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Dear Associates and Friends,

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I have written before about starting a topic of conversation with friends, and even acquaintances. Simply ask them, “What’s the strangest thing that ever happened to you?” You likely will receive interesting answers from people. Some people will give you several answers. What you will find is most everyone has had at least one very strange event in their lives.

This month’s article is “[Oz Internet Radio Show, Part 1](#).” I was interviewed for two hours on an internet radio show with a different format from *The Byte Show* programs.¹ During the *Oz Internet Radio Show* (Oz is short for Australia), the conversation went from the nature of God, to the nature of man, then death, conspiracies, occult rituals, and the antichrist. The discussion became strange. What I say may surprise you.

When people report that strange events have occurred in their lives, I do not and cannot quickly judge to discount those reports because of the strangeness of their experience. When people experience intense and strange events in their lives, they are changed. I cannot claim to understand all reality that God has created, or know the limits of what God allows people to experience: good and evil, natural and supernatural.

The strangest event any of us will experience in the future will be our own death. God says it is our great and last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26). Yes, the apostle Paul was referring to death as a corporate experience of all mankind, but that includes you and me. Our resurrection from the dead — to spiritual life into the Kingdom of God, or to physical life for judgment and education — will be unbelievably profound for each child of Adam. It will be the strangest event in our experience.

Our Individual Worldview

Each of us has a worldview, an understanding of how we think the world is, and how the world operates. A worldview is defined as:

“A way of looking at reality; the basic assumptions a people have about the world. A worldview is derived from people’s experience of their social and physical environments, and provides a more or less coherent way of thinking about the world.”

• **“Worldview,” Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible²**

As I mention in the interview, our worldview should come closer to a biblical worldview. Increasingly our understanding of God, His plan of salvation, the role of Christ in creation and salvation, our future role in God’s creation, our place in the eons and God’s allotment of us — all should comport with the worldview as progressively presented in the Holy Scriptures.

Mature people incorporate major life events into their worldview (and this includes the deaths of others, particularly those close to us, our loved ones) in everyday expectations as we try to make wise decisions in life, even when terrible events occur and result in extreme trauma. This is normal and part of life.

Sometimes events occur in our lives that are so strange, so outside the norm of our experience and the experience of those around us, that we hesitate to even mention such events to others. It temporarily

¹ See *The Byte Show* page at <http://askelm.com/audio/byteshow.asp>.

² Ronald A. Simkins, “Worldview,” ed. David Noel Freedman, Allen C. Myers, and Astrid B. Beck, *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000), 1387.

challenges and may even shatter our worldview, our understanding of how we think the world should work. Yet try to remember always, even in the worst of times the apostle Paul's words:

“We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son,”

• *Romans 8:28–29*

When such “strange” things occur, we take notice! That is one reason God allows such events to happen. Such events may be evil, may be a threat to us and our loved ones, and they should be resisted while praying to God for urgent help. Even when strange events do not seem to be evil, the apostle John strongly advises we should “... try [test] **the spirits whether they are of God**” (1 John 4:1). **“You believe that there is one God; thou do well: the devils also believe, and tremble”** (James 2:19). Sometimes “strange” events and occurrences frighten us, sometimes they fascinate us, but their purpose is always to lead us from God.

When Jesus was weak from fasting, He had a strange experience. The devil sought to seduce Him with false teaching. Read Matthew 4:1–11.

The apostle Peter says we are to be sober and vigilant, watchful, because the devil seeks to devour you (1 Peter 5:8). He does not try to do so physically but spiritually by having you believe his lies (John 8:44). Remember, several times the Devil tried to seduce Peter away from Christ during His ministry (Matthew 16:23; Mark 8:33), as Jesus reminded Peter at the last supper (Luke 22:31–32). He did so by doctrine. He failed because Christ prevented it.

The devil then moved on from Peter to Judas. He was so uncooperative, it was necessary for the devil to enter him and ensure Judas did what needed to be done to betray Jesus. God required it to be done and the devil did what he had to do (Luke 22:3; John 13:27).

The Pharisees were subject to the devil because of doctrine, false doctrine as opposed to true teaching from God's Word. Truth is opposed to the devil. He uses lies as tools:

“Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, you would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do you not understand my speech? even because you cannot hear my word.

You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

And because I tell you the truth, you believe me not. Which of you convinces me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do you not believe me? He that is of God hears God's words: you therefore hear them not, because you are not of God.”

• *John 8:42–47*

Understand that we at ASK strive to teach all ...

“those that OPPOSE THEMSELVES; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

• *2 Timothy 2:25–26*

I tried to do this during the interview. Let me know how I did. Remember, at one time we all “opposed ourselves.” God gave us repentance. His Holy Spirit is His gift to us now.

As the apostle Paul writes: **“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”** (Ephesians 6:11). The devil uses his “wiles,” as the King James Version says in Ephesians 6:11, but “stratagems” is perhaps a better translation, as the Concordant Literal Version says. Satan is not involved in attacks against you personally, as he did to the patriarch Job, but he attacks by creating and exercising a system of deception, anything to lead you away from the truth of God's Word:

“God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves [in humility] therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded.”

• *James 4:6–8*

Being “double minded” in Greek is actually διψυχοι (*di-psokoi*), which means “two-souled,” or being of two minds regarding morality and the truth of God, as Paul puts it, “**ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth**” (2 Timothy 3:7). At some time we must all decide whether to trust God and the truth of Scripture, or the doctrines of men (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7; Colossians 2:22):

“... unto the end that we should all attain to [1] the unity of the faith and of [2] the realization of the son of God, to [result in] a mature man, to [what extent?] the measure of the stature of the complement of the Christ, that we may by no means still be minors, surging hither and thither and being carried about by every wind of teaching, by human caprice, by craftiness with a view to the systematizing of the deception. Now, being true, in love we should be making all grow into Him, Who is the Head — Christ —

• *Ephesians 4:13–15, Concordant Literal Version*

So be warned, strange things are discussed in this interview. It was a lively exchange of “ideas.”

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Thank You

God’s creation is strange — to us. Yet God’s present creation of the heavens and the earth ultimately will be the school grounds for our education as spiritual children of God after we are resurrected into the Kingdom of God and are then immortal. We will learn to assist God and Christ to reconcile the entire world and the celestials (the rest of the universe) through to the end of the millennium.

Then a new heavens and a new earth will be created by God the Father and Christ. Our education will continue; it will never end. Eventually we will learn enough to become creators also (because that is what our Father and Christ do), similar in a tiny way as an architect is a creator in our present fleshly realm. In particular, our education of how to best fulfill God’s will shall make us increasingly free:

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, ‘If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

• *John 8:31–32*

There will be no end to our knowing the truth. The more we learn, the freer we will become as God’s children. As resurrected spirit beings we will learn everything almost instantly, forget nothing, and be able to relate every relevant fact to every other fact. It will be more exciting than any words could ever begin to describe (Isaiah 64:4 cited in 1 Corinthians 2:9).

The purpose of ASK is to give you a head start on your education to learn what God wants you to know. Wouldn’t you rather know the truth now rather than later? God makes the truth available to you through His Word. ASK helps you understand what God’s Word plainly says. You help us (and have done so since ASK began). It takes funds to operate the Internet site, and we need your contributions over and beyond what we make available to you each month. We are grateful to God and to you for your continuing support.

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