

That World

But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry; nor are given in marriage:

Luke 20:35

In this chapter, our Lord is being confronted in succession by his adversaries who are coming at Him with questions from differing angles, all of which were intended to entangle Jesus in His answers. In this text, the Pharisees, who denied any resurrection, attempt to trap our Lord with a hypothetical account challenging the regulations concerning widowhood and remarriage. Using only carnal and earthly rationale, they try to prove the belief in the resurrection to be unrealistic. In His response, Jesus points out that in *that world*, meaning the endless age to come, things will be much different from what now exists. That eternal world is where everything in this life, which has been tainted and corrupted by the curse, will be perfected. The purity of Eden will be restored in *that world*.

Many of the Bible's lessons come in the form of contrast. The pre-cursed world compared to *that world to come* illustrate the drastic difference between the believer's temporary and permanent dwellings. The present time in which we live is described in the scriptures as *this present evil world*, but with the imparting of God's divine nature, we can escape the corruption that is present here. This evil and corruption are repeatedly exposed throughout the Biblical narrative. After Adam's sin and banishment, Cain's jealousy fuels him to kill his brother. From that point, the continuation of the curse proliferates throughout the Biblical record. Wars, brutality, famines, disease, perversion, and idolatry seem to dominate wholesomeness and righteousness. In the midst of all of this spiritual and moral darkness, the Light of the World arrived. Jesus brought relief for the oppressed and the afflicted, but more importantly, He brought a future and eternal hope. His atoning death on the cross provided the payment for the sins of the world, but it did not yet remove the curse of this world. For all of us who are willing to come to Him, Jesus becomes our Savior and Good Shepherd who will help guide believers to do God's will while navigating through this evil world. *That world to come* can be a source of comfort to help overcome the burdens of this life.

The contrast between *this world* and *that world* should ever be in our thoughts as reminders that we are merely pilgrims passing through. *Here* there is pain, *there* it will cease, *here* there are tears, *there* they will be wiped away, *here* there is war, in *that world* only peace, *here* there is poverty, in *His house* are many mansions, *here* there is death and a curse, and *there* only life and righteousness.

Today, as we follow God's plan, we can have confidence that when trials and afflictions assault us, we have a sure and enduring hope. As we traverse *this world* let our focus be on *that world!*

J. Ekis