, this ought not to be so. "always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." 1 pet 3:15

get in the race. it's never too late. Jesus told us many of the last would be first. people are wanting more. the gospel, the good new, is that there is more; for the unbeliever and believer alike. God doesn't just want to get us saved and then take us to heaven before we sin again. there is more to be had from Jesus now in this life. as we discover, we share our truths so others may as well. i know i shall never achieve the heights others have reached and i wouldn't expect my reward to be as great as theirs. BUT - i shall dwell forever, knowing God and experiencing the glories He has in mind for all who love His appearing. o come, Lord Jesus. we eagerly await Your summons.

