

GOD NAMES HIS PLACES OF ACTION

"And, God said" - a whole lot more than - "Let there be light," Ge. 1:3. But, when He did say it, there was light.

Whether, we read His action historically or prophetically, the good LORD tells us; not only what's going to occur, He also names where the action is to take place. And, you know what? He's never wrong!

And, what I love about the God of the Bible is that, while He directs us **"where to go"** and **"what to do,"** He also warns His people when to flee danger. Those who have ears to hear **"come out of her (Babylon), that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues"** (Rev 18:5). When we **"study to show ourselves approved"** (2nd 2:15) and, **"Remember Lot's wife"** (Lk 17:22), His direction will be followed.

God is in all that is done, certainly; but, sometimes He watches from a distance: **"The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth," Isaiah 33:13-14.**

At other times, He gets involved, Personally - right in the middle of **"the household of God"..."a holy temple of the LORD"..."In whom ye (church) are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit," Ephesians 2:19, 21 & 22. The Biblical use of **"Temple"** is "people," not a building of stones and wood. Further, the **"Temple"** is a gathered assembly in a specific place. **"For where two or three are gathered together in my name (authority), I am in the midst of them,"** according to the words of Jesus (Mt 18:20).**

It is because of God's covenantal love that He informs us beforehand of what will take place. The Lord said to Abraham, **"Shall I hide from Abraham that which I will do; seeing that Abraham shall become a great nation and all the nations shall be blessed in him?" (Gen 18:17-18).**

It is, as Proverbs 3 tells us: **"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth,"** (cited in Heb 12:6). And, in one glorious sense, God loves everyone so much **"that He gave His only begotten Son," John 3:16. Remember that Jesus came, not to condemn, but to save (Jn 3:17).**

And, as noted above, God has always been in the **PEOPLE** business; something that amazed the Psalmist when he compared man with the rest of God's creation. David could only ask, **"What is man that Thou art mindful of him; or, the son of man that Thou visitest him?" (Ps 8:4).**

We join with David in amazement; especially, when we address God's Sovereignty. He does what He wants to do. Fortunately, for man, God is concerned about a people that can be brought into covenant with Him. It is to His people that the warning goes out; certainly, the instructive ones on how to live for Christ.

As with Israel and the New Covenant Church, God is still selective. Man has no choice but to do what God says. Therefore, we must receive His direction from His word, utilizing it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

However, no matter what conclusion we may come to about His choosing - does man have free will or not - God always has the final say. Nothing has changed since Moses was informed, **"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion," Rom. 9:15.**

God's **"named-places"** may be general; such as the **"Sky,"** where we shall meet the Lord on **Resurrection Day**. When we study the subject of our inheritance, the **"earth"** takes on a general sense, too; but, carries the truth that man will control God's creation, once again. But, there are also specific places cited in His word, as well.

There is a problem when we come to the named-places, however. The devil has duped the leaders of Christianity into **spiritualizing everything** that God names. Aware of the fact that people read books and not the Bible, Satan promotes "thus saith the writer;" rather, than "Thus saith the Lord."

And so, we hear way too many Bible students avowing that every place in the Bible means something other than a specific location where God performs a particular work. Writers tell us that hell is not eternal; that salvation is not secure and, so on.

Satan is a liar from the beginning. But, in the last few years, he has stepped up his training methods. He has caused the mind of the majority to be so **"generalized"** that most don't even understand where they are going to be after death. They have the feeling of **Floating around on clouds; or, going to the big place in the sky.**

We are not going to be in heaven; but, on the earth, ruling and reigning in God's **KINGDOM**. Jesus said, **"the meek shall inherit the earth"** (Mt 5:5). For all who see and hear His parables of the kingdom, we understand that the earth is where kingdom action will occur; when He returns and when He sets up the Kingdom on earth.

Yet, when the kingdom does arrive, **"earth"** and **"sky"** - along with **Mount Zion, Jerusalem and all of Israel** - will be viewed clearly as specific locations of God's Headquarters on earth. Each place shall have its own particular identity. There will

be no doubt about Jerusalem. That's the location where Jesus rules the nations, using an unbendable rod of iron.

The Prophet Zechariah confirms that fact that every nation will know exactly where God's place of service is located. "Every nation...shall go up to Jerusalem to worship" (Zech. 14:16).

Further, those who "seek God" today, know that His place of worship is identified by a specific doctrine taught by a **particular, assembled people**; that worshipping, "in Spirit and in Truth, takes place in a specific location. God's place of action is the local church; especially, since She was baptized by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. It was the local congregation that Jesus commissioned. Thus, the church is where God dwells; where God habituates (See again, Eph. 2:22).

Many, many "places of action" are recorded in God's word. There are places of "blessings" and places of "warfare." We read of places of **births** and places of **deaths**. There are places of **rebellion** and places of **submission**.

Then, man's final act against the Lord takes place when God meets the kings of the earth who have been gathered by the spirits of devils (Rev 16:14). This place is named: **Armageddon** (Gk. Harmagedon).

Can there be any more of an ignominious ending of man than what the angel says to the fowls of the air, "Come and gather yourselves to gather unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains...."? (Rev 17-18).