

2013 March 30 Meditation

Yesterday, Maranatha Baptist Church had an afternoon service concentrating on the crucifixion of our Lord and the seven sayings from the cross. One of those sayings, "I thirst" (John 19:28), drew my mind to Psalm 84:2 and the phrase, "my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." The physical thirst of our Lord was real, but how much more must have been the thirst of His soul for the presence of the Father.

Hebrews 9 (11-14; 25-28) says that Christ entered into the tabernacle in heaven, both as priest and sacrifice, but also in our place as the penitent who needed the sacrifice for sin that He alone could make. After hours of suffering, the time had come for the One who said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), to die. In the earthly tabernacle, the high priest had to come out of the Holy of Holies for the people to know their sacrifice had been accepted. I wonder if the rending of the curtain in the temple in Jerusalem was an echo of what happened when the dead Lamb of God was revealed to heaven. Were His last words, "It is finished," taken up by the redeemed saints of heaven and the angels in a shout of triumph that shook the earth? (Matthew 27:50-51) No wonder the prophets and angels longed to look into these things! (I Peter 1:10-12)

"I thirst." Do I thirst for God and His righteousness, a desire that is so intense it may actually be a physical longing at times? (Matthew 5:6) There is only one place to be filled, and that is in the Lord Jesus Christ who went through desolation and death that we might drink deeply from His well of everlasting life. (John 4:14)

Have a blessed, joyful and thoughtful Resurrection Day.