

our collective immortality rate

We look upon physical death as a normal event. Those who can afford it set aside means to support themselves during *old age*; they buy life insurance, or rather, early-death-insurance to help their families in the event they die much earlier than forecast; the wealthy even buy burial plots in well-greened and well-kept surroundings ahead of time. Physical death is so very expected that most everyone plans ahead for it. A common saying reads *nothing is certain except death and taxes*. Like most such sayings, it is not really true. Many people on earth are so poor that tax gatherers never waste time on them. But even physical death is Not a certainty. Many Christians alive today believe they will be taken away to heaven before the calamities of the Book of Revelation. Opinions vary about Biblical support for such views, but there is no question that GOD could do so if HE chose. The fact remains that we know of two men who went to heaven without experiencing physical death. The first we are told of in the Book of Genesis.¹ The other we are told of in the Second book of Kings.² The simple fact is this – our collective immortality rate is Non-zero.

Hanoch and Elijah stand among those men who walked closely with the FATHER all their lives. That closeness with GOD is what we were made for. We can only wonder at the departure of the Prophet Elijah from earth. Elijah wanted Elisha to stay behind in Gilgal, saying only “Abide here, I ask you, for YHVH has sent me to Beit-El”³ Elisha continued with him, refusing to leave his side. The sons of the prophets and Elisha already knew Elijah would be taken away to heaven. They were not dumbstruck, but spoke freely of the matter.

Could there have been others? Surely it is possible. There are many wonderful men we are told of in the Bible whose last days are not revealed. Perhaps Saint John was taken away from Patmos after passing along the Revelation.⁴ Consider Melchizedek, a priest of GOD Most High and king of Shalim - the city that is now called Yerushalim. The name *Melchi-zedek* we can translate from Hebrew as *Righteous King*. He came out to bless Avraham after his victory over Kedorlaomer.⁵ More than a thousand years later, a psalm of David has YHVH speaking to YESU, at HIS Right Hand ... **“YOU are a Priest to the age, according to the Order of Melchizedek”**.⁶ Melchizedek was head of a Priesthood to YHVH on Mount Zion more than seven centuries before that of Aaron arrived on the mountain. It was not until centuries later that the efforts of the anointed King David himself overthrew the Yebusites, still holding the citadel at Yerushalim.⁷ Could Melchizedek, a blessed king and priest of the Most High from the days of Avraham, have also been taken up to heaven into Glory by YHVH without knowing physical death? Surely GOD need not ask anyone nor bother HIMSELF to inform us. We have Testimony about Hanoch from before the Great Flood and Testimony about Elijah from after the Flood. Many men of renown might have known true immortality – going to heaven without experiencing physical death along the way.

Allow me to make a rough estimate: there were around seven thousand million people living on the earth in the year 2010 CE. Because of population dynamics, we might assume that another seven thousand million people lived before us since the time of the Flood some 4400 years ago. Let us assume seven to nine for a likely range. And before the Flood, perhaps there were another two to four thousand million who lived in that 1600 year period of long lifespans. That would mean there have been 16-to-20 thousand million descendants of the first Man and Woman born up to the present day. The upper figure may be good enough to carry us another decade or two. If we accept that only two men, Hanoch and Elijah, were found worthy of being carried away into heaven, then our collective immortality rate presently stands at two-in-twenty-thousand-million.

¹ see Genesis 5:21-24

² see 2Kings chapter 2:1-18

³ see 2Kings 2:2-3 in particular

⁴ see Rev 1:9-11 and John 21:21-23

⁵ see Genesis chapter 14 for the account of these battles and the blessing of Melchizedek

⁶ see Psalm 110 for proper context

⁷ see 2Sam5:6-10

We can be ashamed it sits there so low for so long now, but should honestly report to our children that it is Not zero. Can we improve upon this? If we start teaching our young people about Hanoch and Elijah as role models, is it not proper for the young in their innocence to accept that FATHER just might enjoy their company so much HE could simply bring them to heaven without telling anyone? HE is, after all, able to do so, has on occasion done so, and does not need anyone's permission. So why not? Why is our collective immortality rate so very low? Isn't it really a failing on our part? Those of us old enough to have done things truly shameful in our lives are not of the right quality as adults, even when much improved under HIS discipline. The young are born perfectly innocent. How can we inspire them to retain this wonderful gift into their teens, and well into adulthood as so few of late have seen fit to do? Let us make sure they know that GOD has on very rare occasions found someone so very very special that HE just did not want to wait anymore and brought them right to heaven without them ever experiencing death. Surely this is something to excite the minds of our young.

There is one Way to immortality - follow YESU, our MESSIAH. While each of us will exist for eternity, "the second death"⁸ is the one to surely avoid. To spend eternity in the lake of fire is too horrible to contemplate, and the remedy is simple. Love YHVH with all your heart, and all your soul, and all diligence.⁹ If you truly do, then you will serve YESU and follow HIM, and learn what it means to love your neighbour as yourself the way it is truly meant. Far from letting others do whatever they want to, and calling that love, it includes rebuking your neighbour for sin.¹⁰ I will assume that you have decided to follow YESU. With nothing to fear from the second death, let us turn to what can be called, in contrast, "the first death", the physical one, and how it might be avoided entirely, at least by some.

It is truly an important thing to teach these days. In the Book of Revelation, the Revelation of MESSIAH to HIS disciple Yochanan, we learn that there will be one hundred forty-four thousand young men who are specially sealed here on the earth,¹¹ who go to be with MESSIAH in their innocence, and to return with HIM in glory to rule the world from Jerusalem.

And i saw a LAMB having stood upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred forty-four thousand, having the name of his FATHER written upon their foreheads; and i heard a voice out of the heaven, as a voice of many waters, and as a voice of great thunder, and a voice i heard of harpers harping with their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne, and before the Four Living Creatures, and the Elders, and no one was able to learn the song except the hundred forty-four thousand, who have been redeemed from the earth; these are they who were not defiled with women, for they are virgin; these are they who are following the LAMB wherever HE may go; these were redeemed from among men—a first-fruit to GOD and to the LAMB - and in their mouth there was not found any guile, for they are unblemished before the throne of GOD.¹²

A young man reading this might assume these men are only those referred to as Jews in our day. That is not the case. Between the long history of forced conversions and the mysterious matrilineal descent taught by the orthodox Jews,¹³ it seems obvious that most of the 144,000 will come from the descendants of men who are not even aware today, or are at least uncertain, that they are descendants of Yakov, or Israel. Men who are not recognized as Jews have been called in special ways by the FATHER to get perfect, to stay perfect, to prepare themselves or their offspring for a glorious role in eternity. The true servant of YESU

⁸ see Revelation 2:11; 20:6,14; 21:8

⁹ see Deuteronomy 6:4 and also Matthew 22:37-38

¹⁰ see Leviticus 19:11-18 for the context of this important commandment

¹¹ see Revelation 7:1-8

¹² see Revelation 14:1-5

¹³ see the essay *mysterious matrilineage* at www.primeconcord.info

will remember HIS saying that even if we keep all the commandments we are not to consider ourselves worthy of some praise, for we will have done only that which we are meant to do.¹⁴ The men who will be chosen as the 144,000 are likely to have the highest degree of humility and consider the matter quite beyond them. But we are assured there will be 144,000 young men of the twelve tribes of the twelve sons of Yakov. The time may be yet distant, or it may be sooner than anyone expects. Surely it shall come to pass. We hear of these men first in chapter seven of the book of Revelation, when they are sealed. We next hear of them arriving on Mount Zion with YESU. Between the two events is the great tribulation. We are not told specifically that these men will escape physical death, but it seems very likely considering the greatness of GOD, and the purity of their redemption.

Oh, what a relief!

Our collective immortality numbers will Zoom to at least 144,002!

Our spirits continue to exist beyond physical death. We will either be found acceptable to GOD the FATHER, and be happy in eternity, or we will be found unfit to remain with HIM, condemned to eternal torment in the lake of fire, and that will be that. The choices we make each day have a bearing on this. I quite agree with Moses – **choose life!**¹⁵ Don't be fooled by the false sense of peace, security or longevity that one might obtain on this earth by compromising eternal happiness. It can never be worth the cost.

As old as Methuselah ... is another saying down here. Methuselah, the son of Hanoch and the grandfather of Noah, lived to the age of 969.¹⁶ When he passed away, only Noah was standing Righteous before YHVH. If anyone today were to live to 969, he would still not be as old as Methuselah ... for that grand man is now well over 5,000 year old, and Adam beyond 6,000. If today you were fifty years of age, which of the following is the more fitting indicator to you? To be already old by worldly standards? Or to be only about 1% of the age of our forefather Noah who lives in heaven and matures now in ways we will barely understand when we have been there a hundred years?

It is suggested that all men die¹⁷ but Hanoch and Elijah did not die and there may be others who YHVH took to heaven that way and did not tell us about. Two out of perhaps 20 billions of people who have lived, or are living today, is depressingly low. Let us spark and fire the imaginations of some little gardeners to be so very good that GOD simply takes them away to be with HIM one day. Instead of letting little gardeners “find their place” among worldly cultures, why not help them to keep looking up at YESU all of their lives; looking up at the perfection we are called to? It could be that some little gardeners you help inspire will be of those who get, by GOD's Grace, to bypass physical death because they chose to walk neither to the left nor to the right of the path that YHVH gave us to walk. Let us instill in them the Right View that it is, indeed, possible to be found worthy of Immortality!

a migrant labourer

somewhere on the banks of the Mekong river

January, 2013

*** this posting is part of the book ...Delta... updated slightly for issue in 2015 with ... Three Briefs ...



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¹⁴ see Luke 17:10

¹⁵ see Deut 30:19

¹⁶ see Genesis Chapter 5 for the early chronology to Noah

¹⁷ see Hebrews 9:27 – do not take up into your ‘doctrines’ without referring to those who did Not die. See also *do the 66 books really measure up?* for wider discussion of the basis for sound ‘doctrine’ if you must define something other than Holy Light as yours.