

Out of the Shadowlands Our Journey's Begun

1 Corinthians 13:8b-10

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end;
as for languages, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
But when the perfect comes,
the partial will come to an end.¹

Ecclesiastes 6:12 - For who knows what is good for a man in life, during the few and meaningless days he passes through like a shadow?²

A. We presently live in a partial reality or what C.S. Lewis called the Shadowlands.

C.S. Lewis in *The Last Battle*...

'There was a real railway accident,' said Aslan softly. 'Your father and mother and all of you are – as you used to call it in the Shadowlands – dead.'

B. We still live where darkness has a presence but we are waiting for the sun to shine complete again.

C. Take 'knowledge' for example, unlike wisdom which comes from God (*James 3:17*), Paul states will pass away. It will pass away because knowledge is simply a 'putting together of intelligence of how this world works and is', but what we know of this world will disappear when a fuller reality, the more complete reality, otherwise known as ultimate reality of God's creation appears when Heaven returns. This is why Paul states in *verse 12* we only see in part now.

D. We see in part because we only see the reality of Earth and must have faith in the reality of Heaven that which we do not at the present see.

¹ [*The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version*](#). (2009). (1 Co 13:8–10). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

² [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Ec 6:12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

- E. So for perspective sake, even if we could know everything presently about this world, we at best could only know partial reality because we don't have the access to the world of Heaven which would be required to know the completeness of God's reality.
- F. Ultimate reality is Heaven & Earth working together in one accord as it was in the Beginning of Creation, but presently we live in partial reality because of the veil that separates the two.
- G. And because of sin's presence and separation of these two spheres of reality, we only experience the partial reality of Earth now with only distant and faint whiffs of the scent of Heaven in our lives.
- H. But the hope that love provides is in the same way the veil was torn into regarding the Temple because of Christ's mediation and sacrifice

Matthew 27:50-51

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.³

- I. So also will the veil that keeps Heaven and Earth separate be torn into when Christ returns in glory to usher in the reunion of Heaven and Earth together again at last.
- J. But presently, we have no understanding of Earth's reality apart from sin, not to mention the reality of Heaven itself. A sinful Earth is our only point of reference. This is what Jesus was getting at in *John 3* with the Teacher of Israel Nicodemus.

John 3:12 - I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?⁴

- K. This separation of Heaven and Earth creates a longing in both the Creation itself, and for those who will be put in charge of it waiting for its restoration and reunion.

³ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Mt 27:50–51). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Jn 3:12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Romans 8:18-28

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom 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. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.⁵

- L. The present condition of the reality that we know, Earth, is that we presently live where anti-God, or anti-Christ, still have possession and freely roam on this present age, but love is addressing this matter.

1 John 4:1-12

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁵ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Ro 8:18–28). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ⁶

M. Love is in the process of transforming us, preparing us for the New World that is coming. This is the heart and soul of what discipleship is. So we might ask why the wait?

2 Peter 3:7-9

By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ⁷

N. Christ in the present is putting all enemies under His submission and the last enemy to be done away with is death itself when He returns.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead

⁶ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (1 Jn 4:1–12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

⁷ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (2 Pe 3:7–9). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.⁸

- O. This is the process of love becoming complete not just in us, but in all Creation.

But When the Perfect Comes

- A. When we fail others it is because we are not complete in love, but one day failure will be no more because all things of reality will come together in the Son of God’s return and Sovereign reign.
- B. This is what is known as New Creation.
- C. New Creation is the complete and perfect, nothing left out, work of God.
- D. New Creation is built by and through love just like the first world was created before sin entered it.
- E. This is why it is called a New Creation because there will be no other competitive rule over humanity but Love Himself, The Lord and King forever, Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:11-16

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white

⁸ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (1 Co 15:20–28). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ⁹

- F. To live in love is to live complete, fulfilled, perfect, fully ripened and mature in every way in the identity and world God created for humanity.
- G. Notice again love is not a feeling so this is not about living in a feeling but living in that which is much more dimensional than mere feeling, it is living in a perfect reality united in and by God’s Love.
- H. When the Son, Jesus Himself, returns, we will no longer live in the partial, but in the perfect, the complete reality.
- I. The process of God’s redemption plan of salvation is something of this order:
 - We are saved from the penalty of sin
 - We are being saved from the power of sin
 - We will be saved from the presence of sin
- J. Christ’s return will be the Son rising and bringing with Him the eternal light of day.

CONCLUSION:

So what do we make of this? The truth is everything. The work Love is doing in this transformational process begins and ends in Jesus. Jesus, the forerunner of the New World, jumped into our past to reveal our future. This work that He started which He will see to its fulfillment is the work of love transforming a world stained and tainted by sin and darkness to be full restored in love. Love is something more concrete that we can imagine here. It is why relationships built on and in love are more substantial and fulfilling than those of mere feelings and

⁹ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Re 19:11–16). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

chemistry. Now transpose this thought into regarding what God is doing for all of Creation.

Randy Alcorn commenting on *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis

In *The Great Divorce*, Lewis sees everything in heaven (grass, rocks, trees, water, etc.) as “much solider than things in our country.” It’s all heavy and hard, like diamonds—the character can’t pluck a flower or pick up a leaf. Grass is sharp and hard. All this is in contrast to the people coming from earth who are transparent and ghostly. They have thought of their world as the “real” one, the one with substance, while thinking of heaven as the less substantial spirit world. They learn, or those with eyes to see learn, that they had it backwards. Heaven is the land of substance, earth the land of shadow. Earth is full of not only shadows, but illusions and pretensions, Heaven is reality itself. To fit into Heaven they must become not less solid, but more, they must move from being phantoms to having weight and substance. They are shallow people who must become deeper, and with that weightier. If they are not changed, Heaven will have no appeal to them. They cannot live there, and neither will they want to.¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.epm.org/resources/2012/Jun/19/cs-lewis-great-divorce-why-there-hard-grass-and-un/>