

ADAM'S SONG, 3 pgs

Now the LORD God said, *It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a [companion] who is [suitable] for him ... there was no [partner fitting] for him.* So the LORD God ... took out one of the man's ribs ... and *made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.* **At last!** the man exclaimed, *This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called woman,* **Gen.2:18-23.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qJU8G7gR_g Etta James, At Last

*At last, my love has come along
My lonely days are over [companionship]
And life is like a song
Oh, yeah, at last
The skies above are blue [a beautiful new day because I now have a companion]
My heart was wrapped up in clover [contentment and joy]
The night I looked at you
I found a dream that I could speak to [someone that is real]
A dream that I can call my own [made just for me]
I found a thrill to rest my cheek to [bliss]
A thrill that I have never known
Oh, yeah when you smile, you smile
Oh, and then the spell was cast
And here we are in heaven
For you are mine
At last*

Paradise Lost

But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit, **Paradise was lost.** So he said to the serpent who deceived Eve, *I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between his seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] wound your head, but you shall [only] bruise His heel ...* So the LORD God *banished them from the Garden of Eden ... and stationed mighty cherubim to ... guard the way to the tree of life.* Thus began a terrible period in history punctuated by Cain's murder of Abel. **And God said, it is not good that man should live and die without hope.** So **hope of a better future** was renewed when Adam fathered another son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth, **Gen.3:15-5:3.** So **the hope of reconciliation** between God and Man diverged from the lineage of Cain but continued through the lineage from Seth culminating in the coming of Jesus Christ, **Lk.3:23-38.**

Restart

But mankind once again provoked God to judge the earth and start over. Human wickedness on the earth *[reached the point that]* everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth ... the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence ... So God ... decided to destroy all living

creatures ... I will wipe them all out along with the earth ... But Noah found favor with the LORD, **Gen.6:5-8**. The Lord instructed Noah to build a very large boat (**v.14**) for I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes ... **v.17**.

Noah, his wife, and his [3] sons and their wives. With them were all the various kinds of animals ... [including] all the birds, [boarded the boat to escape the flood] **7:6-8**. Once the waters had covered the earth and had receded from the land, the Lord said, Leave the boat ... you and your wife, and your sons and their wives [8 people]. Release all the animals and the birds ... so they can be fruitful and replenish the earth, v.8:15-17 ... He vowed to never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things ... v.21. Then **God blessed Noah and his sons** and told them, Be fruitful and multiply. Fill [repopulate] the earth, v.9:1.

United & Scattered

The flood and everything associated with it represented a new beginning on a cleansed earth with a **renewed hope** of deliverance from judgment. But when the people united and decided to build a great city for [themselves] with a tower that reached into the sky, thinking this will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world. God again intervened by confounding their languages so they couldn't understand each other [and had to abandon the project]. In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world ... **11: 4-9**.

AT LAST, The Kingdom of God has come near

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. [FINALLY] **The time has come, he said. The kingdom of God has come near**. Repent and believe the good news! **Mk.1:14-15**. So we of the Gospel age find our rest in Christ our Sabbath, (**Heb.3:7-4:11**) our Jubilee (see my article Christ Our Sabbath). For he says, **In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, [right] now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation, 2 Cor.6:2; Isa.49:8**.

THE LORD'S SUPPER (aka THE LAST SUPPER)

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, **when the Passover lamb was sacrificed [Ex.12:1-22]** ... Jesus and his disciples were reclining at the table eating ... Jesus said, the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago ... He took a loaf, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them with the words, Take this, **it is my body**. And he took a cup of wine and ... gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And he said to them, **This is my blood, which confirms the covenant** [Some manuscripts read "the new covenant," **Isa.42:6-9**] between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many ... I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in **the Kingdom of God**. Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives, **Mk.14:12-26**.

O God, our help in ages past,

Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

The Kingdom of God, our hope

I consider that **our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us**. For the creation was subjected to frustration ... in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay **and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God**. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship**, the redemption of our bodies. For **in this hope** we were saved ... **Rom.8:18-24**.

in keeping with his promise **we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth** where righteousness dwells, **2 Pt.3:13**.

Then **I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away** ... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Look! **God's dwelling place is now among the people** ... They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. **There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away**. He who was seated on the throne said, **I am making everything new!** ... To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children ... Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life ... **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, Rev.21-22. at last** [see *Coming of the Kingdom*]