

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

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WHEN GOD COMES DOWN TO EARTH

By: C. D. Cole

The Bible speaks of God coming down to earth. We find Him walking in the garden of Eden and calling to Adam. Genesis 3:8, *“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”* Centuries later we read that God repeatedly talked to Noah. Genesis 6:13, *“And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”* Genesis 7:1, *“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark;...”* Genesis 8:15, *“And God spake unto Noah,...”* Genesis 9:8, *“And God spake unto Noah,...”* When the would-be builders of the tower of Babel boastfully rebelled against God, Genesis 11:4-8, *“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. So the LORD scat-*

tered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.” When the slavecry of the Israelites in Egypt reached heaven, God suddenly appeared to Moses. Exodus 3:7-8, *“And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians,...”* And he who was God manifest in the flesh, said to His disciples, John 6:38, *“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”*

The Bible also speaks of God looking down from heaven. Genesis 6:5, *“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”* Psalm 14:2-3, *“The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”* Psalm 53:2-3, *“God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did under-*

stand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” God saw that there was not a good man upon earth apart from divine grace.

The implication of these statements is that God’s usual place is in heaven. If He looked down from heaven and if He came down to earth, then His residence is in heaven. We

also read that God talked from heaven. Matthew 3:17 at the baptism of Jesus, *“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* Jesus during His earthly ministry often spoke of His Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21, *“...but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”* Matthew 10:32,

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before my Father which is in heaven, I will confess him also before my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 12:50, *“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven,...”* Matthew 16:17, *“...for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”* Matthew 6:9, Jesus teaching the sermon on the mount, *“After this*

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manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven...

Now there is a sense in which God is everywhere; He is omnipresent in His essential being. But heaven is the place of His manifestative presence. God is seen in heaven as He is not seen ordinarily on earth. The angels see Him as we cannot. Matthew 18:10, *"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."* God is always manifested to the heavenly inhabitants, but He makes visits or occasionally manifests Himself to earth's inhabitants. It is to these visits of God to this earth that I want us to think about.

THE TIME OF THESE VISITS

As we take a telescopic view of the Bible we find that God always comes down to earth at the time of a crisis in human and worldly affairs. The history of this world as given in the Bible reveals a series of crises, both as to the past and future. A crisis may be defined as a moral condition on earth which would completely overthrow God's plan for the ages if He did not step in to avert disaster. A crisis is precipitated by human sin and failure, and calls for divine action. Broadly speaking there have already been five crises in the world's history and there are to be two more. (1) The crisis in Eden when Adam and Eve sinned. God talking to Adam, Genesis 3:11, *"And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"* (2) The flood crisis, Genesis 7:17,21, *"And the flood was forty days upon the earth...And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:..."* (3) The crisis at Babel, Genesis 11:9, *"Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all*

the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." (4) The crisis in Egypt, Exodus 12:50-51, *"Thus did all the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the LORD did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies."* (5) The crisis of the cross, Luke 24:5-7, *"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."* (6) The crisis at the close of this dispensation. Titus 2:13, *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"* (7) The crisis after the millennium. Revelation 20:2-9, *"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go*

out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."

Now in connection with every one of these crises God comes down to earth. He who is seen by the angels always, manifests Himself on earth. When Adam and Eve sinned, God walks in the garden and calls to Adam. In the flood crisis, God saw the wickedness of man and talked with Noah about His plans. In the Babel crisis, God came down to earth to frustrate their plans. In the crisis in Egypt, God came down to deliver His chosen. In the crisis of the cross, God came down and raised Jesus from the dead. In the crisis that is to come upon this earth there will be the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A crisis is the result of human sin and failure. It is the certain result of man being left to his own way. Man's way will always bring a crisis. Every time man is tested there is a failure. The creature cannot stand in his own strength. Man was tested in the state and period of innocence and failed. He was tested after he came to know good and evil and he failed. He was tested under written commandments and fell. He was tested under gospel privileges and has failed. He will be tested under millennial conditions and will fail. Until grace confirm the redeemed in holiness man will sin and precipitate a crisis. And nobody can meet a crisis but God.

*"Perish everything in man
But the grace that never can."*

Apart from God what hope was there for Adam and Eve in the

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crisis caused by their sin? Genesis 3:7,21, "...and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons... Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them." When they had failed to meet the crisis with their fig-leaf aprons, God clothed them.

What hope was there for the antediluvians as God prepared to send the flood? Noah and his family were saved because he found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Genesis 6:8, "*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*" II Peter 2:5, "*And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*"

What hope was there for the Israelites after the sins brought them into Egyptian bondage? None, if God had not redeemed them by His mighty hand.

What hope was there for God's chosen when their Surety lay in the tomb? None, if God had not raised Him from the dead.

What hope will there be for national Israel when they begin to say, Ezekiel 37:11, "...*Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost:...*" None

in the world unless God keeps His promise to open their graves and cause them to come up out of their graves and bring them into the land of Israel.

Dear believer, what hope did you have when the Spirit of God wrought conviction in your soul? What hope did you have as you tried to save yourself? What hope did you have in trying to establish your own righteousness? You had no hope until God showed you the righteousness He had provided in His Son.

WHY GOD COMES DOWN TO EARTH

God comes down to earth to save His own plan. God has an eternal purpose in Christ. Ephesians 3:11, "*According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*" What would have happened to God's purpose in Christ when Adam and Eve sinned, had not God come down to earth to drive them out of the garden? They would have eaten of the tree of life and would have lived forever apart from the tree of the cross.

God comes down to earth to save His people from their enemies. Exodus 3:8, God said unto Moses, "*And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians,...*" II Peter 2:9, "*The Lord knoweth how to*

deliver the godly out of temptations,..."

God comes down to earth to pour out His judgments upon it. In every dispensation sin accumulates until conditions get intolerable to God, and He steps in to check moral evil. He checks it with judgments. God's plan with the world has been a twofold method. He leaves the world to work out its own salvation in a governmental sense, and when the world's failure brings on a crisis, God steps in to eradicate the evil and enthrone the right. When age-long sin ripens and brings forth its fruit, and when it becomes necessary for God to miraculously check and divert the course of history, then we have the great epochal crises of history. Ordinarily God keeps His hands off, permitting the world to solve its problems of sin and government. God starts each new dispensation right and personally and miraculously intervenes when the world proves itself unequal to the task of self-government.



26th Annual Mission Bible Conference

Monday– Wednesday, October 29-31, 2007

Beginning with supper at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, we feast on wonderful cooking at breakfast, lunch and supper on Tuesday and Wednesday; and most importantly, on God's word. For those who are interested, our members welcome you to stay in their homes. Local motels are also available. Please call Pastor Gormley at 859.299.1430 or email us at mail@bryanstation.com.

