**R. 934 (85) Rumination for Dec. 18, 2022**

The **T**heme: **The East** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *So he drove out the man; and he placed at* ***the east*** *of the garden of Eden Cherubims,*

 *and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.* Gen. 3:24

The **T**hots:

1. **The Exit out of Eden was by way of the East Gen. 3:24** [See above]
2. There was only one way by which man went out – by way of the **east**.
	1. It led away from the **S**ecure and **S**afe presence of the LORD. Gen. 4:16

 *Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the* ***east*** *of Eden.*

* 1. It led to the **S**in at Babel and being **S**cattered all over the world. Gen. 11:2, 9

 *As they journeyed from the* ***east****, that they found … Shinar; and they dwelt there.*

*Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.*

* 1. It led to the **S**in of **S**odom and Gomorrah and their destruction. Gen. 13:11-13; 19:28, 29

*Then Lot … journeyed* ***east****: … and pitched his tent toward Sodom…*

*And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain…*

*And it came to pass…God destroyed the cities of the plain.*

1. There was no other way back, all returned routes to this one **E**xit/**E**ntrance were guarded…
	1. By **A**ppointed **A**rmed cherubim – they guarded every *way* in. Gen. 3:24

 *Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every* ***way****, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

* 1. Only God’s **A**ppointed Way could possibly allow a return. Jn. 14:6

Cf. *Jesus saith*… *I am the* ***way****, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

1. **The Entrance into the Tabernacle was from the East.**

 F*or the* ***east*** *side* ***eastward*** *fifty cubits. The hangings of … the* ***gate*** *were fifteen cubits.* Exo. 38:13, 14

 The Tabernacle had only one Gate to the outer court.

1. The **E**ntrance would always and **E**ver face the **E**ast – F*or the* ***east*** *side* ***eastward****…the gate*
2. All must **E**nter in by way of that gate facing the **E**ast Jn. 10:9

Cf. *I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.*

1. The **S**prinkling of the blood on the mercy **S**eat on atonement day was toward the **E**ast. Lev. 16:14

 *he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat* ***east****ward*

 *Cf. Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

 *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation* [lit. = mercy seat] *through faith in his blood*

1. **The Exaltation of the Lord will be from the East to the West.**

The **East** is synonymous with the rising of the sun – *on the east side toward the rising of the sun.* Num. 2:3

In the coming day, the Worship of the Lord will be Universal from the East to the west.

1. The **S**ervants of the Lord shall **S**ing praises to Him. Psa.113:1-3

 *From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised*.

1. All Israel shall then **know** there is **no** God beside Him. Isa. 45:6

*That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me.*

*I am the LORD, and there is none else.*

1. **E**ven the **E**nemy shall fear the Lord: Isa. 59:19

 *So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun.*

 *When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*

1. All **G**entile **N**ations shall praise the Lord and **G**od’s **N**ame shall be Great. Mal. 1:11

*For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles…for My name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts*.

In spite of what Israel had said: Mal. 1:12

* *The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even His meat, is contemptible*.
* *Behold, what a weariness is it!* Mal. 1:13

No wonder the Lord said:

* *ye have snuffed at it, (you sniff at it contemptuously, NIV)* Mal. 1:1
* *ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering:* Mal. 1:13
* *should I accept this of your hand*? Mal. 1:13

Let the above not be our attitude towards the Lord’s Table and the Lord’s Supper!

Let us be like the wise men from the **east**; let us say this day*:* ***we … are come to worship Him****.* Mt. 2:1, 2

Sages, leave your contemplations; Brighter visions beam afar!

Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star:

Come and worship! Come and worship! Worship Christ, the new-born King!

 James Montgomery

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 934**

1. The Guarantee that God Gave to His people Israel that their sins would be forgiven one day when they repented and returned to Him is also a pledge of our loving God Who will forgive us when we too repent and return to Him; even as the father of the prodigal son did when he repented and returned to his father. Note the picturesque assurances of pardon that God gave to Israel in spite of their hard-heartedness when they repented. His forgiveness is awesome. See the comparisons below:

**Psalm 103:12 *–*** *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.*

**Isa. 1:18 –***Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

**Isa 43:25** *— I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*

**Isa. 44:22** *— I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee.*

**Jer. 31:34** *— And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

**Micah 7:19 –** *He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

Likewise, today those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus, God’s Son, Who died for them, God will forgive them all and remember their sins no more.

**John 3:16-18****(NKJV) –** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

 *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

**1 John 5:10-13 (NKJV) –** *He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*

 *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

Are you fully assured of God’s forgiveness of your sin when you first believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? **REFLECT**

1. We cannot measure the distance between the east from the west. We do not know when one commences and when the other concludes, such is the infinite distance between the two. Yet, one day, the Lord’s Name *from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised.*(Psa. 113:3) The whole universe will acclaim His Name and all will proclaim Him as their God to worship Him as the Sovereign King as then all inhabitants *may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.* (Isa. 45:6).

Until that day dawns, let us in our small little way, as best we can worship Him. **REFLECT**

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,*

*I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed:*

 *Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!*

 Stuart K. Hine

**P**oints To **P**onder: *Remember when God* ***F****orgives, He* ***F****orgets.*