

Stormproof: Awaiting (Not Home Yet)

April 30, 2023

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Text: John 14:1-3; Hebrews 11:9-16; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

I believe that one of Satan's most effective lies—a lie that he repeats in our “ears” over and over again—is that this life, and this world, is all there is and ever will be. The devil has fashioned a narrative that completely eliminates God and the afterlife. This narrative tells us that there is no God, there is no creation, there is no standard of right and wrong, there is no sin, there is no truth other than what we as human beings decide to be true, and there is no life after death. This world somehow began billions and billions of years ago with a random cosmic “bang”, and this bang set into motion a process of evolution where living cells became swimmy things that became crawly things that became walking things that became thinking things that became human things (a process that completely defies all logic or scientific observation). And just to be clear—all of this is Satan's attempt to convince us that there is no God. Sadly, he's done a pretty good job. Most people believe his lies. *[Discuss how you've see this to be true]*

God's Holy Word describes a completely different “Upper Story.” God has existed for eternity past as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As we see in Genesis 1, God created this world that we live in—crowning His creation with humanity...Adam and Eve (male and female). Adam and Eve rebelled against God's perfect plan (Gen 3), at which point sin entered this world. Ultimately, Jesus (the Son of God) left heaven to come to this earth to take upon Himself the sin of this world—and make a way for us to be made right with God and live forever in His presence. When our bodies die, our soul and our spirit steps immediately into the presence of God. For all who willingly accept by faith the gift of salvation that Jesus provided for us on the cross, we enter into the perfect rest and joy that God desires us to have. And one day, we will live with God on a restored earth, enjoying Him and one another for all eternity. But until then, we are not home yet.

Read John 14:1-6

- Jesus begins this passage telling His disciples not to allow their hearts to be troubled. Why do you think He did that? What does He want them to believe about Him?
- What do you think it means that the Father's house “has many rooms”? What do you think it means that He is “going there to prepare a place for us”? How is this a comfort to you?
- What promise is Jesus making in verse 3?
- Thomas asks a very good question in verse 5. What is the heart of his question, and what is the heart of Jesus' response in verse 6? Why is verse 6 central to the Gospel?

Read Hebrews 11:9-16

- What do you think it means that Abraham was “looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God”? (v. 10) Is this what we should be doing?
- This entire passage is dealing with the fact that the great saints of old were awaiting a “heavenly country.” They all had this in common. How is this a “mark” of faith?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

How is it that our “light and momentary troubles” are achieving for us an eternal glory that “far outweighs them all”? What do you think this means? Do you really believe this?