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CHAPTER SIX

THE CRUCIFIXION PREPLANNED

FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

Please Read: John 18:37; John 12:27

"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." -John 18:37.

"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this *cause* came I unto this hour." -John 12:27.

The most marvelous, indescribable, indefinable being who ever graced this mundane sphere with His magnetic presence is Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary, Son of God.

The words of the texts fell from His lips on two of the most significant occasions in His life on this earth. Standing at the outer court of the Temple among a hostile people who had rejected their King, and were at that very moment plotting His death, a delegation of dignitaries from far away Greece had come to take Him to their home land to be their teacher, to let Him live, to escape the cross, to honor and exalt Him, and for a moment, He seemed to hesitate in His decision.

But out of dim and distant antiquity, He heard the voice of

the prime mover of all creation echoing through the corridor of the ages, reminding Him of His mission of destiny.

Thus, He answered back to the eternal ages, not just to those standing by: "For this cause came I unto this hour. . . Father, glorify thy name. . ." as if to say, "I haven't forgotten our agreement. I remember our plan, before mountains were brought forth, before the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy." Then God spoke out so loudly until all heard Him: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again."

The people were startled and some said, "An angel spoke to Him," but He said, "That was my Father, and He did not speak for my benefit. He spoke for your sakes... He knows I'll not fail Him. . . He knows I'll put the Cause above my own desires. . . But I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

THE LAMB SLAIN

Calvary had to be! It was ordained in the divine councils before the dawn of creation. The grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die.

The second statement of the text came during the shameful and ignominious trial of this royal personage from the world of eternal lights. He had endured shameful indignity and was finally alone in a private room being interrogated by Pontius Pilate.

"Art thou a king?" Pilate asked. "Thou sayest that I am a king" is the reply given in the King James version. Another translation comes nearer the true meaning, "Thou sayest well, for I am a king." He continues with possibly the timeliest, significant, and graphic utterance ever made.

It reaches into the bosoms of two long eternities and draws them together and fastens them to the isthmus of time, that mortal creatures may rise from the dust and ashes of earth to climb the golden stairway of Redemption into the bliss of the everlasting ages. "To this *end* was I born. . . for this *cause* came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the *truth*."

On three words in this statement hangs the destiny of all worlds: the words *end*. . . *cause*. . . *truth*.

His acknowledgement of His *Kingship* is the assumption

before the tribunal of the whole world that He was and would forever remain its King.

I. We have His clear admission to His humanity.

A. "To this end was I born."

Here He asserts His birth as a man - a woman was His mother.

II. He does not stop with this assertion which would have saved His life, but He made the ultimate claim that nailed Him to the cross:

A. "For this *cause* came I into the world." . . . I was not only born... I was *one* with the Father, who is the great *first cause*, the *prime mover of all other existence*. I came into this world from another world. "Before Abraham was, *I Am*."

B. I am the One who spoke these worlds into existence. I was in the beginning with God.

C. I lived and reigned and ruled co-equal with the Father before the Incarnation.

D. I came into this world from a *Divine World* by a *Divine Plan* for a *Divine Cause*, to a *Divine End*.

1. He clearly separates two things.

a. Being born of a woman.

b. Coming into the world.

2. He came into this world for a Cause.

3. He chose the method of entrance by way of physical birth.

III. He came to bear *witness to the truth*.

A. What truth? . . . *All truth!*

1. The truth that there is a God; that He is the Creator, Sustainer, and upholder of all things.

2. The truth that there is a principal Cause behind everything. . . *the cause of Redemption*.

3. The truth that God is Love.

4. The truth that He can and will forgive sins.

5. The truth that He can and will heal the sick.

6. The truth that He wills that all men should be saved.

7. The truth that there is a heaven for the righteous.

8. The truth that there is a hell for the wicked.

9. The truth that the Bible is the complete, revealed will and Word of God.

10. The truth that He can and will answer prayer.

11. The truth that the curse of sin did not destroy God's ideal plan for the human family, but rather became the occasion for the unfolding of the great scheme of Redemption.

12. The truth that death is not the end.

13. The truth that:

"Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returneth,
Was not spoken of the soul."

This *Cause* that brought Christ into this world is the greatest thought ever conceived by the Divine Trinity, and it will take another eternity to unfold what was conceived in the councils of Deity before the foundation of the world. This being true, He came to be a witness to that truth that we might share with Him and the Father the glories that were theirs before creation dawned.

He is saying, "I am a King. . . I am Creator of all things. . . I made the stars, moon, worlds, planets, earth, seas, and skies. . . but I have conceived a *Cause* that is *greater than I*. A *Cause* so great that

- I gave up a palace for a hovel of poverty.
- I gave up the service of angels to be a companion of sinners.
- I gave up the riches of a glory world to toil like a slave in a carpenter's shop
- I gave up a throne of unlimited power to hang on a cross
- I gave up a crown of gold and glory to wear the plaited thorns.
- I gave up a thoroughfare of gold for dusty roads and cobblestone streets.
- I gave up the homage of cherubims to be spit upon by the scum of the earth.
- I gave up a land by the River of Life for parched lips and swollen tongue on Calvary's blistering brow.
- I gave up Heaven's best for Hell's worst.
- I gave up the love of God for the hate of hypocrites.
- I gave up the loyalty and praise of a heavenly host for the kiss of Judas.

All this, I did, for a *Cause*. That *Cause* meant more to me than all these. That *Cause* is *greater than I!*

If this is His estimate of the Cause, where do we stand? What have we done about it? What will we do about it?

This timeless utterance of Jesus bears the connotation of a sequence and significance. He did not come to Calvary as an unwilling martyr and the sequence did not end at three o'clock when He died.

This Celestial Traveler paused only for a moment on this fallen world to bid us join Him in His journey to lands of endless day. He stopped only long enough to lead captivity captive and give gifts to men. But in passing, He did not forget to give Satan his mortal wound and deliver to us the keys of the Kingdom.

It is our responsibility to see that this *Cause* shall never perish from the earth, but like Him, we are expected to completely lose ourselves in it and give it all we have. As Winston Churchill once said, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." After this price was paid, England was free again.

The Cause has its roots in two eternities. Time is an isthmus between them. The Cause stretches from age to age, from eternity to eternity... and we stand for a flickering moment between the two, then we pass into infinity.

What we do now with respect to the Cause will determine what eternity will be for us when time is a story. Someone has said life is "like a bird flying into a window out of the night into a lighted room, and on through another window out into the dark on the other side." That is not the Christian's faith. There is no dark out there. "There is a light in the valley of death now for me, since Jesus came into my heart."

Columbus saw a floating green twig and knew that land was near. There is another world out there somewhere. We have the evidence. "He came to bear witness." That land is not far away, we have seen the green olive branch.

It has always been out there prepared for the Redeemed. Calvary was not an afterthought-not an improvised scheme rushed into by a surprised Creator. It was not a fire escape or a second best. Sin did not force God into an emergency measure. Sin only became the occasion for Christ to come to this world to prove to men what God was really like and to bear witness to the

truth. God had provided for every eventuality long before the flowers bloomed in Eden, and the fruit hung tempting on the Tree of Life.

- Before sin ever came, God had the remedy.
- Before the disease ever existed, there was the cure.
- Before the ills of evil spread, there was the panacea. God had made provision for the end before He created the beginning.
- Before He created the fish, He provided the waters in which they could swim.
- Before the birds were created, the air was prepared for their fluttering wings.
- Before the human heart was ever created to throb with emotion, the love of God waited to fill the longing there for companionship with Deity.
- Before He ever breathed the breath of life into Adam and made him a living soul, the magnificent scheme of Redemption was accomplished and the blood-stained cross was already raised upon Calvary to give us every good thing that a loving God could design for His own. It is ours for the asking.

Not even the angels will fully enjoy what Redemption will mean to us.

HOLY, HOLY IS WHAT THE ANGELS SING

*There is singing up in heaven such as we have never known,
Where the angels sing the praises of the Lamb upon the throne.
Their harps are ever tuneful and their voices always clear.
Oh, that we might be more like them while we serve the Master here.*

*But I hear another anthem, blending voices clear and strong,
"Unto Him who hath redeemed us and hath bought us," is the song.
"We have come thro' tribulations to this land so fair and bright;
In the fountain freely flowing He hath made our garments white."*

*Then the angels stand and listen, for they cannot join that song
Like the sound of many waters, by that happy, blood-washed throng.*

*For they sing about great trials, battles fought and victories won,
And they praise their great Redeemer who hath said to them, "Well
Done."*

*So although I'm not an angel, yet I know that over there
I will join a blessed chorus that the angels cannot share.
I will sing about my Saviour who upon dark Calvary
Freely pardoned my transgressions, died to set a sinner free.*

*Holy, Holy, is what the angels sing,
And I expect to help them make the courts of heaven ring.
But when I sing Redemption's story, they will fold their wings,
For angels never felt the joys that our salvation brings.*