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**CREATED FOR TIME -- AND ETERNITY
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01 -- MAN WAS CREATED FOR BOTH TIME -- AND ETERNITY

In Ecclesiastes 3:11 we read: "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: ALSO HE HATH SET THE WORLD IN THEIR HEART, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

It is the last part of this verse that I wish to call to your attention. Dr. Adam Clarke comments thus upon it:

"He hath set the world in their heart] MIweh haolam, that hidden time -- the period beyond the present, -- ETERNITY. The proper translation of this clause is the following:

"ALSO THAT ETERNITY HATH HE PLACED IN THEIR HEART, without which man could not find out the work which God hath made from the commencement to the end.'

"God has deeply rooted the idea of eternity in every human heart; and every considerate man sees, that all the operations of God refer to that endless duration. And it is only in eternity that man will be able to discover what God has designed by the various works he has formed."

Not by way of endorsing them, but by way of enforcing Clarke's take on the above, I shall now present below four later translations of this same text:

The RSV: -- "also he has put eternity into man's mind..."

The ASV: -- "also he hath set eternity in their heart..."

The MKJV: -- "also He has set eternity in their heart..."

The NKJV: -- "Also He has put eternity in their hearts..."

While satan has deceived some into thinking that there is nothing beyond this life, I venture to say by far the majority of Adam's offspring have been inwardly convinced that there IS AN AFTER-LIFE -- A CONTINUED EXISTENCE BEYOND THE GRAVE.

Why this persuasion? As the Scripture says: BECAUSE GOD HAS PLACED THAT KNOWLEDGE DEEP DOWN WITHIN MAN'S HEART AND MIND.

And, as Clarke commented, "it is only in eternity that man will be able to discover what God has designed by the various works he has formed."

Songwriter, Victor Herbert (1859-1924), wrote the following lyrics that were sung in a 1910 production:

**Ah! sweet mystery of life, at last I've found thee!
Ah! I know at last the secret of it all!
All the longing, seeking, striving, waiting, yearning,
The burning hopes, the joy and idle tears that fall!**

**For 'tis love, and love alone, the world is seeking;
And 'tis love, and love alone that can repay!
'Tis the answer, 'tis the end and all of living,
For it is love alone that rules for aye!**

The melody sung with those words was sweet, and there surely is an element of truth in them. The production was Herbert's most successful, and "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life" was his biggest hit.

Thanks be unto God, part of the Mystery of Life IS LOVE -- not merely human love, but the Love of Christ. His loving sacrifice at Calvary unlocked the door into that Heavenly Eternity where all of the redeemed shall discover THE FULL MEANING OF LIFE'S MYSTERY: "what God has designed by the various works He has formed" -- for Time, and for ETERNITY! Then, as never before, the ransomed shall be able to sing:

"AH, SWEET MYSTERY OF LIFE, AT LAST I'VE FOUND YOU!"

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02 -- ALL CREATURES WERE CREATED BOTH FOR TIME -- AND ETERNITY

It has long been my belief that the creatures shall also be resurrected and gloriously changed when Christ Returns. We read in Romans 8:21 -- "The creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." When Man fell, all of God's earthly creatures were "made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope" (verse 20). Through Adam's sin, "death passed upon all men" (Romans 5:12), and death passed upon every other earthly creature also. But, because those creatures did nothing "willingly" to inherit that death, they were innocent victims of the curse, and therefore God "subjected" them to death "in" the "hope" of deliverance "from corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." When the redeemed are glorified, the animal creation shall also be glorified!

I was happy to learn that Dr. Adam Clarke agrees with me on this. In Ecclesiastes 3:14 we read: "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."

On this verse Dr. Clarke comments thus -- caps mine:

"Verse 14. I know that whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever] Mlweleolam, for eternity; in reference to that grand consummation of men and things intimated in Ecclesiastes 3:11. GOD HAS PRODUCED NO BEING THAT HE INTENDS ULTIMATELY TO DESTROY. He made every thing in reference to eternity; and, however matter may be changed and refined, animal and intellectual beings shall not be deprived of their existence. THE BRUTE CREATION SHALL BE RESTORED, AND ALL HUMAN SPIRITS SHALL LIVE FOR EVER; THE PURE IN A STATE OF SUPREME AND ENDLESS BLESSEDNESS, the impure in a state of indestructible misery."

Redeemed and glorified men shall dwell in the bliss of eternity -- and the glorified animals shall also inherit eternal bliss.

In accordance with this, we read in Isaiah 11:7 and 65:25:

"And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox."

"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock.. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."

Some have mistakenly supposed that this docility of the animal creation shall take place after Christ's Return during an earthly millennium. It shall indeed occur following Jesus' Second Coming, but not for an earthly millennium, but rather for a New Earthly Eternity!

"In the Regeneration" (Matthew 19:28), Jesus will "make all things new" -- FOREVER! The Greek word for "Regeneration" is "Paliggenesia" -- meaning: the "Again Genesis" -- the New Creation.

In that New Creation, all sin and evil shall be forever absent from glorified Mankind, and all viciousness shall be forever absent from the glorified creatures. Their earthly ferocity and animosity shall be replaced by that sweet docility which allows them to dwell together in perfect peace -- even as the saints shall likewise dwell with one another in eternal tranquility.

All of this should evoke from the redeemed a loud HALLELUJAH!

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03 -- ALL MATERIAL THINGS WERE CREATED BOTH FOR TIME -- AND ETERNITY

Romans 8:22-23 says: -- "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.. waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

On verse 22, the Jamieson-Fausset-Brown commentary states: "If for man's sake alone the earth was cursed, it cannot surprise us that it should share in his recovery. And if so, to represent it as sympathizing with man's miseries, and as looking forward to his complete redemption as the period of its own emancipation from its present sin-blighted condition, is a beautiful thought, and in harmony with the general teaching of Scripture on the subject."

Yes indeed! When Him Who sat upon the Throne said: "Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5), He meant ALL MATERIAL THINGS TOO!

God made nothing that shall be annihilated -- not one ANGEL, not one HUMAN BEING, not one CREATURE, not one THING!

"In the Regeneration," the material elements, which were thrown into chaos and collision by the curse, shall be transformed into that "better and an enduring substance" promised in Hebrews 10:34 -- a glorious substance which shall shine with the glory of God and endure forever.

Inscribe it in your mind, even as God has written it in your heart: -- Angels, Mankind, Creatures, and Matter -- were all created both for TIME and for ETERNITY! -- a solemn, yet glorious fact.

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THE END