

A glowing lightbulb with a filament that is shaped like a cursive letter 'C'. The lightbulb is on the left side of the cover, and the filament is a dark, elegant cursive 'C' that loops back to its starting point. The lightbulb is illuminated from within, creating a warm, yellow glow. The background is a dark, gradient grey.

The CLARITY Series

Herb Paynter

Redemption The Bigger Picture

Beyond the reality of Heaven

Redemption

The Bigger Picture

Beyond the reality of Heaven

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Introduction

The entire foundation of the Christian faith rests on the premise of God's plan for redeeming man from the fall. Of course you knew this, but perhaps you didn't realize that His redemption plan serves an even higher purpose than securing man's eternal home in Heaven.

In the beginning, God created man for a special purpose and gave him a position of supreme responsibility and honor. Man was created to govern over all of God's creation while remaining subservient to God's direction. Adam and Eve enjoyed a relationship with God that was unlike any other in the Universe; and an office above even the angels.

Man was given the premier leadership position in God's newly created earthly Kingdom and a personal relationship with God Himself. Adam and Eve enjoyed all of this for an unknown period of time before things went very wrong, very suddenly.

Man was not the only loser at the fall. When Satan seduced man to sin against God, he not only took *man* hostage, he also took the rule over the earthly kingdom hostage. Man may have lost his soul, but God lost the appointed Governor over His kingdom.

God warned man was against "knowing" evil and forbade him to eat the fruit of the tree that would expose him to that evil. God's intent for man was to live in holiness in the Garden, knowing only *truth*. Man's single disqualifying act of disobedience and rebellion introduced him to sin that immediately enslaved him. Man, the very sin-free being whom God created to govern over the entire Earth was now in slavery to sin and bondage.

Man's disobedience in the garden imprisoned him in sin. God's plan for man was not defeated that day, though it was certainly delayed. Man would now have to be delivered from the penalty of his sin and rescued from its bondage if God's kingdom on Earth were to be reinstated as He designed it.

God's plan of redemption for man was designed for a higher purpose than living forever in Heaven; God intends for man to be reinstated to his original office of managing God's earthly creation. Redemption is a life-long process of earning God's confidence by obeying Him in our everyday lives.

While man's eternal *destination will* be in Heaven as a result of Christ's death, man's *destiny* (under God's original creation plan) of ruling and reigning over the Earth, must be re-established. Heaven will have to wait.

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