



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- September 24, 2022

The Lord be with you.

I remember as a boy learning the Mother Goose nursery rhyme about Humpty Dumpty. You know, Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again. And I remember seeing pictures of my children's story book of the King's horses with their hooves trying to put Humpty together. And then there were the king's men trying to put Humpty together, and they couldn't.

But you know, I imagine that the king could. That the king could put Humpty together again. And you know, over the years, I've come to think of Humpty-Dumpty as a way of reading the Bible, as the Bible is a story about a great fall. A story about brokenness, about people trying, trying hard to put the pieces of their lives together again and try as we might, we can't. But the Bible is also a story about the king. The king who can and the king who will put all the pieces together again. And that's what keeps me going in times of brokenness, with pain, confusion. It's knowing that one day, King Jesus is going to put the pieces together again.

And today I'm looking at a couple of verses of scripture that are about King Jesus putting together everything, everything that is broken. I'm looking at Ephesians Chapter 1:9-10. "God has made known to us the mystery of His will. According to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time to gather up all things in Christ, things in Heaven and things on Earth."

I mean, there is so, so much here, I mean, I could go on and on, but notice in these verses that God has a plan for our poor broken world. God has a plan, and God is working His plan. It's a plan that encompasses all of history, encompasses all of the universe, the cosmos. And our text says that God's plan has to do with the fullness of time. That's an interesting phrase, the fullness of time. Earlier in Ephesian chapter 1, it tells us that God's plan extends from before the foundation of the world, before God ever created the world. Now to hear time extends to the fullness of time, the completeness of time, the time appointed by the Father, when history's the last chapter is written. When God brings everything to its completion, it says that God will gather up all things in Christ, things in Heaven, and things on Earth. What God is going to do here, Well, it's beyond our understanding, it's beyond our capacity to grasp, but the God will gather up all things in Christ.

The Greek word translated here is gather up, as in God will gather up all things in Christ. Well, it comes from the Greek word for head or headship, and it means that one day everything will be brought under the headship of Jesus Christ, Jesus who is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He does not abandon his creation. He does not give up on us though broken and bloodied by sin. God



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will gather up all things in Christ to be united to God, to be united to each other, to be brought to complete fulfillment in the fullness of time.

As I say this, I'm thinking of that movie, *The Best Marigold Hotel* with Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, and there's a line in the movie that says, everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end. When this passage tells us that everything is gonna be more than Okay, it tells us that when time has run its course, God is going to bring everything together. He will fix every brokenness, He will put right every wrong, He will heal every hurt, he will dry every tear. The prophet Isaiah centuries before Christ, looks ahead to the fullness of time when God will gather up all things in Christ, and Isaiah says that God will accomplish that which he has purposed so that he says, the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. We cannot imagine what it will be like when God brings everything together in Christ. When King Jesus sets right everything that is broken.

There's a wonderful old hymn that tells of when in the fullness of time, everything in heaven and earth will be gathered up into one in King Jesus.

The song says that, This is my Father's world. Oh, let me never forget that though the wrong seems off so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world. The battle is not done. Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and Earth and Heaven be one.

I think the Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich put it well when he said, But I will be well. And all will be well. And every kind of thing would be well.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.



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