

The Espousal Period

AD 30 to AD 70

In II Corinthians 11:2, the Apostle Paul said that he had espoused the Church as a chaste virgin to Christ. From AD 30 to AD 70, a metamorphosis was taking place with God's people. A change from glory to glory, the glory of an Old Covenant to the glory of a New Covenant. (II Cor. 3:18) The English word "metamorphosis" is defined as "a change of form, structure or substance or any complete change". When we begin to examine New Covenant Scriptures, we can see that God had a plan to "change the form, the structure and substance" of His people into a spiritual people. (Rom. 8:29)

Notice the wording used in II Corinthians 3:18. This verse does NOT say "has been changed" or "will be changed", but it says, "are changed". This indicated the transformation from the Old Covenant Law given to Moses to the New Covenant Kingdom Age of Jesus Christ. The Greek word used in II Corinthians 3:18 is "metamorphoo" which was transliterated to "metamorphosis" in English. "Metamorphoo" is used four times in the Bible. Two of these times is at the transfiguration of Jesus in Matthew 17:2, and in Mark 9:2. (Strong's #3339) Romans 12:2 also uses this Greek word.

The new spiritual body was being renewed daily. (II Cor. 4:16) "Are being changed" is a phrase in the present tense which denotes "a change in progress". (II Cor. 3:18) The context of this Scripture is dealing with the glory of Moses as reflected from God and the contrast from Moses to Jesus. Jesus is the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His person. (Heb. 1:3) The first century Christians were changed from glory to glory. This is the change that was taking place in II Peter 1:19 – "until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts".

In the last days of a caterpillar's life, it undergoes a metamorphosis and is gradually changed from a caterpillar into a butterfly. So, it is with the change of physical Israel. The physical must completely change into the spiritual. During the forty-year period from AD 30 to AD 70, which were the Last Days, the glory of the old was fading away and the glory of the new was getting brighter. (Heb. 8:13) The New Covenant people would shine as the brightness of the firmament. This new glory would remain forever. (Dan. 12:3) Jesus said in the parable of the Sower that the righteous shall shine forever. (Matt. 13:43)

What does this metamorphosis have to do with us today? Nothing, absolutely nothing. This metamorphosis took place nearly 2,000 years ago. When we become a Christian today, we are part of the butterfly, not part of the caterpillar. From AD 30 to AD 70, the

complete metamorphosis of the Church was emerging into a new spiritual body. The Church is the final spiritual body and the only spiritual body known in the Bible.

The Kingdom of Heaven is singular, always was and always will be. This emergence is discussed in I Corinthians Chapter 15. In I Corinthians 15:44, Paul states that both bodies were in existence. Notice Paul did not say that there is a natural body and that there will be a spiritual body. There was a spiritual body already in existence in I Corinthians 15:44.

Many church people believe that the 15th Chapter of I Corinthians deals with the resurrection of the physical body. The physical body will NEVER be resurrected. These physical bodies will return back to the dust of the earth. (Job 34:15, Gen. 3:19, John 12:24-25) The physical body is compared to a kernel of grain such as corn or wheat. This kernel of grain decays and stays in the ground, but the new life that springs from this kernel represents our new spiritual body which is eternal. (II Cor. 5:1)

Paul gives us a detailed description of these two bodies as he describes each in I Corinthians 15:35-57:

- **Verse 36 – Physical body sown and dies**
- **Verse 36 – Spiritual body quickened and made alive**
- **Verse 37 – Physical body is like bare grain**
- **Verse 37 – Spiritual body is what shall be**
- **Verse 40 – Physical body is terrestrial**
- **Verse 40 – Spiritual body is celestial**
- **Verse 42 – Physical body is corruptible**
- **Verse 42 – Spiritual body is incorruptible**
- **Verse 43 – Physical body is weak**
- **Verse 43 – Spiritual body is powerful**
- **Verse 44 – Physical body is natural**
- **Verse 44 – Spiritual body is spiritual**
- **Verse 47 – Physical body is the first man who is earthy**
- **Verse 47 – Spiritual body is the second man who is Heavenly**
- **Verse 49 – Physical body is the image of the earthly**
- **Verse 49 – Spiritual body is the image of the heavenly**
- **Verse 53 – The physical body is mortal**
- **Verse 53 – The spiritual body is immortal**

Spiritual Israel, who is the Church, was to be “called out” of the old body. The word “church” comes from the Greek word “ekklesia” which means “called out ones”. New life was germinated out of the old body.

This emerging process or metamorphosis is a figure of resurrection. (Rom. 6:4) The Greek word for “resurrection” is “anastasis”. “Anastasis” is defined as “a raising up or rising up”. In some passages of Scripture, it is translated “resurrection from the dead”.

The body of Moses was a physical body and represented physical Israel. The body of Christ is a spiritual body and is eternal. (Gal. 3:24) The Jews were being urged to get out of physical Israel and come into the Eternal Spiritual Body of Christ. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:49 that the image of the earthly was in the past tense, but the image of the heavenly is in the future tense. In other words, when the Apostle Paul wrote this Epistle, it was during the time of the metamorphosis of transformation from the old into the new.

In Conclusion

All born again Christians today are members of that one spiritual body. (I Cor. 12:27) This is not referring to being members of a physical body such as a local church. These Scriptures are referring to the eternal Spiritual body of Jesus Christ, which is His body, the Church. (I Cor. 12:12-14) The resurrection happened on the Last Day of the Last Days. This was the last day of the creation of that which God called the New Creation.

What about after AD 70? God’s Creation, which is His Spiritual body, is Eternal. There are no more last days or last day or last hour nor will there ever be. Only through the Everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ can you have Eternal Everlasting Life. It is a never-changing message in an ever-changing world.

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