



3^DAYS GONE

WRITTEN BY
APOSTLE RODNEY JOHNSON SR.

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F O R E W A R D

Growing up I always enjoyed watching my dad read. He's an avid studier and gets a thrill digging for knowledge. "I'm digging for gems, not raking for leaves," he says. One thing that always stood out about the way he studies is that he has a relentless pursuit of finding the answers to his questions. He questions everything. Why was that word in this sentence? Why did that person go here instead of there? What does that word mean in this context? God has blessed him with the ability to simultaneously plunge for information while also retreating to discover how seemingly unrelated information becomes kin. This is precisely why the subject matter for this book is truly cultivated in his hands. For so long we've been fed nursery rhyme bible stories of Jesus being crucified, dying, and rising on the third day. While this is an absolute and powerful truth that should not be assuaged, we would be remiss not to dive between the lines and ask questions. Why was Christ on Earth? Why was He crucified? Was He just napping for the 3 days he was gone or was he fulfilling something so great that it takes a gem digger to reveal? Most of all, what does this have to do with me? Make no mistake about it, Apostle Johnson digs for gems. What makes these gems so valuable is not merely knowledge for the sake of knowledge, but knowledge for the sake of advancing God's kingdom and hopefully writing something life changing. I pray that you are in a place to appreciate the gems my dad has discovered. I know I do.

Sincerely,

Rodney E. Johnson II

P R E F A C E

I will never forget the first time I had to put together a puzzle. It was so challenging to me even though I had a picture of how it should look from the box the pieces came in. There were so many, hundreds of them laid out over the table in different shapes and colors. I would try to put them together by starting at any point but found to my dismay and aggravation, it doesn't work that way. You must have a strategy! So I began to place all the pieces that didn't have edges aside and started on my frame. When I completed the frame, I then began to fill in the middle by separating the colors and looking at the picture. It took time but I finished it, stepped back and observed the beauty. It was worth the time and effort.

When writing this book, I knew that there had to be more than just what was on the surface regarding the resurrection of our Lord. My analytical mind was racing in a very strong way, wanting to know what was behind the scene that was not readily available. I knew there had to be more. I had so many questions that were like pieces of a puzzle. How was I going to put this together? Jesus said, "Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door will be opened to you." So I asked, sought and knocked until this came together. Oh how it came together! The more it came together the more excited I became to the point that I wanted to share it in its entirety. However, realizing it was too much to digest all at once I decided to write just a portion of it. As you read this my prayer is not only that you be encouraged, but that you would begin to ask questions. Those questions that are deep inside you

Asking questions is not unusual. God wants us to ask. I trust that this short book will answer some of your questions, but most of all it will begin to stir a hunger to put the pieces of your puzzle together.



CHAPTER I
RESURRECTION

I .

R E S U R R E C T I O N

One of the greatest things we need to understand is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There's been much debate over this event through the years, but this did not just begin in the 21st century. It's been going on for approximately 2,000 years! From the first day that Mary made the announcement until now it has been attacked, trying to be disproven.

If there is a group of people in the world that need to believe and understand the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is his people. I say that because there are pockets of Christianity that do not believe in the resurrection. It is amazing to me that anyone can call themselves a Christian and not believe in the Resurrection. All that has been done in the redemptive history of mankind, climaxed at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Had there been no resurrection, we would not have known or experienced the power of the resurrected Christ that lives on the inside of us. We would still be in bondage to sin, The Devil and this world. However, because of that event we are made new creatures.

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature or creation. Old things have passed away and behold all things become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We hear much about the resurrection, especially during Easter time. That is the time of year where we celebrate this event. However, this event should be celebrated throughout the year, not only on Easter. I must inject that Jesus Christ is nowhere to be found when it comes to the mold of this holiday. The enemy has replaced the truth of this event with bunny rabbits, baskets, new clothes and financial profits. We really should not be shocked at this because we live in an unbelieving world and Jesus warned us about this world's mind-set.

We are in the world, but not of the world. We should not be caught up in the same mind-set. We should be the exact opposite. We should know and understand the meaning of this event. Do we really understand what happened at the resurrection? We know what happened as far as his getting up is concerned, but do we really understand what was going on behind the scenes?

A watercolor-style illustration of the Earth, showing continents and oceans in various shades of blue, green, and brown. The Earth is centered in the frame. A thick, dark blue horizontal banner is superimposed over the middle of the globe. The background consists of light, textured watercolor washes in shades of grey and white, with some darker blue and green splatters around the globe.

CHAPTER II
THE BIG PICTURE

II.

THE BIG PICTURE

Behind the scenes; an interesting statement. What does this mean? It means that something is working or happening privately without being known or seen by the public, especially when something else is happening publicly.

What was happening privately? That is the question. A question that I believe the word of God reveals to us as we dig a little deeper. Pastor John Piper once quoted, “If you want to rake for leaves, you will need a rake. But if you want to dig for gems, you will need a shovel.” I believe that if we dig and seek, we will find. With that being said, in order for us to understand what happened behind the scenes, it will take a kingdom mind-set. What Kingdom? It is the overall ruling of God. You have to be able to see the big picture and see it through God’s perspective. I will be writing from that view point. The enemy would like us to be bogged down and focused on the little things in life so we are not able to see what’s happening overall. Nevertheless, Jesus understood the “Big Picture.”

We must understand that the Bible is not an American book, written by American authors. Dr. Michael Heiser, author of the book, *The Unseen Realm* stated, “The key to interpreting the Bible in its context is through a Hebraic mindset and how they interpreted the scriptures in their time according to their culture. It is not totally by the commentaries that we read, though they have been informative.” We must get into the mind-set of the writers because they are in a completely different place than ours. Although if we see this, it won’t do us any good to learn what they reveal and how it intersects with our lives if we will not believe. Will we really believe what the Bible reveals to us? That’s where the rubber meets the road.

There are many places in the scriptures that I could start from concerning His resurrection, but a good place to start will be from Peter and Jude. I want to establish this main point that we hardly ever hear about.

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment...” (2 Peter 2:4) ESV

“And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.” (Jude 1:6)ESV

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all...”

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.” (1 Peter 3:18-20)ESV

I have read these verses many times throughout the years, yet not really understanding what they were saying. There is much controversy among theologians of our day and in commentaries we read from men of yesteryear. What was the mind-set of the Hebrew writers of Peter and Jude when they made reference to the angels who left their proper dwelling and are kept in chains in darkness until judgment day? What was Peter’s mind-set when he said Jesus went and made a proclamation to those spirits who were imprisoned in darkness with chains until judgement day? What were they conveying to us that most have not yet understood?

There was something going on in these verses that speak to us from the past.

1. Who were these angels?
2. Why were they referred to regarding Jesus' resurrection?
3. What does this have to do with us?



CHAPTER III
SONS OF GOD

III.

SONS OF GOD

What I'm about to say brings much controversy among biblical readers. I myself have thought about this over and over again. I had so many questions regarding who these angels were and why they were mentioned. As you read this, I ask you to have an open mind and consider what is being stated.

It's been said if you ask a Jewish biblical student why mankind is in the state that he is in, they would not just start with Adam and Eve, they would most likely refer you to...

“When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came into the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.” (Genesis 6: 1-4)

If you are honest with yourself, when you come across this passage of scripture you most likely scratched your head wondering, “What does this mean?” Why is this in the Bible? This is very strange! I believe God intended that to be written for many reasons. I believe that mainly it would cause us to question and then search out what it is that God is saying to us through this passage. Remember, a rake or a shovel, which one will you use?

The sons of God? Why are they called the sons of God when this terminology is also used for

New Testament believers? Why is it used here in Genesis? Valid questions! Did you know that is not the only place this language is used? It is also used in the following scriptures:

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.” (Job 1:6)ESV

“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.” (Job 2:1)ESV

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding...When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4,7)ESV

There can't be sons without a Father. Sons do not create themselves. So evidently, we must admit that God has not only a human family, but a spiritual one as well. These sons of God were created by Him, and according to Jewish teachings, *“they saw the daughters of men that they were attracted to and made unto them wives that bore children called the nephilim, who became giants.”*

The Bible doesn't reveal everything to us plainly, but if we really want to know, we can do so if we search. Concerning the Hebraic mind-set, if you read Jude 1:14 closely, he refers to a man named Enoch. This is the same Enoch that was mentioned in Genesis 5:22-24:

“Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.” ESV

Jude states that Enoch prophesied about judgment day. Enoch walked with God 365 years and God took him. I'm sure that walking with God 365 years gave him many experiences. In fact Enoch had so many experiences with God that He took him as a result. Yet he wrote about them in a book, better known as the Book of Enoch. I believe that this book reveals to us what Genesis 6:1-4 was all about. What Enoch wrote coincides with the

biblical account that brings the pieces of the puzzle together.

I will not go into this for length's sake, but I will say that these sons of God decided to leave their abode to cohabit with the daughters of men and as a result produced giants. God was very displeased with what they did since it caused much havoc in the earth according to Enoch. They taught mankind many things such as weapons of war, divination, astrology, and revealed secret knowledge to mankind, which resulted in much wickedness in the earth.

This is why in Genesis 6:5 it states "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually,"

These sons of God intended to corrupt man. If I may say, it's just like the technology we have today which has also brought out the worst in many people abroad. It has worked against us in many ways. There was so much wickedness in the world as a result of these relationships that God had to destroy the world and start over again. They wanted to corrupt mankind to the point that the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15) promised to Eve, starting through the line of Seth, (Genesis 4:25-26) could not come due to the corruption of the human race. They would have succeeded had God not preserved 8 souls: Noah and his family.

As I stated before, God was very displeased and called them to be accountable for their actions, having them confined into a prison of darkness in chains until judgement. According to Enoch, God gave him access and they pleaded their case that Enoch would go before God and ask Him to pardon them for what they had done though God would not.

Who were these angels/sons of God? They were a major part of why mankind is in this current state. It wasn't just because of Adam and Eve (though they did play a part). In my opinion, these sons of God caused havoc on the earth in so many ways it would take a much longer format to explain in its entirety. They had a plan and they almost succeeded but God also had a plan that was already set before the foundation of the world.

A watercolor illustration of a dark horse in a stable. The horse is the central focus, rendered in dark brown and black tones with some highlights. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden pillars and a window. The overall style is soft and painterly. A dark, horizontal banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the chapter title in white, serif, all-caps font.

CHAPTER IV
THE PROCLAMATION

IV.

THE PROCLAMATION

Read this carefully...

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and “PROCLAIMED TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON...”
(1 Peter 3:18-20)

In my opinion, what occurred on the 3 days Christ was gone are highly important to understand what Easter is all about. It is so vital that if we really understood this, our lives would change, we would view life in a very different way and we would see the big picture: The Kingdom Picture! Oh, how great is our God!

While Jesus was physically here there was a tremendous battle taking place. A battle not seen by human eyes, yet the effects were still experienced. The whole world was at stake. The outcome of this battle would determine the fate of the human race and the devil knew it. This is why he tried to kill Jesus while he was still just an infant and also tempted Jesus those 40 days and nights in the wilderness. Demons cried out against Him while His entire ministry was constantly attacked by the religious sect in those days up to the point of His death. Even so, Satan did not prevail.

Jesus knew what he came to do and that it would not be easy, but he knew he would prevail over the enemy and the agenda of the kingdom of darkness. An agenda that would not only be broken, but destroyed and completely dismantled.

At the time of leading him to his death, the forces of darkness thought that they won the battle. They finally thought it was over because they succeeded in stirring the crowd to crucify him. Not knowing that all of this was the plan of God in action. This was told to us when the Apostles were released from prison and there was a prayer meeting:

“For in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined [before the creation of the world] to occur [and so without knowing it, they served Your own purpose].” (Acts 4:27-28) AMP

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, losing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” (Acts 2:22-24)ESV

His birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection were all part of the plan and the enemy did not see it. For had he known it, he would never have crucified the son of God. It was his own undoing. Evil committed suicide. This is what Paul meant when he said...

“No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1 Corinthians 2:7-8)NLT

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” (Colossians 2:15)ESV

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,” (Hebrews 2:14)ESV

Jesus yielded His spirit to the Father, died physically, and entered paradise, as He had promised the thief on the cross. At some time between His death and resurrection, Jesus visited the place where those spirits were chained in darkness. He delivered a message. This message was not as we depict in some song lyrics when we profess Him preaching a revival message. No, He made a “PROCLAMATION.”

When He proclaimed to those spirits, He “ANNOUNCED A TRIUMPH.” In ancient times a herald would come to town as representatives of the rulers to make public announcements. They would precede generals and kings in the processions celebrating military triumphs and announcing victories won in battle. That’s what Jesus went to do—not to preach the gospel just to “evangelize,” but to announce His triumph over sin, death, hell, demons, and Satan. He didn’t go to win souls, but to “Proclaim Victory” to the enemy in spite of the unjust suffering they subjected Him to.

Jesus declared to these same spirits, who thought they successfully contaminated the human race to cease his coming, that they FAILED. They lost. He won. Their judgement was sure. Understanding this, these scriptures are much clearer...

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matthew 28:18)ESV

God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet... (Ephesians 1:20-22)ESV

“Who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” (1 Peter 3:22)ESV

“...Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” (Revelations 1:17-18)ESV

A person in a red and blue superhero costume stands on a dark, jagged rock formation. Their arms are raised in a 'V' shape, and a bright blue and white energy aura surrounds their head. The background is a vibrant, abstract watercolor wash of various shades of blue and white. A dark blue horizontal banner with a brushstroke texture is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the chapter title. The overall composition is dynamic and celebratory.

CHAPTER V
ALL FOR US

It has everything to do with us. God's love for us is beyond words. We could never fully understand the totality of God's heart when it comes to man. Ephesians 3:17-18 is one of my favorite passages: "Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully..."

All that Jesus endured was for our sake, so we would be restored into the right relationship with God. Relationships are what this is all about.

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God... (1 Peter 3:18)ESV

And why would he want to bring us to God? For the riches and glorious praise of His grace. To understand that when Christ was crucified, buried, raised and ascended, so were we.

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-7)ESV

3 days gone. He made sure the enemy of our souls understood that they were eternally defeated. That the ones they meant to destroy will be those who rule over them due to the power of His resurrection.

"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?"

"Do you not know that we are to judge angels...?" (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)ESV

“What then shall we say to all these things? If God is for us, who can be [successful] against us? He who did not spare [even] His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?”
(Romans 8:31-32) AMP

Actually, I just scratched the surface of the complete scenario that occurred behind the scenes. There is so much more...

NOTES & REFERENCES

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Apostle Rodney Johnson is a native of Sacramento, California. In 1999, he and his wife Gayla (Co-Pastor) birthed Abundant Life Worship Center in Arlington, Texas. In 2006, Triune Dimensions Ministries was launched to equip, teach and train believers for a lifestyle of continual in-depth love and knowledge for the Word of God. In this same year, Apostle Johnson also received the Apostolic call. He believes in apostolic order to minister the Word of God effectively with the basic fundamentals of rooted teachings and understanding that must be achieved in order to be effective believers. In 2019 Apostle Johnson established Church 1:10 in Desoto, Texas with the focus of uniting the hearts of nations to experience the irresistibility of Jesus Christ! “The greatest way to present God’s word is to first present the heart of God.” This is the heart cry of Apostle Johnson.