



Hide-and-seek ...

HIDING

Another fact of our post-Eden world is that by default we are hiding. Since Genesis three our tendency is to hide, and God allows us to do so, but one day there will be no more hiding. By default every person begins his or her life on this planet hiding from God. Adam and Eve hid behind the trees and we hide behind our careers, families, hobbies, perversities, entertainment, wealth, religions, philosophies. We can even hide in our enjoyment of what God has created.

When they heard the sound of GOD strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from GOD. GOD called to the Man: “Where are you?” He said, “I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid” (Genesis 3:8-10 MSG)

“**And I hid.**” In spite of the hiding, God had his reasons for asking Adam, “Where are you?” And we still need to hear the question from God as it echoes through the centuries, as it calls out to every generation, and to every person of every generation as it ripples over the stones of our lives. “Where are you?” Can you hear the echo from the Garden of Eden? Where are you? Can you hear him now?

GAME ON ...

And a deadly game it is. Adam and Eve played the first game of hide-and-seek. They initiated this game when they shopped around for a source of fulfillment other than God, and in their disobedience they began a deadly contest. Now every person on this earth hides from God until he finds them and resolves the question.

But one day there will be no more hiding. No more hiding behind the distractions of this life. No more hiding behind philosophy or religion. No more hiding behind our opinions and willful ignorance. In fact, one day in the future everyone who has not answered this question will find themselves totally revealed before God in judgment. See God now or see him later, but you will see him. The “God-issue” will be resolved. I saw a large, white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence, but no place was found for them. I saw the dead, both important and unimportant people, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened, including the Book of Life. The dead were judged on the basis of what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead. Death and hell gave up their dead. People were judged based on what they had done. Death and hell were thrown into the fiery lake. (The fiery lake is the second death.) Those whose names were not found in the Book of Life were thrown into the fiery lake (Revelation 20:11-15 GW).

That deep, nagging question of judgment ...

The nagging, unanswered issue of reckoning and judgment, the question that brought the dread of death from the hidden places of our psyche is now answered. We refused to answer “Where am I?” and in doing so disabled our ability to find the answer to: “Where am I going?” However, somehow, deep within, we knew. In the recesses and hidden corners of our minds, we knew. When life slowed down enough, got quiet enough, we knew. But in the insanity of our depravity we continued on a deadly course of denial.

Every person on this Earth picks up the game that Adam and Eve began early on: hearing God and consequently hiding from his presence. The cycle – Hear then hide. Now in the last book of the Holy Book we find everyone who hid from the presence of God for their entire lives standing before God’s throne awaiting judgment. No more hiding as even

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