

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #09-1506

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January 18, 2015

From the Disruption of the World

The last issue was about the acorn that I planted and is now coming up as a little oak tree. Please see this link: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc632.pdf>

I am happy to report that just this morning, I noticed a second shoot coming up from the soil of the pot; another acorn has gone into death to bring forth the new body of an oak tree. Call me what you will, but this is the Lord's doing and it's exciting.

There is some more to glean from the illustration of the acorn to the oak tree. Keep in mind, however, that no illustration or, for that matter, no type, metaphor, parable, or figure of speech contains a full picture of the word of truth. Many dangers come in when we try to read too much into these things or make a complete doctrine out of them. This is my way of saying that I am not attempting to connect all the dots that might be applicable to this illustration. For example, I recognize that there is room for both a present type of spiritual resurrection and a future bodily resurrection. I am choosing not to connect the dots on this level.

As presented previously, starting in 1 Corinthians 15:35, Paul unfolds the principle that death leads to life, and he does it by using the example of the seed that grows into a new body that looks nothing like the seed, which must go into the ground and die in order to produce life. Thus, by illustration, the acorn becomes an oak tree.

In this issue, I want to make the point that death is not an aberration or anomaly in God's plan, as if death became a necessity on God's part to correct something that went wrong in the Garden. Death is God's plan; it is His perfect way to life. God alone is responsible for the death-life cycle.

To begin, let us key off the phrase ***the foundation of the world***, which appears in scripture ten times (Matthew 13:35; 25:34; Luke 11:50; John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 4:3; 9:26; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8; 17:8).

Interestingly, the number **10** signifies ***ordinal completion*** or ***perfection of divine order***. I believe scripture teaches us that divine order was established from (before?) the foundation of the world, and this is especially brought to light in Revelation 13:8. Consider these two translations of this verse.

And will worship him all those dwelling on the earth, of which not has been written the name in the scroll of the life of the lamb of that having been killed, from a casting down of a world. (Revelation 13:8 Diaglott-NT)

And all who are dwelling on the earth will be worshipping it, everyone whose name is not written in the scroll of life of the Lambkin slain from the disruption [foundation] of the world." (Revelation 13:8 CLV [NASB])

Most translations use the word *foundation*, except there are a few that try to use a more literal word based on the Greek. In particular, the CLV or *Concordant Literal Version* uses the word *disruption*, for it comes from the Greek word *katabole*, meaning "a deposition or a conception," and physiologically referring to the discharge of seed from the ovaries. This is seen in the way the CLV translates *katabole* in Hebrews 11:11: **By faith Sarah herself also obtained power for the disruption of seed.**

Given this, the Lambkin, that is, Christ or the Son of God, was slain or killed from the disruption of the world, meaning that from the beginning of our world, God's Son was slain for the sin of the world before there was ever

sin in the world. Could we not say that this strongly favors the salvation of all mankind? Before we were yet in our sin, One died for us as the Savior of the world that He would bring into being. However, is this simply a statement of God's intent, or is it truly a mystery hidden in the counsel of God? Either way, it seems that this divine law was set in motion by God from the disruption of the world in His Son as the Lambkin, the perfect sacrifice. As the number 10 signifies, this is ***the perfection of divine order***.

It is probably safe to state that most of us have been taught that death came into the earth in the Garden of Eden with Adam's one transgression. Truly, death did come into Adam's race in that day, a fact to which we all testify and scripture declares (Romans 5:12). But what if the *concept* of death did not commence in the Garden, as if it were an unexpected consequence of so-called *free will*, but the law of death and life had been established by God well before this fatal event? Asked another way; what if before the disruption of the world and even before the formation of man from the soil of the earth, God established ***a death to life cycle***, if you will, a divine law stating that only through death does life come forth? If so, then death is not a correction or an unintended consequence; it is by the preordained will of God. I contend that it is *the* plan of God in order to achieve His ultimate purpose of ***All in all***. This cycle or divine law was set in motion by God in and through His Son.

A further confirmation that this death to life cycle existed prior to Adam's transgression is discovered when *Elohim* restored the earth in six days and gave Adam ***every plant yielding seed*** (Genesis 1:29). Every plant had to contain this divine law of death produces life if plant life were to continue to flourish and grow on earth. Plant life was created to produce seeds that had to fall into the ground and die in order to propagate more life. Another way of stating this is that plant life had the seed-body cycle built within it, and, by the way, mankind was predestined to go the same way.

Herein lies the good news; this mystery was played out once again and manifested for the world to see when the Son of God, the Creator of all things, came to this earth. Like the acorn, He was planted in the earth as a man, fully man, not just some spirit taking over a body, as the Gnostics teach. He was sown into the earth in birth and then sown in the earth as He went into death and the grave. This was not a necessary corrective move; it was the plan.

This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power." (Acts 2:23-24 NASB)

The Creator Son died so that a new life, a new body, would come forth. His root dug into the earth, and out from this root came the **One New Man**, an entirely **New Creation**, part man and part God, part flesh and bones and part spirit, and part earthly and part heavenly. Don't let this fact escape you; this New Man is truly new. He is not a reformulated man, not a restored man, not a revived man; He is the NEW MAN, one that creation and the angels had never seen before, at least as far as we know. They must have been in awe when He came out of the tomb and later rose to appear before His Father in the heavenly temple, presented alive, the living One. ***I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades*** (Revelation 1:18).

I propose that the divine law—***death leads to life***—was set in motion as soon as, if not before, the world as we know it was conceived. The firstborn of all creation and the firstborn from the dead (Colossians 1:15, 18) was slain before He lived on this earth. Perhaps, this is simply a statement of God's intent, but then again maybe it is a mystery. Regardless of one's view, 2,000 years ago, the Son came to earth to manifest this truth hidden from the disruption of the world. He came and took on our form; He became one of us, and then died as one of us but without sin, so that He would be our brother, our elder Brother in all things. He came in seed form, if you will, like the acorn, and went into the earth in order to bring forth an entirely New Creation, one that had never been seen before, one that joins both heaven and earth in one Man. He is both of heaven and of this earth. He is both of God and of Man. When He descended out of heaven to earth, He did not shed His heavenliness; and, when He ascended back to His Father in heaven, He did not shed His earthliness. ***Behold, I make all things new!***

So, don't look upon death as if it were an accident or an aberration in God's plan. It is by God's design. It is the plan of God, played out, proven, and manifested through and by God's Son, our Lord Jesus.