

They Know

Powerful spirit-beings know who we are. They know our names; they know where we live; they know our destiny. In Ephesians 3:9-11, the apostle Paul reveals a startling truth, namely, that new facets of God's grace are "now [being] made known to the sovereignties and authorities among the celestials, *through the ecclesia.*" NOW being made known. We cannot see these creatures, but they can see us. I am not talking about dead people, but about beings that have never taken flesh. We are, today, similar to our Lord during His earthly sojourn in that He passed anonymously among men. If you feel, today, like no one is noticing you—look up.

Celestial Beings Created the Universe

Genesis 1:1—"Created by the Elohim were the heavens and the earth." Why is the plural for "God" used here? Because more than one being created the universe. God, translated, "El" in the Hebrew scriptures, is the absolute Deity. He ultimately created the universe; there is only one absolute Deity. But He did not "pull the trigger." God operates in the physical world through other, subordinate deities. Many of these are good. "Elohim" is the plural of "El." "El" means "subjector," and Elohim means "to-Subjectors." The Elohim act in perfect accord with God's desires, and subject the universe to Him through the ultimate to-Subjector: Christ.

Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

"If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong" --1 Cor. 13:1-2



Two out of three isn't bad.

Ruling and Reigning with Christ

After reading one of last week's CGN articles, several people wanted further detail on what it means to rule and reign with Christ. To receive a clue, let's look at how ruling and reigning works here on earth during the era of the nations.

The citizens of the United States enjoy all the benefits of living here without directly pulling the reigns of government. The citizens elect representatives and send them to Washington to rule the country for them. Within the government of the United States, there are various levels of rule. At the first level are congressmen and senators. Above these is the Speaker of the House. Above the Speaker is the Vice-President, and above the Vice President, the President.

Thus also in Christ. When our bodies are changed, we will all be immortalized. This is because we are all members of the body of Christ. In my United States analogy, this answers to all of us being citizens of the United States. As members of the body of Christ, we all have a celestial destiny and all enjoy the benefits of being "in Christ." However. Among this select class, there are select classes; the people do not elect these—God does. Stay calm; what I am about to say may not seem politically correct.



A dim, dim, dim analogy

1 Corinthians 15:40—"There are bodies celestial as well as bodies terrestrial. But a different glory, indeed, is that of the celestial, yet a different that of the terrestrial, another glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star is excelling star in glory. *Thus also is the resurrection of the dead.*"

The Circumcision saints, in the resurrection, will have glorified terrestrial bodies. We of the body of Christ will have glorified celestial bodies. But even glorified celestial bodies differ in glory. This is the difference between being a member of the body of Christ, and ruling and reigning with Christ.

(continued on page 2)



The World is Sinking—Fast

"The fashion of this world is passing by" (1 Cor. 7:31).

It should be obvious to all that this scripture is being fulfilled, even as we look out the window. Scripture assures us that, when we begin seeing signs of the end of the eon, events will proceed swiftly (Rev. 1:1).

Some economists are now saying that the U.S. economy may be days from collapse. As goes the U.S. economy, so goes the world's. This is 1929 X 9. *(continued on page 2)*

...ruling and reigning



She be disqualified

...sinking fast

(continued from page 1)

Be steady of heart; these things **MUST** occur. Jesus Christ is coming to clear the table. The earth requires a severe shock to prepare it for the coming eon. The majority of our populace is still asleep, but not for long. The time is coming when God Himself will pull back the curtain of heaven and manifest His power in terrifying ways. The ultimate purpose, remember, is to unveil His Son (Rev. 1:1). This is what it will take. His wrath (His purposeful wrath) will last only a short time.

So you have a fine berth on the Titanic...congrats

This is a most absurd time to be worried about keeping up with the Joneses. The first-class compartments of the Titanic *and* the boiler rooms are both broken and barnacled on the Atlantic seabed. So you have a fine berth on the Titanic; congratulations! This ship is sinking. My advice: abandon ship—at least in your mind. Eon 3 is going down—be reaching for the Lifeboat. Forget what lies behind. Don't look back; don't look around. **LOOK AHEAD.** ■

(continued from page 1)

What qualifies one to rule and reign with Christ? Remember, all is ultimately of God. Relatively speaking, however, one must endure (2 Tim. 2:12). Once saved, always saved, but if you say, "I can't stand this Christ crap anymore. I'm going to New Orleans to become a whore," you are still saved, but are more than likely disqualified from ruling and reigning.

Don't cave under the pressure of the eon. Stay with the program. Study the Word. Have endurance. Do not become a whore.

Buckle your seatbelt. ■

On the Titanic, *the band played on.* This must be you. Live your life. Keep playing music. Talk to God more than ever. Christ is our Rescuer out of the coming indignation (1 Thess. 1:10). The day of your change is near. ■



Well? You're on the frickin' *Titanic*, people.

What a Revelation!

STILL SAVED;NOT ISRAEL

Another difference between the gospels of the Circumcision and the Uncircumcision (Gal. 2:7): If we fail to endure, we are disqualified for reigning, but we still have eonian life. If the Jews fail to endure, they lose eonian life (Mt. 10:22; 24:13; Mk. 13:13). Circumcision salvation is a mixture of works and grace, whereas with the Uncircumcision, it's *all* grace.

Q&A

My daughter's printer is not working, so I went to the library. I was able to print all the letters on your website except the one titled, "Mr. Hell." They had a filter system that filtered out the beginning of the letter, "Dear Peter," as if this was a vulgar word. I was wondering if Mr. Peter's name could be changed to some other name that the library would not filter. Thank you for your consideration, as I suspect others would also encounter this same difficulty at their library. Your friend,

J.H., Phoenix, AZ

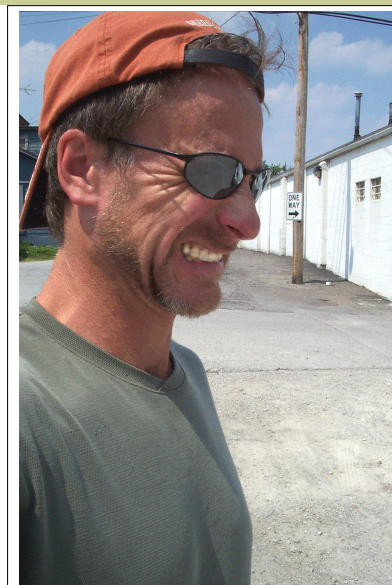
Dear J.H.,

Problem solved! I have changed this to, "Dear Dick."



Rants & Stuff

The Apostle Paul says we should not to murmur (Philippians 2:14).
Therefore, I shall rant.



***“You go your way,
World, and I’ll go
mine.”***

would I love a system whose acts are wicked? No wonder friendship with the world is enmity with God: the world hates God!

I realize more and more how out of place I am here. My realm is inherent among the celestials, not here (Phil. 3:20). I wander about now like an alien. Everything is so strange, but I’m learning to enjoy the separation. I’m not about to go down with this ship. I am already halfway out the boat—don’t try to stop me. ■

I Hate This World

The title of this rant sounds bad. Am I losing my mind? Staring down the cliffs of suicide? Has the world finally become too much for me? No, no, and yes.

“Friendship with the world is enmity with God” (Jn. 4:4). Check out some synonyms for **FRIENDSHIP**: INTIMACY; SOLIDARITY; HARMONY; CONCORD; PEACE. (An antonym, by the way, is hatred.) I’m finding less and less peace on this, the third planet from the sun. In fact, the more I try to conform to this world—to understand it, to work with it, to thrive in it—the less peace I have. Conversely, the more I realize how out of step I am with banks and governments and television commercials and holidays and architecture and horticulture and death, the more calm I become. Hm. So it’s not strange to hate the world after all. What is strange is loving it.

I have mentally quit the world and am happy to find scriptural grounds for this seemingly radical move: “The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Gal. 6:14). In other words, “I’ve written off the world, and the world has written off me.” Fair enough. In fact, fine. You go your way, World, and I’ll go mine. We’ve had a meaningful relationship, but it turns out you’re one lousy lover.

“The world can not be hating you, yet Me it is hating, for I am testifying concerning it that its acts are wicked” (Jn. 7:7). How can I love a system that hates Christ? *Why*



Insert *your* photo here.

You think the *dog* is limited?

I’ll never forget my brother-in-law pointing out his grandfather’s dog out on a chain near his doghouse and saying, “Look how limited that poor dog is. He can only move five feet around the doghouse.”

I felt the same way about the dog, but I reminded my brother-in-law of his own plight. “If you had any idea how limited *you* are right now,” I said, “you would envy the dog.”

When the rain soaks our clothes, we strip them off. When we look out at them from a warm shower, the contrast makes us wonder how we stood the cold, clinging garments for a moment. When Christ changes these vile bodies into glorious ones, we are going to look back at our days of flesh and wonder how we stood it for a second, let alone a lifetime. For now, ignorance is bliss. ■

Copyright ©2009 by Martin Zender. All rights reserved.

Published weekly by Starke & Hartmann, Inc. P.O. Box 6473, Canton, OH 44706
www.martinzender.com www.starkehartmann.com