

Mary Craig

From: Mary Craig
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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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The sky was hazy as the sun was just starting to rise over the Sea of Galilee. The birds were singing, lots of them. It reminded me of something the Holy Spirit said to my husband, Pastor Jim, concerning a previous mission to Israel. "I will meet you in the Galilee." I am reminded of Pastor Jim's sermon just before leaving on this current mission about Jesus the Messiah being the Everlasting Father of Isaiah 9, the meeting place, the place where we meet the Father, the Father who meets. I think of the Holy of Holies in the Tent of Meeting. It is cool, the weather. The music of the birds seems to be trying to tell people how much Jesus loved this place where so much happened.

I can hardly believe that I am up at 4:00 a.m., thanks to jet lag. The sea is glassy with low mountains behind. A new day—a new beginning.



Jesus' teachings were so tied to the land and places where He went. Everything He did was purposeful, a life led as prophesied, according to the Scriptures. He crossed this Sea, back and forth, moving from predominantly Jewish areas to predominantly Gentile areas. One time that Jesus crossed this sea, He silenced the winds and the waves, not only demonstrating His authority over the elements, but also His authority over the realm of the demonic.

6/1/2011



This mission was about mountains and valleys, about Jesus traversing Israel as El Roi, looking, looking, from North to South, East to West, to assess the heart, to see the people of the land, to determine the decisions to be made. Was it a surprise to God? No, but we were entering into the experience of the Living God who Sees, the Ancient of Days dealing with ancient strongholds, ancient hatred, an ancient war between good and evil.

This mission began for me a third call regarding the nations. In 1993 the call to the nations involved calling the nations to repent or perish, a call to repentance and the declaration of Psalms 2 and 96. After a mission to Israel in 1999, the call expanded in 2000 to call the nations to resurrection and the declaration of Psalm 110. After 72 nations and 40 mission trips, the call beginning in Jerusalem is again expanded to call the nations to restoration, saying, “Restore, LORD God Jehovah Elohim, that all things return to the Father and You become all in all.” The declaration from 1 Corinthians 15 is this:

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.
 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.
 For He has put all things under His feet. But when He says
 All things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is accepted,
 Which did put all things under Him.
 And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son
 Also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that
 God may be all in all.
 1 Corinthians 15.25-28



And so it goes. Repentance—Resurrection—Restoration. God calls us to turn to see the Voice that is speaking to us. He turns us, and we are turned. We see Him face to face. His heart’s desire is that no other gods are before Him, nothing is in His face between us and Him; we are in face-to-face relationship with the Living God. That kind of repentance will lead to our dying to sin and living to righteousness, especially as we understand that Christ is our Righteousness and the only righteousness we have is His. This repentance is a gift of grace. We hear the call of the Father to look and live; look at Jesus Christ, His life and His death on the Cross, His resurrection and glory, and live.

Then we hear the call of Christ to come and die, to come to the suffering of love, to bear the Cross, an instrument of death, and die to self so as to live in Him and by Him, with Him and for Him. As we do this we hear the call of the Holy Spirit to rise and reign, to rise in the power of the resurrection and reign over sin, Satan, selfishness, and the world's system, to reign over devils, disease, and death as Jesus' joy enters the core of our being, truth in the inward parts.

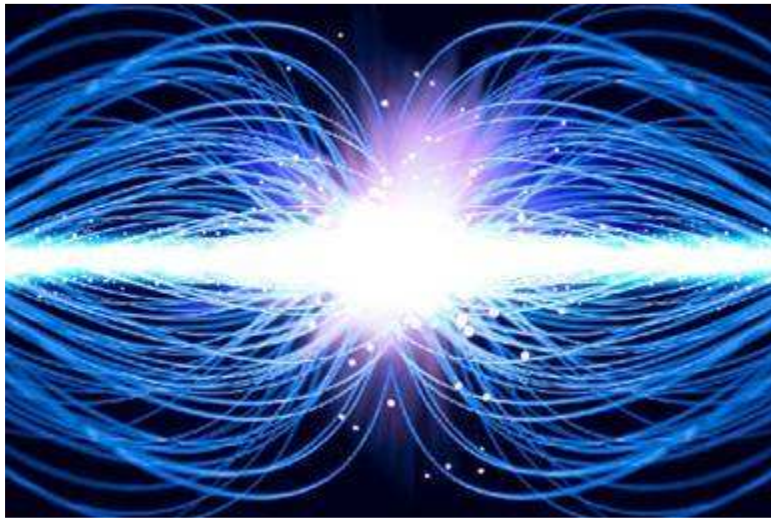


I think of Peter who at once declared by the revelation from the Father that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16). Upon Peter's recognition of Jesus being the Messiah, though in a new and unexpected way, Jesus revealed that He would create a new people, this at Caesarea Philippi. But the way of the Cross, the Messiah to be the Suffering Servant, was more difficult for Peter...may it not be so! For this, Jesus called Peter a satan, an adversary, and soon Peter's great swelling words would land him in a position to be sifted like wheat with Jesus praying for him.



And so it goes. We desire to follow the Lamb wherever He goes, but sometimes, though we believe, we need to ask the Lord to help our unbelief. We stumble or fall in the pressure of the olive press. We need repentance. We need the vision of the Cross. We need to experience the power of resurrection. And then we find restoration. Jesus restored Peter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. He was both reinstated and commissioned. You see, restoring relationship is more important than rehearsing failures. Any shame we feel we have is not to stop spiritual service and worship. After genuine repentance, after standing before the gaze of Christ face to face, with no lies, no illusions, no fig leaves covering up the truth about ourselves, we must get on with God's business, believing and knowing that we are restored.

REPENTANCE E RESURRECTION E RESTORATION



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