

Chronicles of Diversity

Your leadership weekly



Future Wonder Springs
Adventures Logo

Fractured Rapture Tales

Tale 19: Desert Tracks

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“Your heaven” is the only heaven you can enter according to your own rules. That is the political correctness of your vision of eternity. God calls that truth hell, His vision and reality of eternity is entered only according to His rules. According to those rules Jesus Christ alone is the gate keeper. It is faith in Him, as God’s propitiation for man’s sins, that is the legal basis for entering any form of eternity other than hell. That is the true stumbling block for most to enter the eternal paradise we recognize as heaven.

In this series I have been trying to convince you, and myself, that we sell out our lives in this world for less than we should if we only think of heaven as the place we go to after we die. Heaven is a place, eternity is a condition, that became available to all of God’s children immediately when Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished.”

We live this life continually applying our own brakes because we want to be in control. We call it by a lot of names, but it really breaks down into the truth that we will do everything possible before we trust God. Hence, we have no witness of eternity as reality in our life, and no witness of eternity to share with others. Our witness of eternity proclaims only empty words and shallow promises.

Some forms of music bridge that gap. Much of the time that music is personal, sometimes it is congregational, but it still, in some way, speaks of reality of this present condition, or the hope for eternity, sometimes both. One of my favorite gospel songs is “All My Tears” by Julie Miller, and recorded by a number of artists, most well known is the recording by Emmylou Harris.
When I go don’t cry for me

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*In my fathers arms I'll be
The wounds this world left on my soul
Will all be healed and I'll be whole*

*Sun and moon will be replaced
With the light of jesus' face
And I will not be ashamed
For my savior knows my name*

*It don't matter where you bury me
I'll be home and I'll be free
It don't matter where I lay
All my tears be washed away*

*Gold and silver blind the eye
Temporary riches lie
Come and eat from heaven's store
Come and drink and thirst no more*

*So weep not for me my friend
When my time below does end
For my life belongs to him
Who will raise the dead again*

*It don't matter where you bury me
I'll be home and I'll be free
It don't matter where I lay
All my tears be washed away*

So we have one type of desert track, a sound track which speaks about heaven only in passing (correctly as a store), but more specifically the song's power brings us into an eternal home, of freedom, and joy, if only for an instant vision discerned in our spirit.

To begin to experience that eternal state the first requisite is not to fear your own death. That fear of death really is the ultimate reason for all this control we seek in our life. Spin the opening paragraphs of this article a different way, and the truth of our lives is that with all our planning, schemes, and mantras, we hope can make a deal with death, how we get there, and we are determined in our merit to win, or at least cheat.

Like it or not, what is right in our own eyes, is not God's wisdom. The Bible clearly teaches that in order to gain life as God planned it for you, you have to lose the life you plan for yourself. The real sticker for us is to not only acknowledge that God's plan is superior to your own, but He is only going to give you a broad vision and brief inkling of specifics when you need them. Therefore, you won't mess up the details, and also that you must trust him in faith.

I was asked about the application of last week's message especially for a family. My answer is that you must trust God in faith for all things, because this life is such that we really don't control the circumstances either within the health and wealth of our family, or externally.

So to paraphrase part of the song's lyric, when God asks you to die a little more in this life, truth is that in the long run, and even in the comparative short run, that death He is asking will add to your home's freedom and joy.

Now to change to a different desert track.

For sometime I have been thinking about how to tie this series into some current events to get a more applied application on why we should not only seek and hope for a future rapture, but need to understand that tribulation is the mechanism by which God gives us the contrast and the tension between this temporal dying world and the eternal world of life everlasting.

A couple of nights after the doctors had taken me off my heart medication I had a very unusual dream. In that dream terrorists attacked a number of railroad yards in America. When I awoke I quickly realized that such an attack could be the most effective method to bring wide spread personal and economic catastrophe.

Since that time, as I have contemplated these possible events, I have realized that these attacks would also be quite easy for terrorists to accomplish. Almost impossible to defend against. And because railroads carry the vast majority of the nation's manufacturing base and hazardous materials, a well planned and orchestrated attack could lead to enough destruction to cause significant repercussions throughout American society for many years.

In the context of the Iraq war as it is now being fought, and something you won't read on World Net Daily, or see on Fox News, or the more mainstream media, is that we can either fight Islamic terrorism in Babylon, or we can fight them in the American heartland.

For reasons known only to the terrorists and God, they have decided to make a major stand in Babylon. America must have the resolve to fight that war and to quit trying to appease Islamic religious hoodlums and their followers. With the leadership I have seen recently from the Bush Administration, and the potential for a John Kerry election I am not overly optimistic about America's future.

Over the years I have known a number of Viet Nam veterans with significant ground combat experience. While none of them have the resume of John Kerry, I can say that of those I know, I would not want them to have anything at all to do with national defense, little lone be Commander in Chief.

If you want to prove my Viet Nam theory for yourself, just take a Route 39 bus ride in Seattle. Route 39 is the bus that stops at the VA hospital. At the hospital you will have the opportunity to meet a number of individuals all in their fifties now, who look at least seventy, and that is only the least significant of their (visual) problems. Probably the line of Marlon Brando in the movie "Apocalypse Now" summarizes their incurable problem, "Oh, the horror!"

I am extremely grateful that God spared me from such an experience. But the point specifically is that we can have armored tank tracks in the desert of literal Babylon, or we can have bent and twisted railroad tracks in the desert of our American economic Babylon. In this election year, the American electorate will have the decision to make about the future of America in the world. I'm afraid the writing is on the wall, as it once was in historic Babylon, "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN."

This again points out the importance of living in the eternal in the present and dying to your understanding of the way things have always been. People seek God in times of tribulation. Period! It doesn't have to be the great period of judgment of the world in the Book of Revelation.

The error and the difficulty with historic dispensational rapture teaching is the fact that rapture and tribulation are always linked, not separated. You can capitalize each word, or not, depending on the circumstances and God's timing, but you disconnect the two at your peril, and the peril to those you witness to. Saying that God's people will not be judged along with a world determined to go its own way, is not really that theologically rapturous, it is easily understood truth, duh! Maybe that's why I can't see much value in left behind fiction.

In light of cultural escapism, the lack of America being a world force in the Great Tribulation, might be because the great American evangelical church has been raptured out, but it might also stem at least partially by evangelical escapism which percolates throughout our society. Freedom comes at a price much more significant than \$2.25 per gallon gas for your SUV. But the freedom of the song above is much different than your freedom to invest your IRA in the fund of your choice. But both can have an application in this world, but to a certain extent they are still mutually exclusive.

A couple of weeks ago there was a walk around Seward Park in support of the nation of Israel. It was pretty much a Jewish event, and was not covered by the regular news media. When I was coming home from church for some reason I ended up driving by the park. I was questioning what was going on as I continued home. On my front door was a note from a Messianic Jewish friend asking me to join him, which I did.

The “People of the Book,” Jews and Christians, must hang together, or they will hang separately. This goes well beyond any potential Islamic threat. In fact, Islam may also eventually become part of the world’s problem with God. The God of this world is idolatry, or nothing, or anything but God, depending upon your definition.

Revelation Chapter 12 speaks of the woman, the child, and the dragon. This is generally recognized as speaking about the nation of Israel, however some commentators broaden this to include spiritual Israel, the church. Both of these interpretations depend, not on the text, but your underlying eschatology. My point is not the who, but the event of God protecting His people for a period of “one thousand two hundred sixty days” in the wilderness (desert).

In our wisdom we have decided that Israel will escape to Petra where God will supernaturally provide for them not only protection, but food and other provisions. My concern is not with the Jews in Israel, but the Jews who walked around Seward Park a few weeks ago, or the Jews wherever they may be living elsewhere in the world. To be protected by God must they make their way only to Petra, or will God have some other places selected? Also is this just a supernatural protection, or does God use people in some way to select, build, and maintain these places until they are needed by the people of God’s choosing?

Personally, I think this is the neglected calling of the church in these last days. The walk with my messianic Jewish friend and several thousand religious and secular Jews allowed me to focus that this really was the reason to form Wonder Springs Adventures Limited. This is not a new vision it is just something I had lost track of in all the stuff and events of the last couple of years.

As much as Jews for Jesus and other evangelistic Jewish organizations would like to try, the true conversion of most Jews to the wisdom that their Messiah has already come, will not take place until the fullness of the Gentiles is complete.

Revelation Chapter 12 is a prophesy that will one day be literally fulfilled, at least by those who hold a premillennial eschatology. These wilderness retreat centers, can function as such until they are needed during this time of judgment being executed by God on the rest of the world. This is perhaps the desert track that has yet to be laid before all things are in place for Revelation Chapter four.

The track of this message, is what are your tracks in this desert wilderness? To the extent they are invested and committed to God and His work, as compared to your understanding of what are wise and prudent worldly investments for you and your family, will determine your rapture as you face the tribulations of this life. The Rapture and the Great Tribulation will be carried out by God in His timing and will set the stage for a new culture based on the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth.

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. (Isaiah 58:12 NIV)

Wonder Springs and Wonder Springs Adventures Limited seeks your personal and financial help to begin that Isaiah prophesied process with the assets available in this increasingly hostile world, before God’s grace is severed with much of the world and judgment and the destruction begin.

Seeds for Prayer

Monday I ordered a trailer that will one day serve as transport for our barbeque witness. By a complex series of events last week, Saturday I was lead to a trailer manufacturer in Rochester, Washington (about 15 miles south of Olympia). He is in the process of building a trailer, for what little I know now, will provide the capacity to haul all the BBQ stuff to various and flexibly sized events. Until that time it will also be able to be used to transport the junk in my house in Reardan and get my stuff to any place God may choose to move me.

Please intercede for provisions, both financial and in regards to personnel. To a certain extent the limiting factor is liquidity in this desert where the water is used to irrigate crops of only worldly fruit. Prayer holds the key to changing worldly water to wonder springs. In that regard Wonder Springs can only be associated with the fruit of the Spirit commissioned through prayer.

This week begins our 6th year of regular publication, for all your prayers over the years I thank you gratefully.